

Letter to Oaklynn School Community
Friday 10th April

Tēnā koutou Oaklynn school community, students, whānau, parents, carers and staff,

We are in day 16 of our Level 4 Lockdown. I hope that life is treating you well in your bubble at home with your whānau. For those of you who are essential workers - doing your work to keep us safe, cared for and stocked with essentials - on behalf of the Oaklynn community - thank you for your contribution during this time.

Whanaungatanga

The Oaklynn community - learners, their whānau and staff - has strong whanaungatanga - sense of belonging, connection and relationships through shared experiences, developed over time. We know that this will help us all get through this difficult time. So our challenge is to find innovative and creative ways to stay connected and support each other.

Wellbeing - as you know is at the heart of our work at Oaklynn.

We acknowledge that this time of Lockdown may be particularly stressful for our families. We are also aware that the usual supports that you might access in other times are not available for you now. With that in mind, we have sourced some organisations that may be able to assist you.

Explore Behaviour Support

- Explore will provide immediate wellbeing and behaviour support advice, support, risk assessment and safety planning to anyone eligible for disability support services.
- You do not need a referral from Taikura Trust to access these services, however, you will need to advise Explore who your NASC (Needs Assessment Service Coordination) is – this may be Taikura for you.
- Disabled people, their whānau and support workers can contact Explore directly by calling **0800 000 421**. From Monday 6 April 2020 these hours will be extended to 8am- 8pm.

wecare.kiwi

- For people living on their own or caring for others during the pandemic.
- Developed by national charities Carers NZ and IHC,
- wecare.kiwi offers a helping hand and a listening ear during the current Level 4 Lockdown period.
- Will provide practical supports once New Zealand returns to alert Levels 2 and 3.
- Phone: 0800 777 797 | Email: help@wecare.kiwi

Learning from Home

- We are moving into the 'Learning from Home' phase. School holidays end on Tuesday 14th April and staff will be supporting learners at home in a variety of ways.
- From Wednesday 15th April class teachers will be contacting all families and talking with parents and carers.
- They will be asking you - whānau how you would like Oaklynn to support your child / young person's **learning** during this lock down period.

It would be good for you to think about the following over the next couple of days

What method of connectivity / engagement is best for you and your learner?

- At this stage we will be looking at supporting learning using a range of technologies -
 - ZOOM
 - Facetime
 - Email
 - Storypark

What learning activities would you like support with?

- There are a range of options that might be appropriate for your young learner
 - Face to face engagement with young learner - video chat
 - Work sheets, word search, puzzles that you can print out at home
 - Interactive sessions sent via Storypark
 - Ideas for activities to do at home

OAKLYNN WEBSITE

- Staff at Oaklynn have spent the last two weeks collecting information to support learning at home.
- There are many useful websites that have fun activities and ideas for learners at home.
- Next week we will be adding a space on our school website with links to sites for you to access.
- Look for **Learning from Home** on our website www.oaklynn.school.nz

Ministry of Education Announcement

You may or may not be aware that there has been a launch of 'Learning from Home' initiatives from the Minister for Education Chris Hipkins. Go to this link <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/> for more information.

Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga TV

- on TVNZ
- will run from 9am to 3pm on school days
- on TVNZ2+1 and Sky channel 502.
- Some lessons will also be available on TVNZ On Demand.

Hard copy learning packs

We have received advice from the Ministry of Education that the school age hardcopy packs available at the moment are not tailored for our learners and that the Early Learning hard copy packs are being prioritised for "Targeted Funding for Disadvantage" families.

- Special Schools in NZ are in liaison with the Ministry of Education to see if we can get practical packs made and distributed to our families. We want our families to have resources that will be meaningful and helpful.
- We will keep you posted on these developments.

In the Select Committee this week, Minister Hipkins also spoke to the change of alert levels and the implications for education providers and their communities. The Minister noted it would be wrong to assume that all schools and early learning services will reopen at Level 3.

So we may be in this phase for a while yet. We look forward to supporting you as best we can over the next few weeks. We will keep you up to date with any changes to the situation as and when we are notified.

Wishing you a safe and well Easter break in your bubble,
Ngā mihi nui

Louise Doyle
Principal, Oaklynn School