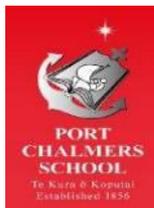


**Tena koutou katoa nga mihi ki te whanau o te Kura o
Koputai – greetings to all families of
Koputai (Port Chalmers) School.**



TUMUAKI NEWS

As our whole country unites together against COVID-19, our thoughts are very much with you and your whānau. Many of you will be essential workers dealing with the ongoing stresses of this pandemic at the frontline, others will be working from home and all will be managing the complexities associated with this time. We are truly grateful for all that you are doing. As a nation New Zealand has much to be proud of, especially the leadership and transparency of our leaders with their daily presence in the media.

As a learning community we are on a journey developing systems and processes to provide distance teaching and learning. As you may have heard in the media, the Ministry of Education is looking to provide digital devices to students without access, prioritising NCEA students and those who may be considered disadvantaged, as well as packs of hard copy learning materials. Television channels have also been set up to support and supplement home learning. Our teachers know our students and our learning community and context so we have not asked for generic hard copy learning materials from the Ministry of Education as we will continue to provide programmes which are more directly linked to our learners' needs and our context.

At the end of last term, when we went into our nationwide lockdown, teachers put together some home learning ideas which we distributed in the day before the full lockdown happened. We were also able to put some websites onto the Home Learning Hub on the school website. We know that many of you have used the materials and websites to facilitate learning at home. As we continue in lockdown, teachers will regularly engage with students. As I noted at the end of last term, they will be endeavouring to provide experiences, opportunities and invitations that support students to maintain the curiosity and creativity that they have been fostering so far this year thus continuing to grow their love of learning. Generally, the tasks will be something your children are already comfortable with so they can be successful and feel confident as they become familiar with this changed way of working. We do not expect you as parents to be teachers and do not want to place undue stress or pressure on you in relation to your child/ren's learning.

In fact, Dr Gordon Neufeld (2020), a clinical psychologist provides some useful advice '*...children at play are insulated from the alarming world around them. Play is a sanctuary of safety. Play is also the original school, far more effective than anything society could possibly invent. Rather than try to make the home a school, it would be much more important in these times to make the home a true playground where Nature can take care of all of us. In true play, the engagement is in the activity, not the outcome*'

Our focus areas for the lockdown and flexible learning period will be fostering inquiry, exploration, investigation and discovery through the lens of play, expressed in:

- Social and emotional wellbeing - centred on creativity and the arts
- Physical activity - some form of daily movement
- Reading - exploring and engaging with stories
- Mathematics - centred on number knowledge development and problem solving opportunities

Teachers will work flexibly within this frame, emphasising and/or connecting areas as they deem them appropriate and relevant for their learners.

Teachers will be in touch via email or phone with families over the next few days. You can also contact me at school via email (vicki@portchalmers.school.nz). I am missing everyone, however when you know that as a country we are doing the right thing, it does make this distance from everyone easier to bear.

Take care, look after yourselves and your whānau and stay safe and healthy. Please know that I am still available to support you and your child in whatever ways I can over this period of learning by distance, just email or phone me.

Ka kite ano to you all in your bubble

FREE N4L safety filter for all students

While children are learning from home, they are away from the school's online safety and security services provided by Network for Learning (N4L). The Ministry of Education together with N4L and Netsafe, have launched www.switchonsafety.co.nz - a free way to block the worst of the web for students. You can follow the instructions provided online to set up your child's device for safer connectivity. Please remember, no technical solution is a silver bullet so you need to complement this with digital citizenship such as maintaining an active presence in your child's online activity, see the online parent toolkit at Netsafe <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/parenttoolkit/> and <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/staying-safe/>. ICT support is available for parents and whānau through the Ministry of Education's Learning from Home helpdesk on 0800 700 401 between 8 am and 5 pm on business days

Skool Loop App

To stay in touch with us have you downloaded Skool Loop app?



Once you have this downloaded, make sure you allow for notifications in your settings. This will mean you won't miss any important information.

Vicki Nicolson Principal
www.portchalmers.school.nz