



# The KPS Weekly

T.E.A.M  
Together Everyone Achieves More



9 April 2020

Tēnā koutou katoa

I hope this newsletter finds you well in these unprecedented and crazy times. It has been a strange few weeks for all of us and we hope you are managing at home, staying safe and looking after your wellbeing. This newsletter is an outline of what we see learning looking like in Term Two, starting next **Wednesday 15 April**. I apologise for the length of the newsletter as it covers a lot.

As we head into the new term, we need to ensure that we remember what is fundamentally important; that is hauora, wellbeing and being in a good space. At this time, we must continue to be connected with people. This will include whanau, friends, and also teachers. If you know of someone who might need a quick call, pick up the phone and check in on them. I know it will be appreciated. If you know of families who may be struggling, point them to the help they need. A list of possible resources is at the bottom of this email.

## Term Two Learning

Our teachers have been working hard to set up learning opportunities for our tamariki. We are looking forward to catching up with many of you in different ways. It is important to remember that learning for Term Two, while in lockdown, will look different. We understand that you are not teachers by trade and that you want the best for your children.

Teachers will be sharing information with you about what learning can look like from home. Initially, we are setting up between 2-4 hours of work per day, however, this does not mean students should be sitting in front of books or on devices all this time. You will find a range of activities for learning. We suggest you do what you can manage and, if you need help or are not sure about something, ask us. We are more than happy to touch base with you about any concerns you have for learning. The best way to do this will be via email.

It may also be a good idea to set up a schedule which can help to keep routines and structure. Some families have sent us through schedules they have made which look really awesome. Here is a youtube clip that might be helpful:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K11xFGA23HQ>.

As we move forward, we will find out what is working and what isn't. Please communicate with teachers if you are finding things difficult or need some more support. We will all need to have patience over this time as we figure out the best way to deliver distance learning.

## Seesaw

We are rolling out an online learning tool called Seesaw. Some of our teachers have been trialling this already so you may be familiar with it. Seesaw is a powerful tool that allows for learning in a range of ways. You can use this link to find out more about it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzIrtDR84KY>



Our first goal is to sign up as many families as possible. By the end of next week, you should have been sent a message from your classroom teacher with instructions on how to do this which outlines how to connect as a parent. You will be able to sign up using a computer or device such as a phone or tablet. Once you have done this, teachers will be able to communicate with you through the app.

Our next step after signing up families will be signing up students. Please look out for more information about this. Again, if you have any questions or problems, please contact classroom teachers.

We are really excited about using Seesaw so please spend a couple of minutes setting it up.

## **Ministry of Education Learning Supports**

You may have seen on the news that the Ministry of Education is offering extra support for learning. The Ministry has developed a home learning channel. There will be content for parents and whānau with preschool children and tamariki, and lessons for those aged 5 to 15 years of age. This will cover a broad curriculum including movement, music, physical education, wellbeing, numeracy, literacy and science through an integrated approach to curriculum.

### **Hard Packs**

The Ministry is developing learning material hard packs for learners. There are limits on how many can be provided immediately but they are working hard to put resources together to deliver to households.

### **Access to devices and connectivity**

The Ministry is trying to get devices and internet connectivity to those who need it for learning. As you can appreciate this is a complex task. Devices will be prioritised to secondary school students participating in NCEA exams and then to areas of need. We have no idea who that includes at this stage. I appreciate those of you who could fill out the survey and will update you on this as soon as we know what is happening.

## **Learning via Teams**

### **Te Motu**

We will be contacting families to sign up to Seesaw over the next week. This will be where most of our learning tasks are posted and you will be able to comment and post photos and videos of your child's mahi (work). Teachers will be able to give feedback on work that is posted. Some tasks may be for groups of children and others for the whole class.

Kererū/Kōkako will continue to update the class webpage with other ideas for learning at home. Please check pages out as we develop new activities. Watch out for the regular challenge videos that will be posted too. Please feel free to get in touch with your child's teachers if you have questions.

### **Te Moana**

Our Website is up and running with new learning being added daily. We are very excited to have already had lots of feedback and learning sent through and you can see what pupils have been up to on our class pages. Video workshops are being posted in our Maths and Writing

pages along with Kapa Haka and Science. Have a look in the Passion Projects, Games and Challenges pages for out of the box learning.

Classes are signed up for Seesaw and learning can be shared with us that way too. Teachers will be contacting families in the near future to set up this tool. We are looking forward to live workshops and digital class meetings at some stage as we learn to connect online with you all. Any questions, please get in touch with us.

## Ranginui

Te Marama are continuing their learning in a virtual classroom. Their lessons, across the curriculum areas, are posted into this each day. As students complete these, they share them with Liz. Students can also use the classroom to work on tasks collaboratively. They also have lots of additional activities that they can do during the day to progress their own learning. Parents can look at the tasks students are completing in the classroom. Te Ra students will be posted out their learning tasks via Seesaw. They will be able to send their work back to the teacher so that Sarah can stay in touch with progress and achievement over the coming weeks.

## Staffing Changes

Due to our current situation, there are a couple of staffing changes to the Te Moana learning team. Nikki McLean will continue in her role as the teacher in Te Paua. Chantelle Smith is going to stay on until the end of Term Two as the teacher in Aihe. Kris Bolton will continue with us for the next two weeks during lockdown. Tina Ainslie will be starting in Ika Nui and replace Kris. Tina will continue on as the Ika Nui teacher. We are also continuing our process for appointing a new teacher to Te Moana and they will likely begin in Aihe at the start of Term Three.

## Resources to Support Wellbeing

We know this is a strange and potentially difficult time. Please make sure you are staying connected with whānau and friends as well as doing activities that support your wellbeing.

Below are some links that may be helpful:

- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting toddlers](#)
- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting children](#)
- [Tips for teachers, parents and caregivers – supporting young people](#)

If you know someone who might be struggling, there are a large range of supports in place that may be able to assist including:

- [Mental wellbeing](#)
- [Supporting children and young people at home](#)
- [Managing self-isolation](#)
- [Care options for children of essential workers](#)
- [Financial support for employers and employees](#)
- [Staying safe online](#)
- [Preventing harm from bullying](#)
- [Family harm](#)
- [Responding to discrimination – through the Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Accessing healthcare](#)
- [For people vulnerable to COVID-19](#)

I would like to thank our teachers who had been working hard to set up for Term Two.

Apologies for the long newsletter. If you got down to this part, well done! Again, we hope you are well and get in touch with us if you need any support. Let's all continue to stay safe by following the guidance from our Government.

**Nga mihi nui,  
Brent McDowell  
Principal**