



COVID - 19 UPDATE

9th April 2020

Dear Parents and Whanau,

I hope everyone is going well in their bubbles. It's hard to believe we're halfway through the four week lockdown.

Yesterday the Minister of Education announced a comprehensive 'Distance Learning' package for Kiwi kids and families. This included access to devices and 'hard copy' learning packs. This package is intended to reach students who are living in remote areas and/or do not have access to devices in the home. The package is also designed to help those schools who have been struggling to put together their own 'Distance Learning' programme.

Most of this **does not** apply to our students or whanau. Our staff have been working over the holidays to ensure the Distance Learning programme for your child is ready to go from next Wednesday 15th April. The learning programmes on television will be able to be accessed by everyone but please remember this is a supplement to the programme we will be running.

Last month we put out a community survey to find out how many families have and do not have access to the internet or a device at home. If you do not have a device at home that your child can use for Distance Learning (excluding a phone) please contact the school by email to office@newstead.school.nz . Please include your name and contact details and any information that you think will be helpful. This will enable us to make plans to possibly get a device to you and your whanau.

A further update around Distance Learning will come out next Tuesday. In the meantime, I hope you have a great Easter, albeit in your bubble. I would also like to

take this opportunity to do a big shout out to those parents in our Newstead community who are working over this break as part of an essential service.

Keep safe and be kind to one another.

Ngā mihi

Drew Campbell - Principal