



Kia Ora Koutou, Guten tag, Bula, Nǐ hǎo, Mingalaba, Namaste, Greetings, Sàwàtdee, Hallo, As-salām 'alaykum, Min-ga-la-ba, nín hǎo, Néih hóu, Konnichiwa, Chôm rab suôr, Tālofa, Hola!, Kumusta, Vaṇakkam, Mālō e lelei, Kia Orana and Welcome to Boulcott School in LOCKDOWN!

Well, this certainly isn't the type of newsletter I was expecting to sit down and write for the end of Term 1. The world has definitely changed over the last month, and in particular the past week! I do hope this finds you all safe and well while you are

operating in your own bubble. Everyone's situation will be different - you may have a whole lot more time on your hands if you are no longer working, you may be balancing working from home while supervising/occupying/entertaining/teaching your children! Or you may also be one of our awesome essential workers who may still be doing the daily commute while juggling everything else! Whatever your situation, I know you will be doing an awesome job. This is all new for everyone and we all have to find our own way to manage while looking after ourselves and our loved ones.

A big thank you to all of you for taking the lockdown so seriously. As the Prime Minister has noted, staying at home will break the chain and save lives; breaking the rules could risk someone close to you and if the rules are not complied with, this could risk the lock down period being extended or could risk the virus being spread to thousands.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share with you some key information that has been flooding in from the Ministry of Education and other agencies over the past week. I will continue to keep you updated as the weeks progress, as things will continue to change and evolve.

CHANGES TO KEY DATES

Firstly, below are some key dates to note for the next month:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 26 March | Alert Level 4 commenced |
| 28 March | School holidays begin |
| 10 – 14 April | Easter including the Tuesday after Easter |
| 15 April | Term 2 begins (through distance learning) |
| 22 April | Current date for ending of lockdown period |
| 27 April | ANZAC Day observed |

DISTANCE LEARNING

As you can see, the two-week school holiday break has been brought forward so this is officially the start of the school holidays! Of course this break is going to look quite different to any other. Although this is also break time for Boulcott staff, I have asked classroom teachers to still have a presence online so they can continue to connect with you and your children. They will not be providing set tasks or activities to complete but they will provide feedback on either Seesaw or Google Classroom (Year 5 and 6) if the children share on these platforms. Teachers will also be available via email if required.



There is no expectation to complete any learning tasks during this 'holiday' break but we know some families may appreciate this to help with their situation. A reminder that last week we provided a variety of ideas and tasks that could be completed for each syndicate if you need some inspiration. This information can also be found on our school website:

<https://www.boulcott.school.nz/our-learning/learning-at-home/>



We have been so impressed with some of the learning that has already been completed at home and shared with us. So many creative ideas! Some of these ideas have also been shared on Facebook. A big thank you to Alex Aston Baron who has set up a private group for parents to share ideas while we are in lockdown. If you're on Facebook, search Kids of Boulcott School (during COVID-19) to find the group.



On 15 April Term 2 officially begins but this be while the lockdown continues so a more formalised distance learning approach will be shared with you. We are still finalising how this will actually look but we will continue to use Seesaw and Google Classroom platforms. If your child is still not connected to these platforms (Google Classroom for Year 5 and 6 only) and you are not sure how to, please contact your classroom teacher via email and they can assist you.



Learning from home

In addition to the resources we have shared with you, the Ministry of Education has also created two websites to support distance learning while you are at home. These have been produced with other agencies

and are available online at <https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/> and <https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/ki-te-ao-marama/> with resources for parents and whānau, teachers and leaders spanning early learning through to senior secondary.

These are a one stop shop for teaching and learning at home. The Ministry has launched these now so people have time to get familiar with the site and they will continue to develop it to meet our needs. Current content is just the start of the guidance, tools and resources we will be uploading to support teachers and parents.

Ki te Ao Marama has been developed to support those students learning te reo Māori and for those in kōhanga reo, kura and Māori medium settings. They have been purposefully packaged to support learning at home.

- Teachers can use both online spaces to point students to activities they think would help them learn at home.
- Leaders and teachers can use the site to start their thinking and planning for learning from home.
- Parents and whānau will find advice and activities they can use to support learning at home, without needing to become teachers themselves.

We also appreciate that many families may not have the best connectivity to the internet or sufficient devices in the household to support online learning. Some good news to support you either working at home and/or learning at home - Spark, Vodafone, Vocus/Slingshot, 2Degrees and Trustpower have all advised they have removed their data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage.

I'm sure that this is good news if there are several of you trying to access the wifi at home all at once. I know your devices will be in high demand too, which is another reason why we do not require children to be online at any specific exact time during the day. If there are any families who do not have a device (iPad or chrome book or laptop etc) at home for your children to use at all, please do get in touch with me.

CHILD SUPPORT for ESSENTIAL WORKERS

If you are an essential worker and do not have access to childcare through your own networks the government will fund other licensed childcare providers (for example through PORSE, Barnados and Edubase / Home Grown Kids) to provide in-home care for your children aged 0-14.

For the purposes of providing care to children of essential workers, the in-home carer will be classified as an essential worker in both cases.

