



**WHĪTAU
SCHOOL**

WHĪTAU SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER NO 10: 16 April 2020

221 Woodham Road, Christchurch 8062 Phone (03) 389 8112, Mobile 027 758 1467

eMail: office@whitau.school.nz www.whitau.school.nz

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

KEY DATES - PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

Next Week	Monday 20 April Wednesday 22 April	Week 2 of Learning at Home Lockdown is currently scheduled to be lifted - TBA
Coming Up	Monday 27 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday due to Mondayisation

From the Principal's Home....

Kia ora e te Whānau

A very different Term 2 of school learning is underway as we reached Week 3 of the Pandemic Level 4 Lockdown. Our teachers have been so excited to meet you yesterday and today at the daily Class Zoom Meetings and talk with their students. They are also busy working through their class list phoning you all to check in with you and they hope to have this task completed by tomorrow afternoon.

Again I do say that we all appreciate that this is an incredibly challenging time for families, including teachers who have their own children at home to teach, and we are aiming to keep the expectations for learning at home easy and fun for all. There is no compulsion for students to have to complete any or all of the daily learning tasks assigned by their class teacher. We are all learning about this together! If you do require any support from the school for your child's learning at home, please email the class teacher and they will respond between 8am and 5pm.

Many of our families are waiting for devices and support with internet connections from the Ministry of Education and I will update you all just as soon as I have any further information. In the meantime class teachers should by now be aware of families who require device free learning tasks and they are sending these to you via SeeSaw.

Unfortunately our school does not have the capacity to issue any of the classroom iPads and ChromeBooks the Board owns that are used daily in classrooms. We simply do not have enough devices or chargers to be able to fairly and equitably distribute them to all our families who need them without many families still missing out.



Please use the school contacts below between the hours of 8am and 5pm weekdays, below if you require any support for you or 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@familyhelptrust.org.nz

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

Helpline 0800 24 24 11

Our Wh Ttau 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

Our Term 2 Learning at Home Expectations

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



Our Wh Ttau School Learning at Home Approach

We will continue to

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

Please Note: Teachers will be making contact by phone with every child and their family each week to check on your family wellbeing and support you with your child's home learning.

Whitau School will continue to use these 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.

The School Google Site

- Has been shared via Seesaw, Facebook and added to the [School Website](#).
- Has sections for our three Learning Teams - [Kākano](#), [Kārawha](#), [Kōrari](#), where students and families can explore into the Digital Learning @ Home website, wellbeing resources, digital safety and other supports.

Community Notices:

SCOUTING FROM HOME PROGRAMME

SCOUTS is the world's largest non-formal educational movement. What this means is there is a method to our fun. You can learn about our programme here, but for the sake of time and brevity we are going to keep it simple. Our Scouting From Home Programme is designed to be:



FREE - That's right. The Scouting From Home programme is free. This is our way to pay back our local communities and say thank you to New Zealand for all the support we have received over the years.

FUN - Each week you will get a programme of three fun activities for your young people to do. These focus on Personal Development, Adventure and Community.

FLEXIBLE - We know you might have more than one young person at home. The activities are ranked "easy", "moderate", and "advanced" so you can adapt the programme to the needs of your young people.

Visit: <https://scouts.nz/join-scouting-from-home/>

GIRL GUIDING NZ

We're making it Free to Our Family! Membership fees are free for all options for the next block of Guiding (28 April - 3 July), and Explore is free for all 2020! Both group Guiding and Explore are designed via experience-based learning to delight and empower girls through new challenges, friendships, connectedness and curiosity. GirlGuiding NZ supports girls to take action and change their world. We're a girl-led organisation. That means you'll be the guide. What kind of adventure are you looking for?



Visit: <https://girlguidingnz.org.nz/>

EENY MEENY COMPETITION CREATE A MONSTER CHALLENGE!

Eeny Meeny are who we get our school stationery through. Here's a fun art challenge for students aged 5-8 and 9-12 years old, with loads of awesome prizes for the winning students and their schools. Their mission is to create an Eeny Meeny monster of their choice out of anything you like. You might paint it, draw it, sculpt it or even build it from Lego. The more creative the better!



To take part in this mission simply click here:

<https://www.eenymeeny.co.nz/monsterchallenge> to view the full details of the competition and make your submission.

We have 10 art & craft packs worth over \$100 for the winning students and your school could be in to win 1 of 3 Eeny Meeny credit vouchers worth \$1000!

Make sure you provide your submission by midnight 27 April 2020. Terms and conditions can be found on the competition link.