



# St. Peter's Catholic School

Quality Education in a Christian Community

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## Term 2 2020 - Update

Kia Ora Koutou

Easter blessings to you all!

Many of you will have seen reports in the media about when and how schools will reopen once we move out of Alert Level 4. There is a lot of misinformation out there so I thought it best that you hear it from the Ministry of Education.

The five main points are:

1. No decision has been made yet about when schools will reopen. This decision will be made based on data about the spread of Covid-19 and how we are going in stamping it out. It is unlikely that a decision will be made before 20 April.
2. The very earliest schools would open would be 29 April. And this would likely only be for SOME students, not all.
3. The Ministry (and us) are preparing for several possible scenarios - opening only for staff, opening for essential workers' children, opening in shifts so that children can stay 2m apart, opening for just senior students, a combination of distance and on-site learning, staggered opening, not opening for a number of weeks etc. We want to be prepared for whatever the decision is once the data becomes clear.
4. There will be ample notice before schools open. They will not be closed one day and open the next. We will be given ample time to ensure that the school has a deep-clean, that our planning for the term is completed and that we put in place any H&S regulations.
5. The Ministry has been VERY clear that we will NOT be moving out of Alert Level 4 early.

Chris Hipkins is, this week, working on guidelines for what Alert Level 3 could look like for schools. We look forward to his guidance on this matter.

If you have any questions, please do let me know.

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22 Anzac Street, Cambridge 3434, New Zealand.

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## Remote Learning

Over the term break, the teachers have been working hard to create online learning programs. The programs are designed to provide 'maintenance' in the priority learning areas of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, as well as some additional 'inquiry' type activities. This means as parents you will not be required to teach your children anything new, in most cases, the children should be able to manage their learning independently. The obvious exception to this may be our 5 and 6-year-olds who may need some help getting set up. In all cases, only do what is manageable for your family. There is not an expectation that children work through programs non-stop for 5 hours. Do what you can easily manage and remember to keep it as stress-free and fun as possible. If online learning isn't a priority in your family at the moment that's fine.

Use the following link to go to the website for Remote Learning Activities and our rationale for our approach:

<https://www.stpeterscatholic.school.nz/2815/pages/806-remote-learning>

Important Considerations:

- It is impossible to try and fully replicate a school day for you at home, nor should we be attempting to. We don't expect you to become teachers at home, and **the most important thing right now** is to keep your children safe and secure.
- Our key advice to parents and caregivers is to create a small degree of structure, make some time for learning, but also allow space and time for play and exploration.
- Try to make learning fun as your **child's wellbeing is more important than any academic learning**. If the learning becomes stressful for anyone...Stop!
- This is a whole new experience for all of us & we don't want it to be overwhelming for anyone.
- **Most importantly, keep it simple and make it work for your whānau** — there are no rules as such, and nor is there one "best way".

## The Role of our Team

When term resumes on Wednesday 15th you can expect daily contact from your child's teacher via email.

While our staff are working, please also be mindful that they too are in their bubbles with many of them also supporting their own children.

Please feel free to email your child's teacher with any feedback or to ask questions.

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## Keeping Connected

The teachers will be holding Zoom Video calls to keep connected with their students. The plan is that these will take place 3 times a week. The teachers will send out an email with the times and login codes to these meetings.

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

I would also love to see photos of remote learning in action. It would be great to post them on our school website and Facebook page so that other students can see what is happening and feel part of a community. Please send them through to:

[principal@stpeterscatholic.school.nz](mailto:principal@stpeterscatholic.school.nz)

## Additional Learning Ideas

For those parents wanting further ideas to support their child in the core areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The Ministry of Education has released resources for all year levels.

Here are some examples:

[https://www.stpeterscatholic.school.nz/2957/file\\_sets/196-supporting-your-child-s-learning](https://www.stpeterscatholic.school.nz/2957/file_sets/196-supporting-your-child-s-learning)

There is no expectation from the school to use these and they are entirely optional if your child is enjoying their learning.

## Ministry of Education - Learning Packs & Devices

Many of you will have seen the recent announcements from the Ministry of Education, regarding supports for home.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/120897089/coronavirus-government-reveals-88m-learning-from-home-package-for-all-students>

Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that we will be first in line for this support, as we are a decile 9 school (deemed a high socio-economic area) and the priorities are initially NCEA/Secondary Schools, then those in disadvantaged communities.

Mrs Warwick and I have been working today on delivery of school devices to those families who have indicated that they are short of devices for their children. This will take place this week.

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I have been working with the Ministry of Education to secure Learning Packs. I will keep you up to date with this.

## Ministry of Education - Learning Websites

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

<https://www.tki.org.nz/>

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/>

This is clearly an uncertain time for all of us, but rest assured our united team are here to provide support and persevere through this. Keep in mind that we all need to take time to care for ourselves, too. Finding balance in this time is so crucial for all of us.

*KIA KAHA - KIA MĀIA - KIA MANAWANUI*

*Be strong, be brave, be steadfast*

Nga Mihi  
Grant Stuart  
Principal

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