

Dear parents and caregivers

I trust you are all well in your family bubbles. For those of you whom Easter was a significant time of both reflection and celebration, in addition to the chocolate eggs, you may have also taken the opportunity (despite the current challenges) of recognising **what we are grateful for, and how we can continue to be kind and support each other**. For some children that may apply to their own siblings, parents and extended family, but for others you may have been actively helping people in your community or neighbourhood (while continuing to keep your 2-metre distance).

To our Albany parents that are truck drivers, nurses and doctors, health care assistants supporting the elderly, supermarket workers, telecommunications and power supply workers - to name just a few, we thank you. You are our **everyday heroes** and so much more than “essential services”. For some, the lockdown has caused you to have to remove yourself from your family bubble or you have had to organise others to care for your children.



It would be lovely to share some family or student acknowledgements to our essential workers or any other ways your family are showing kindness. In the spirit of our value of “**Caring and Aroha**” it would be great if your family or children could forward what you are doing with your class teacher. This could be a message, photo, poem, song, poster or any other creative idea you have, so we can acknowledge our thanks, and kindness as a collective Albany Primary “shout out” of gratefulness. We will share these through our school website. I have included my example, as these are the Hot Cross Buns I made to share with my neighbour.

It seems very strange to welcome you all back to the start of Term 2 “remotely” but just confirming a few points for when our “on line learning” begins tomorrow. Apologies for the length of the newsletter tonight but there is new information provided from the Ministry of Education.

Teachers and teams have set up a variety of on line communication methods depending on the age of the children, but many of these may not be “live” until tomorrow (Wednesday 15th April). Not all teachers are in direct or individual email contact but may instead be communicating to the class through seesaw, google, or have simply sent you through the links to the Albany Primary School Learning @ home site.

<https://sites.google.com/albany.school.nz/aps-learning-at-home/home>

- Please remember **we are NOT expecting you to be the teacher**, merely your child’s support and guide. Every family’s home circumstances will be different and you know your children best in terms of how long they can stay focussed. For primary age children there is not an expectation that they will complete 5 school hours, nor is learning a competition or that it is only going to happen in front of a screen. Teachers’ are clear in their suggestions that there is **a balance to your child’s day**, as well as breaking instructional or focussed activities with those that are unstructured. Some of our best learning (including adults) can happen when we do have time to reflect, share our learning with others, have time for creative play, interaction with nature, physical exercise and outdoor games and walks, or activities that encourage enjoyment of the arts and science. I recommend this useful link from The Education Hub available for parents. <https://theeducationhub.org.nz/category/home-learning/how-parents-can-support-primary-intermediate-learning/>
- You may want to also schedule breaks to watch the two new free to air TV education channels- as is age appropriate as a family (see below).

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV will start education broadcasting for early learners and students (Years 1–10) from 9am on Wednesday April 15. Māori Television will launch a series of te reo educational programmes (for ages 0 to 18) on the same day.

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV will be free to air, on TVNZ channel 2+1 and on TVNZ on Demand, as well as on Sky Channel 502. See easy to read article “What is on the new home school T.V Channels and how do they work (made available through thespinoff.co.nz) <https://thespinoff.co.nz/tv/14-04-2020/what-is-on-the-new-home-school-tv-channels-and-how-do-they-work/>

Here is the link to the TV guide so you can schedule the relevant viewing time for either yourself (no it isn't Netflix but parenting tips) or relevant to your child age. <https://www.freeviewnz.tv/tvguide/whats-on/?channelId=14&date=04%2f15%2f2020+00%3a00%3a00>

It will run from 9am to 3pm on schooldays with programming for children and young people aged 0 to 15, as well as for parents. Home Learning TV will be on air for one month – with provision to extend beyond that depending on the lockdown situation.

Papa Kāinga TV programming will be grouped for early learners, primary and secondary students. All programmes will feature highly experienced teachers and presenters, along with a range of wellbeing and movement experts.

Content will include play, literacy mathematics, science, te reo Māori, physical education and wellbeing. There will also be Pacific language content.

- The Ministry of Education have also updated resources on their website (some of these are also linked to A.P.S Learning @home.
- Be aware that with children working on line from home they may be exposed to cyber threats such as phishing scams, malicious content and viruses or access to adult sites. The MOE (through Network for Learning, N4L) have provided a free safety filter which you can access through the link below. I encourage you to also read through the online parent safety toolkit.

FREE N4L safety filter for all students

We have set up a safety filter that parents can set up on their child's learning devices from home. Just go to switchonsafety.co.nz to find clear instructions on how to do this.

The free N4L safety filter (by global cyber-security leader, Akamai) blocks websites containing known cyber threats like phishing scams, malicious content and viruses, while also protecting children from content deemed the worst of the web (like adult sites).

It is an extension of one of the many safety and security services we have in place at schools and is a valuable layer of protection to help keep children safe online. Please remember that technology is not a silver bullet and the filter should be used in combination with **Netsafe's [online parent safety toolkit](#)**.

Regards, Maree Bathurst

Principal, Albany Primary School.