



ROSCOMMON SCHOOL

WHAKAPONO KI A KOE – BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

SPECIAL EDITION LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER

Thursday 9 April 2020

Term 1 School Holidays - Week 2

ROSCOMMON SCHOOL HOME LEARNING DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

It feels great to be writing to you now that we are in the second half of our four-week Nationwide Lockdown. I hope you and your bubble are doing really well and that you have found this experience to be better than you thought it might be.

I wanted to touch base with you all as we come to the end of the official school holidays, concluded with our Easter holidays, and as we enter into the first week of Term 2 next week (starting Wednesday 15 April). **Schools will still be closed, but we are all back to teaching and learning- but just from home!**

Hopefully you may have kept up to date with our school Facebook pages. We've used this as a main form of communication, including for Home Learning.



You may well have been feeling like Home Learning has been something that has come up a lot, including in the media, and from the messages from government and the Minister of Education.

Everyone- the Ministry, schools and teachers, and obviously you as parents have been trying hard to make sure that our kids are not missing out too much on their learning.

I thought it would help to clarify what's available to support your child's learning, and to remind you that these things are only there to be of help to you (but **your child doesn't have to do everything**, and in fact, **you may choose not to do any of these things** and do your own thing that suits your child, your family situation, your bubble!).



What are we providing?

Here's what Roscommon School is providing for Home Learning:

ONLINE LEARNING

- ❖ Some teachers and students have continued with their **online learning using Google Classroom and apps like See Saw**- if that applies to your child...encourage them to keep on keeping on!

LOCKDOWN CHALLENGE and HOME LEARNING

- ❖ Roscommon Whanau Lockdown Challenge- at the beginning of the Lockdown we uploaded to our Facebook pages some home learning activities. Next week (Week 1 of Term 2) we'll upload another edition of Home Learning, and then in the following week, ie. Week 2, we'll post up a further edition of Home Learning. By Week 3, if we are still in Lockdown (ie. If the Lockdown is extended for some reason), then teams will be using their Syndicate Facebook pages to upload specific Home Learning for the children in their teams.

What the Ministry of Education (MoE) are doing

HOME LEARNING PACKS

- ❖ These are being sent out to all students in Years 0-3, including our Maori Medium, and for other students as well. We'll try to put up something on our Facebook pages to help you to know how these packs might best be used (when we receive a kit ourselves to unpack).

DIGITAL DEVICES

- ❖ MoE are providing digital devices and internet access to those students who need this (NCEA students are their first priority). MoE will deal directly with families.



- We cannot provide you with any technical assistance around the devices they provide you etc.
- We do not have any information about their delivery schedule, we respectfully request that you please refrain from asking us about this.
- Please do not be disappointed if your child does not receive a device soon, as the MoE are doing their best to meet the needs of those most in need first, and by the time they get around to that layer of students, the lockdown could be over! We live in hope.
- *If your child is lucky enough to receive a device during this lockdown, it remains the property of the Ministry of Education and will need to be returned to school, when school opens for instruction again.*

TELEVISION CHANNELS



- ❖ TV Channels will go live for English and Maori Medium from next Wednesday 15 April. The idea is that students can watch various lessons and try things at home. They don't necessarily need their parents to do anything, as they recognise some parents are actually still working from home.
- The channels will be available Monday to Friday, six hours per day.
- Home Learning TV/ Papa Kainga TV will be on from 9am to 3pm on TVNZ 2+1 and Sky Channel 502. Some of these lessons will also be on TVNZ On Demand.

- For Maori Medium (He Pua Mai i Rangiatea) students, Maori TV will also have a channel dedicated to Maori Medium instruction.

Reminders from Mrs Johnston

So, there's lots of support available for your child's learning, but again I **emphasise to you as parents not to stress out and think you have to do all this teaching for your child.** For some of you, this will be easy and you may welcome the opportunity. For others you'll be juggling work commitments, as well as other family responsibilities and **we don't expect you to do the work of teachers!**

It's a unique situation we are all finding ourselves in and let's just try to appreciate the kindness that everyone is trying to show to one another at a time like this. The Home Learning may not be perfect, but if we just keep our focus on ensuring our child's/ whanau wellbeing, then I'm sure we'll get through this and be ready to deal with whatever faces us as we come out of this Lockdown experience.

Don't stress either and think "But what if my child get's behind in their learning?". Our teachers are trained to take kids from wherever they are at in their learning, and bring them up to speed. So relax, together we've got this!

I remind you to please keep an eye out for updates on our school website and Facebook pages. I'd like to acknowledge and also thank our school leaders, teachers, and admin staff who have been doing (and will continue to do so) a lot of work behind the scenes to keep our students and their whanau informed throughout this Lockdown period. We are blessed indeed!

May you have an enjoyable Easter over the next few days.

From my bubble to yours,
Arohanui,

Mrs Johnston
Principal

Last Thoughts

Young children are going to remember how their family felt during the Coronavirus pandemic more than anything specific about the virus itself.

Our kids are watching and learning how to respond to stress and uncertainty.

Let's wire them with resilience not panic.