

# Halcombe School



RD 9, FEILDING  
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Term 3 Week 5

25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## *Tena Koutou Katoa* - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou,

What a difference a week makes! Now we are in the middle (hopefully!) of lockdown, we thought it might be a good time to be in touch with you with an update of everything that's going on. We are hard at work searching, preparing and trying our best to provide distance learning for our students.

I want to acknowledge our teachers and Teacher Aides - what an excellent group of people. Every one of them responded to our pupil's needs in the putting together and delivery of the hard packs and devices. I am incredibly proud of them for their fast and diligent action. We are also very grateful to our families for the positive feedback you have given us on the delivery of the hard packs, and the messages we've received that you feel supported and are responding positively to this lockdown too. Together we might just cope!

Rest assured that we are very mindful of our families: their work (on farms, at home, at a distance), as well as the child-minding that is going on. We know you are all very capable people and have been through this before, and that you don't expect every waking moment to be filled with home learning. We have really appreciated the feedback we have received from you about this.

In terms of daily learning, we have decided that a low-level, optional approach to learning is the best for our families and our kids. I want to reiterate that any learning activities sent home are completely optional for you to do. We want to make sure that there is no stress around this. We know that this time is a chance for families to do things together and learn about each other, have self-reliance and deep experiences that happen in your homes and with families. Remember that learning is not always from a book. There's lots to be discovered by pulling apart a bike, or going for a walk!

Enjoy the sunshine,  
Alastair & the H Team.

### **Home Learning:**

The hard packs sent out on the weekend were well received by you and by our pupils. Kids were pleased to see their own books and pencil cases! Inside each pack, was a cover sheet that described how and when the activities could be completed. We hear that some pupils have chewed through some portions of it quickly.

We won't be able to refill these hard-packs, but we will supply Distance Learning online until the lockdown is complete. From tomorrow each teacher will be in touch with you daily, by 9am, to tell you what your child could be doing each day (reading, writing, maths, and perhaps a fun activity). Teachers will send messages either via Seesaw, email, or Zoom. Keep an eye out on our school Facebook page too, for some fun and thrills. We are looking forward to seeing your Backyard Lockdown Olympic videos soon!

### **Note For Room 6:**

You will have had your first email now and will be receiving daily emails from me to check in and set tasks. Please email if you have any questions to [ssimpson@halcombe.school.nz](mailto:ssimpson@halcombe.school.nz). Hoping everyone is awesome! Mrs Simpson.

### Level 3 Thinking:

Level 4 won't last forever, and so we are turning our minds to what Level 3 will look like for our families. Level 3 is still about ensuring the safety of people to ensure the COVID virus does not spread. Children of workers who MUST return to work, and who do not have other supervision available to them, can send their children to be supervised at school under Level 3. At Level 3, the vast majority of families will remain at home, and home learning will continue. Level 3 is a hard juggle for teachers - we are still doing online learning as well as supervising children in school. Students coming to school at Level 3, will be doing their online learning activities. There will be strict rules around drop off at 8.45am and pick up at 2.45pm. Buses will not be running at Level 3.

**If you are one of the few who does need to be at work, and need your children to be at school during Level 3, email Alastair ([principal@halcombe.school.nz](mailto:principal@halcombe.school.nz)) now to allow him to co-ordinate how this is going to work. He will need to know your work, and the names of children you need to have at school. Please do this by Friday morning at the latest.**

### Cancellation Of Events:

We knew it would happen: we have had to cancel some events we were looking forward to this term due to uncertainty about venues, social distancing, or just time to plan and prepare. The following events have been cancelled: Newbury exchange, Colyton exchange, Bulls exchange, Jan Williams netball tournament, Whanganui Mountain Biking Champs.

### Events Still On - Hopefully!

- Daffodil Day - we intend to support this important event when we return. We'll all need a dress-up day to have some fun after lockdown is over. Start designing your outfit!
- Chin Up Champs - we will try very hard to have this very important annual event. Our PE focus on gymnastics has finished, and we will move onto our dance unit when school returns.
- PTA Casino Royale Fun Night - Friday 10 September. If we are all allowed out, and are allowed lots of people together, then this night will be a GREAT event to celebrate. We want to thank everyone for their support over the past year, and have some fun together as a community. Doors open at 7pm, with the fun starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are limited and can be purchased from the office. Tickets are \$20.
- Working Bee - Saturday 25 September, 1.30-4pm. The first stage of the front garden upgrade is underway! A working bee will remove some trees and chip them. More details will follow, but please keep this date and time in mind to help out if needed.

Discussing our approach to home learning is a serious business, as you can tell by the expressions of the faces of our staff during their meeting this morning!