Initial list of contact details for providers

- [Barnados website](#) - email covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz or call 0800 BARNARDOS (0800 227 627)
- [Edubase / Home Grown Kids website](#) or call 0508 44 54 37 or email info@hgk.co.nz
- [PORSE website](#) 0800 023 456

COUNSELLING SUPPORT

As mentioned earlier, everyone's situation is different. While some may be thoroughly enjoying this time to slow down and be with loved ones, others may be struggling with the restrictions and the gravity of the situation. Remember to stay connected and reach out if you need help. There are plenty of services you can engage with if need to:

- *The Ministry of Education has developed a resource for parents, caregivers, whānau and family - <http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>.*
- *The Ministry of Health's website includes [Top ways to look after your mental wellbeing](#) during the Covid-19 lockdown.*
- *I AM HOPE is the youth and community-focused support group run by The Key to Life Charitable Trust, started by Mike King - <https://www.iamhope.org.nz/>*
- *Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whānau - <https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactorededucation/> -*
- *Tips on looking after mental health and well-being during COVID-19 from the Mental Health foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>*
- *A website by the Health Promotion Agency to help New Zealanders recognise and understand depression and anxiety - <https://depression.org.nz/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.](#)*

- Parent Help:- <https://www.parenthelp.org.nz/> 0800 568 856. Online counselling via Zoom.

For Students:

- Youthline: will be maintaining their, text and email service. <https://www.youthline.co.nz/wellington-centre-page.html> Free call 0800 376 633, Free text 234, talk@youthline.co.nz
- Kidsline:- 4pm-9pm Weekdays http://www.kidslines.org.nz/Home_312.aspx 0800 54 37 54

There are also additional resources that have been provided by the Hutt Valley DHB at the end of this newsletter.

SCHOOL GROUNDS CLOSED

A reminder that the school grounds and buildings are closed during the nationwide lockdown. All school gates have been locked. If you live close to the school, please do not enter the grounds for your daily walk. The Hutt River is an alternative to people providing more of an open space. Thanks for your support on this matter.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE...

A local school has been inspired by the efforts of the Italian community while in lockdown - coming out onto their balconies and singing together at the same time every night. San Antonio School in Eastbourne are keen to get a kiwi version start with Tutira Mai Nga Iwi! Details below:



You probably have heard about the Italians coming out to sing together or the Canadians and Europeans coming out to clap the essential workers each night, well the San Antonio School students think it would be cool to come and out and sing Tutira Mai Nga Iwi at 7pm daily.

It would be really cool if you could join us and start a movement together.

It's a more kiwi version and most people know it (here is a link if you are unsure <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdNbBgGoRvs>) and during the world cup it was what everyone was meant to learn. Those of you with guitars could play along.

If you could spread the word with neighbours and contacts that would be great,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNxhSe4TiQQ> - Video of Italians singing

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6721361/coronavirus-applause-health-care-workers-vancouver/> - Canada - Video of Canadians clapping

<https://time.com/5807592/europeans-sing-coronavirus-healthcare-workers/> - Video of people in Europe clapping to thank health care workers.

HAVE YOU GOT SOME TIME ON YOUR HANDS.... LOG INTO BOULCOTT SCHOOL PARENT APP!

Well done to everyone who has managed to successfully log onto our new app. There have been a lot more of you sign in over the last week. We have started to send our newsletters out using this platform now. If you haven't logged in already -



now is the perfect time!! Use the email sent out to previously to gain access.

If you don't have a smartphone, you can still access the app via <https://www.atschool.co.nz/> and enter your login details.

FINALLY... Here's a clever clip to keep you smiling:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMBh-ao3tvE&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3Eh4IsPyNSZF1FfkQbBJxd7ns1T9WHbnlp5oQ78Pzam5gO4oBC_Yykoic

As mentioned earlier, I will continue to update you over the next couple of weeks when I receive further information to share. In the meantime, hang in there! We can do this together although we are apart!

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui. Be strong, be brave, be steadfast.

Nga mihi nui
Stu Devenport
Principal

COVID 19 Coronavirus Handout CDS Hutt Valley DHB

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

<https://www.flipsnack.com/KeshetChicago/coronavirus-social-story/full-view.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkZ23tDzN4c&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.ppmid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Corona-Virus-Free-Printable-Updated-2-The-Autism-Educator-.pdf>

https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/flu_teaching_story_final%20%281%29.pdf

RESOURCES FOR TEENS

<https://au.reachout.com/articles/10-ways-to-take-care-of-yourself-during-coronavirus>

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

https://yourkidstable.com/coronavirus-social-distancing-with-kids/?inf_contact_key=38721f80b7da9f28d2e2a534c0108010680f8914173f9191b1c0223e68310bb1

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/news/how-cope-disrupted-family-routines-during-covid-19>

<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/24/820542927/how-to-talk-about-covid-19-with-people-who-have-autism>

<https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/sites/afirm.fpg.unc.edu/files/covid-resources/Supporting%20Individuals%20with%20Autism%20through%20Uncertain%20Times%20Full%20Packet.pdf>

<https://mailchi.mp/bigpond/when-that-which-isolates-us-unites-us-strengthening-kids-teens-and-ourselves-in-the-time-of-corona?e=7d83ebc074>

Easy

Read

UK

info

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/24th%20March%20Cv19%20UpdateCU.pdf>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/tips-social-distancing-quarantine-isolation-031620.pdf>

<https://www.autism-society.org/covid-19/>

Many of these resources are from overseas so remember their contact details will be different for the ones we use:

Our hospital: <http://www.huttvalleydhb.org.nz/>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Disability Hub in Hutt Valley: <https://www.lifeunlimited.net.nz/news-articles/>

<https://parent2parent.org.nz/> <https://www.autismnz.org.nz/>