



Newsletter : COVID update 22nd August 2021

Term 3 Dates:

- End of term: Thursday 30th September

Yr 7/8 Tech Days:

- Monday 23rd August - (online)
- Monday 6th & 20th September

Transition to School Visits:

- Thursday 12th, 19th & 26th (cancelled) August

Celebration Assembly:

- Friday 3rd & 17th September

School Colour Fun Run/Cross Country:

- Tuesday 24th August (postponed)
- Thursday 26th August (postponed) TBC

Yr 8 HPV Immunisations:

- Wednesday 25th August (postponed)
- Monday 13th September

Daffodil Day Ball Drop:

- Thursday 26th August (postponed)

Interschool Cross Country:

- Thursday 9th September TBC

Drive In Movie:

- Friday 17th September TBC

Kapa Haka Festival TBC:

- Friday 24th September TBC

Book Fair Week:

- Monday 27th -Friday 30th September

Aq Day:

- Wednesday 29th September

Major Reward:

- Tuesday 28th & Thursday 30th September

Grandparents Day/ Community Hui

- Friday 30th September

Staff Only Days:

- Friday 27th August (Postponed)
- Friday 1st October
Please make arrangements

Principal's Message: 'A Note from Jo'

Kia ora koutou

We hope that the first days of isolation have been ok for you and your tamariki. As per the Covid announcement this afternoon, the Level 4 lockdown has been extended through until Friday 27th August. Please note we have postponed the Teacher Only Day on Friday. Our school vision - Strive Together for Success - is at the forefront of our thinking as we design our learning for our learners and in how we want our community to support each other through these times.

A big thank you for taking the lockdown seriously and doing what we have been asked. Breaking the rules risks the health of those close to you, the wider community and could result in the lockdown period being extended. Please remember that the school, playground and school grounds remain closed at Alert Level 4.

The most important thing right now is to focus on the wellbeing of your family, as we adjust again to this period of self-isolation. This is clearly an uncertain time for all of us, but rest assured our awesome team of staff are here to provide support and persevere through this.

We wish you all the best, and when the time is right, we look forward to welcoming all our tamariki back with smiles.



Ngaa mihi - Thank you

A very special "shout out" to acknowledge the many Horotiu School parents (and community members) that are working hard in their essential service roles. We appreciate you immensely as you look to care for our community.

"Ki te kotahi te kaakaho ka whati, ki te kaapuia e kore e whati"

When reeds stand alone they are vulnerable, but together they are unbreakable.

~ Naa Kiingi Taawhiao

Do you need help?

We really hope you are doing OK at the moment – but it is also OK if you aren't.

As the [Mental Health Foundation of NZ says](#), “it’s all right to feel a range of emotions right now. Going into a Level 4 lockdown is a big deal and it brings all sorts of different feelings to the surface, including frustration, worry and even gratitude. However you are feeling, know that you’re not alone – we’re all going through this together.”

If you need to talk, check in with a friend or whānau member, or free call/text 1737 to chat with a trained counsellor. It's free and confidential. There are also [a lot of other supports available to you, your whānau and your community](#) if needed.

You will also understand the importance of routine for your family. If your routine has been shaken up, it's good to structure your time. Routines are reassuring and promote health and physical wellbeing.

Home Learning

On Thursday and Friday last week and again today you would have seen links and ideas for learning on Class Dojo. Our approach to home learning is to make it choice based so it can be personalised by families, and focused on our school learner profiles and well-being at this time. As you can appreciate, trying to personalise for each learner's level, and each learner's current home situation during lockdown would be very difficult. Because maintaining connection and relationships is really important to us, the teachers will continue to send through messages and try to connect regularly.

I know many of you have either a lack of devices to share around at home or want to limit screen time for your tamariki. One of the suggestions is to write down or take photos of the activities that are posted by 9am each morning and then complete these activities/tasks “unplugged”. Remember the health of your whānau should be the priority and tamariki will be learning with whatever they are doing. Home Learning should not be a chore, competition or create stress in these already troubling times. Be kind to yourself.

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 resources for all year levels are included in their website ([Ideas to help with reading, writing and maths](#)). There is no expectation from the school to use these and they are entirely optional if your child is enjoying their learning.

Online there is a wealth of different worksheet-type activities. Some examples of what you can find are linked below. There is NO expectation to have these be completed, and they may not be pitched at exactly your child's level, but you might find something suitable and add them to your daily routine.

- Independent Maths worksheets
<https://nz.education.com/worksheets/math/>
- Independent Literacy worksheets
<https://nz.education.com/worksheets/ela/>
- 2 different types of worksheet-type 'Time capsule'/Lockdown Diary
<https://www.kiddycharts.com/printables/free-covid-19-time-capsule-worksheets/>
<https://www.mylockdowndiary.com/>
- You can also look at other Horotiu School Hub's weekly/daily challenges - there may be things in there that your child could choose from.

Financial Help to buy food

If you need financial help to buy food, Work and Income may be able to help. Visit the Work and Income website for urgent financial support and ongoing needs. You can apply for a main benefit online and check your eligibility for food assistance. You can also use the COVID-19 financial support tool on the Unite Against COVID-19 website to see what support is available to you.

Go to:

- <http://www.workandincome.govt.nz> (for more information)
- <https://my.msd.govt.nz/> (to apply to Work and Income online)
- 0800 559 009 (MSD General Line)
- 0800 552 002 (MSD Seniors 65+)
- <http://www.Covid19.govt.nz/business-and-money/financial-support/covid-19-financial-support-tool/> (the COVID-19 Financial Support tool)
- Foodbanks If you need food urgently (eg if you need food in the next 24 to 48 hours), your local foodbank may be able to help - see below.

Your local foodbank: **Ngaruawahia Community House**

Provides a range of services to families in Ngaruawahia. The Community House has other agencies and services which operate from these premises.

- 13 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia
- reception@ngacomhouse.org.nz
- (07) 824 8340
- (021) 053 5848
- <http://www.ngacomhouse.org.nz/>
- 8.30am-4pm, Monday-Friday.
- All services free of charge.