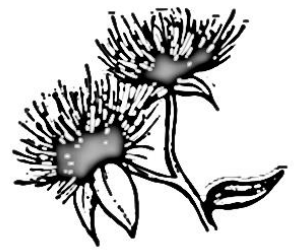




# Hororata Primary School

## PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN



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### Executive Summary

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- Distance Learning Programmes
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### Overview

Kia ora Koutou

I think we had all anticipated a further extension of Alert Level 4, and the Prime Minister has confirmed this today. The Alert Level will be reviewed on Friday afternoon, but for now Alert Level 4 will remain in place until 11:59pm Friday 27 August 2021.

This means that our **school will remain closed to akonga | students until further notice**. Our Distance Learning Programme - Work@Home (see school website), will continue and kaiako | teachers will still be available to support you with learning at home.

Despite this news, it is really pleasing to see Alert Level 4 is having its impact on the number of confirmed cases, with numbers not dramatically increasing as they would likely have done if we had been at a lower Alert Level.

Although we are on track to coming out of Alert 4 soon, there is still a lot you can do to protect your whānau and community from COVID-19 including:

- Everyone must continue to stay home in their bubble
- Do not mix with other household bubbles – if they have COVID-19, it can easily spread to your household, and every other household they and you are connecting with
- As new cases are identified, new locations of interest are added to the Ministry of Health website – please keep checking this. You can search by your location and they are sorted by date, so you only need to check the locations which have been added when you last checked
- Do not come to school unless you have been individually contacted by us to do so. Otherwise, you will be in breach of the COVID-19 Health Response Order. It is only in very limited circumstances that students, parents or caregivers are allowed to come to the school grounds.
- Wash your hands regularly, especially when you have been out in public
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell and seek advice about whether you need to get a test
- Wear a face covering when out and about, and you **MUST** wear a face covering in any businesses or services which are open at Alert Level 4 (unless you have specifically been exempted from doing so, which includes anyone aged under 12)
- Keep a two-metre distance from people outside your household bubble
- Check in using the NZ COVID Tracer App wherever you go or keep a manual record (a reminder the App only stores information on your own phone – no one else will know who it is that checked in, or when)
- You can go to the COVID19.govt.nz website:  
<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/alert-level-4/>

## Distance Learning Programme

The Work@Home learning experiences are designed for families to complete together. Collaboration between siblings and other family members is encouraged. The programme is less about assessment and getting everything right, and more about practising the skills and strategies we learn at school every day, in real world situations.

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### Key points

- Work@Home activities are **OPTIONAL**. The purpose of the learning tasks is to provide akonga | students with opportunities to consolidate the learning they have undertaken at school to date.
- The Work@Home Programme is a one-size-fits-all model and can be used at all levels of the school. Younger students may need support from parent/caregivers or older siblings to read instructions and complete tasks.
- The nature of the Work@Home Programme means that children can dip into tasks at their own speed and convenience. There are no time constraints on how often it is to be undertaken or when it should be completed by, but as a general rule of thumb the page will be refreshed on Monday mornings each week.
- Parents have full discretion over how much or how little a child completes and is the sole judge of what is acceptable for their family and home life. Marking is to be undertaken by parents, with guidelines for marking and answers where necessary. These updates will be provided via the school website weekly.
- Although there is no requirement to submit evidence of completion of the tasks to your classroom teacher for feedback, there are some tasks the teachers would love to see. Students will have the opportunity to share their achievements and/or ask questions of their teachers via email.
- The Work@Home Programme will be made available to families on the School Website - <https://hororata.ultranet.school.nz/Home/>, the Skool Loop App - <https://www.skoolloop.com/> and in paper form (if requested) on Monday mornings.
- Links to additional learning experiences, for parents requiring more than the school offers within the Work@Home Programme, are detailed on the Work@Home sheet itself.

There is no perfect solution for the situation we find ourselves in. Acknowledging the very busy lives families lead; the stresses of calving, lambing, essential workers, single parents and dealing with passwords, internet connections and out dated computer programs, we have endeavoured to make the Work@Home Programme as inclusive as possible.

We know from experience that our best efforts don't always meet the needs of everyone, and to help, our team will be available at the end of an email to support you the best way we can. Please refer to previous messages for contact information and updates on how to manage the Work@Home Programme. Follow these simple steps to locate this information:

1. Go to the School Website - <https://hororata.ultranet.school.nz/Home/>
2. On the Home Page select the Work@Home tab on the task bar (at the top right of the screen)
3. On the Work@Home screen select COVID Updates for information about school closure or Work@Home (2021) for that the latest work sheets.

## Staying in Touch

We want you to stay in touch. Emailing is our preferred method of communication and is a good way to let your teacher know what you need and how it is all going. Please keep in mind that replies from the teacher may not be automatic, as we are still busy creating, sharing, and marking tasks for our classes.

### Rule of thumb...

Insert child's class name at the start of the email address: \_\_\_\_\_ @hororata.school.nz

**Example:** Kakapo class (Cullen) = [kakapo@hororata.school.nz](mailto:kakapo@hororata.school.nz)

Exceptions to the rule - Piwakawaka (Raybould) is abbreviated to 'piwi' & Mr G is 'principal'

# COVID-19 Parenting Tip

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

The COVID-19 coronavirus has upended family life around the world, closing schools, forcing parents to work remotely and cutting people off from their friends and family.

The so-called new normal is a lot to take in for everyone, but even more so for parents, carers and the children that depend on them.

With many families around the world forced to stay at home, the World Health Organization (WHO) has published six one-page tips for parents, covering everything from creating a new routine to managing stress and talking about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are its suggestions:

1. **Spend some quality time together...** First up is setting aside some time to spend with each of your children and asking them what they would like to do. The suggestions include reading a book, looking at pictures, going for a walk, dancing, doing a chore together, playing games or helping them study.
2. **Keep it positive...** Using positive language and praising your child or teenager for something they have done well is the second tip. This will help reassure them that you notice what they're doing and care about it. The WHO also advises keeping it real when it comes to your expectations – asking yourself, what's actually achievable?

"It is very hard for a child to keep quiet inside for a whole day...But maybe they can keep quiet for 15 minutes while you are on a call.

3. **Have some structure...** Having a consistent daily routine will help shape your day. This might mean making a schedule that has time for structured activities, as well as free time to help children feel more secure. They may want to join in and help plan the day – like making a school timetable.
4. **Manage acting out...** The WHO recommends three steps for dealing with bad behaviour. First, if you can catch it early, redirect or distract by suggesting you go outside or for a walk. If that doesn't work, take a 10-second pause before you respond, breathe in and out slowly five times, and then try to respond in a calmer way. The final recommendation is to instill consequences.

"Give your child a choice to follow your instruction before giving them the consequence," the WHO says. "Once the consequence is over, give your child a chance to do something good, and praise them for it."

5. **Take steps to manage stress...** Managing stress is a big one for families stuck at home. Taking time for yourself - even if it's just a five-minute cup of tea, meditation or exercise - can help.

"Be open and listen to your children," the WHO says. "Your children will look to you for support and reassurance. Accept how they feel and give them comfort."

6. **Talk openly about the virus...** The final tip relates to mitigating the anxiety that children may be feeling about the pandemic. We're all exposed to so much news and constant updates via social media that it can be hard to avoid thinking about COVID-19 even for a few minutes.

Here, the WHO advocates a transparent approach - talking to your children openly about what's going on and admitting when you don't have all the answers.

"Check to see if your child is OK," the WHO urges. "Remind them that you care and that they can talk to you anytime. Then do something fun together!"

More information is available at:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/healthy-parenting>

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- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission slips



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