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15 April 2020

Kia ora Whānau,

Welcome to our first week of our Online Programme.

Our verse for this year is "Set your heart on God and reach out to Him" (Job 11:13).

Our Term 1 theme "God is at Work" continues into Term 2. This theme/statement is true now and has been true throughout history. The big story of the bible is; throughout time people have turned away from God, but God in His faithfulness, continues to be at work in the world and to show His grace to people. God, through the work of Jesus on the cross, has shown us his ultimate grace. This is the foundation of our faith and what we celebrate at Easter. God is for us. So, this week I have chosen the verse John 3:17.

Memory Verse:

John 3:17 New International Version (NIV)

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

First week of our Online Programme details

Work for the next three days has been sent via email to you from your child's class teacher. Please have a read of the programme and discuss it with your child. Students in Kauri and Tōtara will also have the content of the email embedded in Google Classroom. We are sending the email to parents as well so you know what students are being asked to do and can support them. Younger children will not be able to access the work set without parent help.

Google Meets

Google Meets provide students with a way to maintain links with their teacher and friends. You are welcome to sit in on the Google Meets but remember the kaupāpā (principle or policy) is to connect students and teachers. Ideally all students should be present for as many Google Meets as possible. Again, Kōwhai students will be reliant on parents to get them into the Google Meet.

Schedule of links is as follows each Monday and Wednesday: -

- Kōwhai: 10:00-10:30am
- Tōtara: 10:30-11:00am
- Kauri: 11:00-11:30am

Links will be sent via email. If you have not yet received links to these meetings, you should be receiving these shortly. If for some reason your link does not arrive please contact your child/children's class teacher via email.

We realise some of you are looking after more than one child and are working from home as well; and therefore do not have the capacity to help as much as others. We appreciate all and any help you are giving your child. If you have questions regarding the programmes provided, please email your child's teacher. Again, if you have any technology questions related to school-work set, please ask your child's teacher.

If everything becomes too hard, relax and tune into the educational TV programmes the Ministry is running and start again the next day.

We hope that you are all safe and well in your bubble and making the most of family time. If there is anything you want us to be aware of or we can do for you, please let us know. All the best for your first online week of activity.

Key dates to remember: -

Wed 15 April - Term 2 begins (through distance learning)

Wed 22 April - Current date for ending of lockdown period (**on this day we may have more clarity around what will happen next**).

Mon 27 April - ANZAC Day observed

Wed 29 April - **Possible** date for return to school for some students. The Ministry is still working on the logistics of who would be first to return.

Resources

The government has put together some helpful resources including:

- *guidance on how to keep students safe on-line*
- *a learning resources website*
- *Home Learning TV*
- *Wellbeing resources*
- *Covid-19 information in different languages*

On-line Safety Guidelines

- Keeping safe on line reviewing and approving games and apps before they are downloaded
- reviewing privacy settings of sites and applications
- checking children's profiles and what they are posting online
- check the sites your child is accessing
- reminding children that anything that is posted online will be permanently on the internet
- taking the time to understand what sites they are visiting and who they are talking with and check in regularly
- some social media sites have age restrictions to join, check these before letting your child use them or join them
- monitoring a child's use of the internet and consider having them use it in an open, common area of the house
- making sure your children know to report any activity they don't feel comfortable with to parents and caregivers straight away

Free internet safety filter for parents

While children are learning from home, they are away from the online safety and security services provided by Network for Learning (N4L) at school.

So together with N4L and Netsafe, the government have launched www.switchonsafety.co.nz - a free way to block the worst of the web for students. Netsafe also has new and updated resources for parents, whānau and students at <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/staying-safe/> (**I have also included a copy of our school internet safety contract**).

The website <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>, has links to sites which are especially designed for parents.

Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga TV

The Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga TV will run between 9am to 3pm on school days on TVNZ2+1 and Sky channel 502. Some lessons will also be available on TVNZ On Demand. There will be content and lessons for pre-schoolers to 15 year olds from a range of curriculum areas.

Wellbeing Resources: -

- Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whanau - <https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactoreducation/>
- Tips on looking after mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 from the Mental Health foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>
- Although overseas-based, this is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children. Remember the rules of New Zealand's Level 4 lockdown still apply - 25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D. <https://energyresourcing.com/blog/mental-health-wellness-covid-19/>

- **Covid-19** information in Arabic, Cantonese, French, Hindi, Mandarin, Persian/Farsi, Spanish and Urdu can be found on <https://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/news/covid-19-growing-in-new-zealand/>

Prayer Points: -

- Set your heart on God and reach out to Him.
- Thank God for all the people in your bubble and family.
- Pray that each of us would become a blessing for others, that we would be like the hands and voice of Jesus for others:
e.g. that each of us would find ways to do acts of kindness daily for those who are in our bubble and are beyond our bubble, i.e. class, wider family, essential workers, anyone we know might be lonely.
- Pray for people in leadership e.g. World leaders including our Prime Minister, business leaders, leaders of organisations, Principals, etc.
- Pray for those effected by Covid-19.
- Thank God for the effect of the lockdown, i.e. that the rates of infection have gone down.
- Pray for continued wise decisions by the Prime Minister.
- Pray for the safety of families who have people in their bubble working in essential services.
- Pray for those who have had people in their family who have been effected directly by the COVID-19 virus.
- Pray for people in other countries who are effected by Covid-19.

Prayer Students

Week 1: Makayla, Zeanelle, Justine

Week 2: Nova, Ruth, Josiah

Ngā mihi nui

Kaye Gillies

Principal

Miramar Christian School

Teacher Email Addresses: -

Kauri Class - Miss Akenese Musuva (ake.musuva@christian.school.nz)

Tōtara Class - Mrs Betsy Anderson (betsy.anderson@christian.school.nz)

Kōwhai Class - Ms Denise Copley (denise.anderson@christian.school.nz)