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Newsletter April 20th 2020

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Kia ora te whanau

PRINCIPALS BLURB

Welcome back to term 2. I hope all our whanau are safe and well inside your bubbles. Thank you to those students who have shared your learning from home with me, I just love seeing what you are all up too. This new way of teaching and learning has proven challenging for both teachers and students. I have ordered a hard copy pack for all of our students as we have a number of students who do not have access to the internet or devices. Your child will also have the work that was sent home with you before lockdown, if your child was at school on that Monday. As you are all experiencing internet issues and challenges, so are our teachers in that at times, it has been intermittent. The question that has been asked is about devices reaching all whanau, as was announced by the Minister of Education. The first tranche of these are to Senior Secondary Students throughout the country studying towards NCEA. I am not hopeful that we will receive devices anytime soon, hence my decision to order hard copy packs for all of the Firth students, to ensure that every student has some support at home. Our teachers have worked hard during the term break to create platforms for you to access classroom learning. These platforms include google classroom, seesaw and dojo. Please make contact if you haven't already with your child's teacher, if you cannot access any of the digital learning. Please remember that some of this learning is also new for our teachers and they working hard to make this all happen for you, so at times we all need to be patient.

We are all having to cope with being in lockdown, however if we stay home we are saving lives. I am also concerned that our covid confirmed cases are still increasing in Matamata and will await guidance from the Ministry of Education before we make any changes to remote learning. This will be a decision that is made with the Board of Trustees and myself as to what the next steps will look like for Firth Primary school, if and when we move to the next alert level. We currently still remain in alert level 4 and in total lockdown.

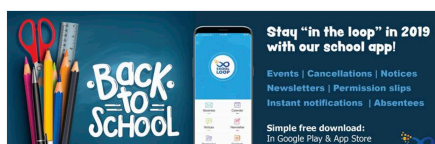
TEACHER'S EMAILS

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Challenge to all students:

Decorate your letterbox, a window or your driveway to acknowledge Anzac Day and those soldiers who went to war and never returned. "We will remember them".

Remember to tune in to "Te Papa Kainga" daily as there are some great Learning sessions here for all year levels to check out! Freeview 7, sky 502, TV 2+1



Please download this app if you haven't already, as this is a great way for us to communicate with you.

Staying safe on the internet!

Helping students stay safer online from home

As you know, children's online safety is important. At school, Network for Learning (N4L) helps keep your students safe from the bad side of the internet. During lockdown, the students' place of learning shifts to their home. So N4L has worked out a way to help parents keep their children safely connected at home.

FREE N4L safety filter for all students

We've 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](#).

How does it work?

Once a child's device is set up, all internet search requests will go through the safety filter which checks if the website they are trying to visit is safe before allowing access. If it's a website that's known to be unsafe, then it will be blocked. The safety filter is applied to the child's device, so parents' devices are not affected.

Any questions?

We have answered key questions at switchonsafety.co.nz/faqs alternatively please send any questions to help@n4l.co.nz.

What we need from you?

Please share the [attached](#) information with your parent community, so that they understand how they can apply a safety filter to their child's device and find links to additional online safety tips from the team at Netsafe.

switchonsafety.co.nz

Ngā mihi,

The Ministry of Education, N4L and Netsafe

Your Online Safety Team

Term Dates 2020

Term 2. Wednesday 15 April to Friday 3 July 2020.

Anzac Day – Public Holiday – School is Closed – Monday 27th April 2020

Term 3 - Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September

Term 4 - Monday 12th October - Wednesday 16th December

Keep up-to-date with what is happening at Firth Primary School on our Website. Firth Newsletters are now available at www.firth.school.nz

Firth Primary School Facebook page.

We have a facebook page - please 'like'

our page to keep up to date with what

is happening at Firth, and other important information.



The Ministry of Health website remains the best source for information about Covid-19.

www.health.govt.nz

We commend the Government's pro-active approach to minimise risk and re-iterate that the actual risk because of the Government's stance remains low.

Kia kaha, Nga mihi

Michelle Ryan

Principal