

SEFTON SCHOOL



Dear parents, caregivers and whanau

Term 2 is nearly upon us and from Wednesday we all start schooling in a totally new way. I can safely say that in all my 36 years of teaching there has never been a start to a new term like this! As to how long we continue like this is up to the government to decide but I'm sure they are keen to not only keep us all safe but start to return the country to some form of normality as soon as they safely can. You may have heard a date mentioned on the media but this is not definite and we will keep you updated as we learn more.

During the holidays the staff have been preparing ways to share learning activities with you and the students in a virtual way. Some of the children in the school are familiar with this way of working as parts of their weekly work are distributed this way already and they know how to access it and manage their own learning. For others it will be a totally new undertaking. For all, working at home for an extended period will be a totally new experience and one we will have to manage until we can return to school.

In the upper part of the school (Rooms 3,4 and 5) teachers will be using Hapara and email to distribute material to the children and email to communicate with parents and caregivers. This means that children will need access to some form of device to facilitate this at sometime during the day.

In Kohara teachers will be using Seasaw and email to suggest activities to continue to support the children's learning on a weekly basis.

Please look out for these communications next week.

All parents and students will be able to email their teachers if they have any questions or need further information. Some of the teachers will be able to use Google Hangout to meet with the children, depending on their internet connection. Please communicate with teachers using their school email address only: firstname@sefton.school.nz with the exception of Mrs Robinson firstname.secondname@sefton.school.nz. Please do not expect responses outside normal school hours. Staff will be working with and looking after their own families as well as working with their class during this time.

Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey that came out last week.

The Ministry of Education is putting together a very wide ranging resource website that has a vast array of information and educational learning materials for parents, students and teachers to assist with Learning at Home. The Learning at Home web site can be found at: <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/> and I encourage you to have a look and see what activities you can do with your children yourselves.

One of my favourites on the website is: Tales from Te Papa.
Puzzle question for students: When and where was the dinosaur tooth found?
Email: MrH@sefton.school.nz with the answer.

Please stay safe during the next week. The priority is still to stay safe.. Please take care of yourself and your children before anything else.

I look forward to seeing some of the projects that the children work on.

David Haythornthwaite
Principal

Recommended site: <https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/>
(see the **Cutting Ice cubes in half like magic**, link on the Learning from home website.)
Choose an experiment and send Mr.H a picture of the experiment in action.