



WHĪTAU SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER NO 7: 9 April 2020

**WHĪTAU
SCHOOL**

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Find us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/WhTtauSchool>

KEY DATES - PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

This Week	Friday 10 April	Good Friday - Public Holiday
Coming Up	Monday 13 April Tuesday 14 April Wednesday 15 April Monday 20 April Wednesday 22 April Monday 27 April	Easter Monday - Public Holiday Easter Tuesday - School Holiday Learning at Home begins Week 2 of Learning at Home Lockdown is currently scheduled to be lifted - TBA ANZAC Day Public Holiday due to Mondayisation

From the Principal's Home....

Kia ora Whānau

I hope you are all staying safe and sound in lockdown and making the most of your family time together in your bubble. It's been a busy week for me, with several emails daily from the Ministry of Education with tasks to complete. I am really enjoying the time to catch my breath at home, cooking and gardening and Netflix!

Learning at Home begins for us all next Wednesday. We will use Seesaw, a WhTtau School Google learning site and Zoom meetings. I have shared details with you below of our planning. Your child's class teacher will be in contact by next Wednesday and email you the details you will need to support your child's learning. Please don't stress and put any additional stress on yourselves trying to be the teacher at home!

I know that this is an incredibly challenging time for families and we are aiming to keep the expectations for learning at home easy and fun for all. We are all learning about this together! Please use the school contacts below between the hours of 8am and 5pm weekdays, below if you require any support for your whānau.

Board Chairperson: Alexandra Davids botchair@whitau.school.nz

Principal: Sandra Smith sandra@whitau.school.nz 0272438436

Deputy Principal: Amy Collins amy@whitau.school.nz

SWiS Social Worker in Schools: Shakira van der Lem Shakira.VanDerLem@standforchildren.org.nz

Mana Ake: Kama Franklin kama@familyhelpttrust.org.nz

The Official Government COVID-19 Website and Helpline - <https://covid19.govt.nz/> Helpline 0800 24 24 11

WhTtau School Grounds, Buildings and Playgrounds are closed.

***Our school grounds and buildings have been closed by the Ministry of Education and may not be accessed.
The school playground equipment may NOT be used. Thank you.***

Kia kaha. Nga mihi nui
Sandra Smith JP
PRINCIPAL

We value Being Respectful, Being Responsible and Being a Learner

Term 2 Learning at Home Expectations - 9th April 2020

During Lockdown - While our school community waits for the support from the Ministry of Education with internet and student devices at home...



Our WhĪtau School Approach

We will

- Use the KISS (Keep it simple!) principle
- Be respectful that all families, including families of staff, are living in challenging times
- Use our existing online resources - Athletics, Sunshine Online and Sunshine Classics
- Manage the amount of communication between school and home
- Value class teachers making contact with ALL families, encouraging learning online by all our students
- Encourage the use of the new educational English and Maori TV channels screened nationwide daily between 9am and 3pm with all our families

Please Note: Teachers will be making contact by phone with every child and their family next Wednesday to check on your family wellbeing and support you with your child's home learning. They will ask you the following questions:

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHĀNAU

*How are you doing?
Is there anything you need help with?
Does your child have access to a device for their learning?
Can you send and receive emails?
How can we contact your child to talk with them weekly?
Are you connected to the new Seesaw Class?*

Initially, Whitau School will use three main ways to share learning between home and school

1. School Google Site for Families

The [School Learning@Home Google Site](#) which has resources and ideas for learning at home. *Please note this site is shared with you but still under development.*

- It will be shared via Seesaw, Facebook and also added to the School Website by next Wednesday.
- It has three Team Sections - [Kākanō](#), [Kārawha](#), [Kōrari](#), where students and families can explore into Digital Learning @ Home website, wellbeing resources, cyber safety and other supports.

2. SeeSaw - Individual Teacher and School Communication with Families

- A daily 'morning message' from each class teacher will be sent to your family between 8am and 9am about the day's learning
- A daily Reading, Writing and Maths activity shared for your child to complete on Seesaw
- We expect your child to participate in learning at home, however we cannot enforce this
- **Please contact your class teacher via Seesaw or by email for support with learning.**
- **We will openly communicate with families between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday. However, to respect the privacy of all families, teachers will not respond outside these hours.**

3. Daily 'Zoom' Class Meetings

- [Zoom](#) is a cloud based app that allows us to meet face to face online.
- Parents will receive an email from the class teacher with a link/invite to join to join a class meeting
- We understand that some families may not be able to use Zoom. Teachers will follow up those families with a phone call.

- **Every class teacher will offer a short daily class Zoom 'get together', starting on Wednesday 15th April.**

The class 'Zoom' times have been selected to avoid family clashes with devices.

- **9.00 am - Kākano & Kehakai classes**
- **10.00am - Kārawha classes**
- **11.00am - Kōrari classes**