



LOCKDOWN LEARNING AT MERRILANDS SCHOOL

Learning at Merrilands School will look really different as Term 2 gets underway. This is a first for everyone so let's support one another to make it the best it can possibly be. There hasn't been a guide given to schools to follow and new things are coming to us each day, as those in higher places work through what the horizon might look like and how best to support people all across our country. We also don't know how long it will go on for.

We understand the challenges that many homes are facing with new routines, everyone spending so much time in close quarters, difficulty with jobs; some people will be continuing to work as essential workers, possibly some may have sadly lost their job or be feeling the pressure of these times, others might be trying to juggle working from home. Our teachers are in this same boat too. I ask that throughout this lockdown learning time we stay true to our school vision - '*A caring community inspiring lifelong learning*'. Our teachers will be doing the best they can. They too are working from home. We do not have access to school and are reliant on digital tools to provide what we can of a learning programme for your children.

Let's all be kind and show support for one another, enjoying the experience for what it is and looking forward to the time when we can again meet and greet in person. In the meantime we can connect online via a number of different avenues as you will see outlined below. Let's remember, our children are great kids and they need our love, care and support. All children are in this same situation and this small window of time, in their big picture of learning, will not define whether they are 'successful' or not. Success will be how they remember connecting within your homes, with each other and with you. These are the things they'll remember in the years to come.

Our Values

We encourage you to continue to use our school values at home during this lockdown time.

You could make up together some shared understandings of what each of these values looks like in your home.

ie. What does 'self manage' or 'help others' look like at our house? Your children will be able to help you with these.

Self Manage **H**elp Others **I**ntegrity **N**ever Quit **E**xcellence

The following overview will help to guide you with what learning looks like at Merrilands School during the lockdown time. It has been developed based on the progression of learning across the school and uses the tools and systems already being used within each teaching team. Should the lockdown be extended for a longer period of time then this may be reviewed.

We endeavour to make available to parents an engaging, manageable home learning programme that is sustainable through the lockdown period. We understand that parents aren't teachers and will do the best they can. Any support you can give your child will be appreciated. We equally understand that this might be challenging so if you only choose to do some aspects then that is ok too.

	Year 1-2	Year 3-4	Year 5-6
What does learning look like at each year level?	<p>'Seesaw' digital folders for reading, writing, maths, spelling, and goal/reflection activities.</p> <p>Activities have been kept straightforward so children can work on the activities daily and independently. They should only need a quick check from mum and dad.</p> <p>Other ideas for parents to use if they wish has already been shared with all families at the end of last term, as a supplement to Seesaw with a focus on family time eg. play a card game, doing baking together etc.</p>	<p>A variety of activities will be shared with children for them to complete. Children can make choices about the order of activities that need to be completed, then there will be a variety of "can do" options for children to do if they choose to.</p> <p>Reading, Writing and Maths will be a must each day.</p> <p>There will also have a Movement component to each daily "must do's" and some life skills components linked in where they can</p> <p>Children are encouraged to be involved in this learning for up to 2 hours a day.</p>	<p>The focus for the Year 5 - 6 children is on maintaining their foundation skills in Reading, Writing and Maths.</p> <p>We encourage children to Self-Manage their learning and show Integrity whilst being online.</p> <p>Children are encouraged to also access everyday learning that is in front of them. Everyday activities like cooking, gardening, and playing are full of learning opportunities that can be explored.</p>
Online portal to access learning:	Seesaw & Email	Seesaw & Email Google Classroom with links to Studyladder	Class websites which connect to a range of digital learning platforms
When and how will you hear from teachers?	Seesaw & Email on Wednesday 15 April	Seesaw & Email on Wednesday 15 April	Class blog & Email on Wednesday 15 April
	Teachers will be actively working to support student learning between 9am - 12pm daily. This might be online or over the phone. Out of this time they will be busy reviewing and putting together activities and plans for the upcoming weeks.		
How can you contact your child's teacher?	Seesaw / Email	Seesaw / Email	Email or leaving a comment on blogger (the class website)

We are aware that for some students, access to devices is an issue. The Ministry of Education is working on alternative options for these students as teachers don't have access to school for printing or creating alternative programmes of learning at this time. This information has been passed on. These are the Ministry of Education's portals for learning that can be accessed by anyone, at anytime to support learning at home:

Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga TV

Starting Wednesday 15 April - 9am to 3pm on school days TVNZ2+1 and Sky channel 502.
Some lessons will also be available on TVNZ On Demand.

Lessons for those aged 5 to 15, covering movement, music, physical education, wellbeing, numeracy, literacy and science.



Learning From Home Website

This is the Ministry of Education's website that has been developed to support learning at home for everyone.
Click on the link and find lots of other activities that your child/ren might like to engage with while they are at home.

Should you have any queries, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. If you need to, I can also be contacted. In any situation where access to food or other support may be needed, please do not hesitate to contact me directly and I can connect you with those who can help. (principal@merrilands.school.nz or through facebook messenger on the Merrilands School facebook page)

Ngā manākitanga
Michelle Cronin
Principal