



THE JAMES COOK COMMUNIQUE

*The Official Newsletter of
James Cook School*

TERM 2, 2020 DATES

**TERM STARTS:
WEDNESDAY 15TH
APRIL**

**TERM ENDS:
FRIDAY 2ND JULY**

**WE ARE IN LOCKDOWN
FOR DISTANCE/HOME
LEARNING ONLY**

Important R.I.C.H.E.R News

START OF TERM TWO, WEEK 1: GREETINGS TO STUDENTS/PARENTS/CAREGIVERS AND WHĀNAU

Ngā mihi māhana Ki a koutou i tēnei wā hurihuri

What an astonishing time we are currently living through. Hoping all our James Cook School whānau are well and have been making the most of the 'bubble' time together. Thanks to those who have sent myself and the staff messages and emails of support through this uncertain period. This term will not be an easy one and I want to express my deepest thanks as we head forward into the unknown world of distance/home learning. This is how home learning is going to work while we are in Level 4 lockdown mode.

How will home learning work at James Cook School?

The night before the start of each 'Home learning' week, I will send out a newsletter like this one with any regular updates, news and/or information. This will be sent out via the James Cook School App & Parent/Guardian Emails. Along with this, there will be one set of learning activities sent out by each school team. One from the Junior Team (He Kākano, Y0-3), one from the Middle Team (Ngā Puāwai, Y4-6) and one from the Senior Team (Kauri, Y7/8). These will have a list of activities that will support literacy, numeracy and other curriculum areas for your child to work on during that week. There are different ways to get feedback: 1) Parents/Guardian/Koro/Kui/Grandparents/Siblings can give feedback on work (this would be the most advantageous!) or 2) You can send emails/pics/vids to your teachers for feedback.

We have also set up an interim, private Facebook page where parents/caregivers can celebrate their child/ren's home learning with the staff and wider James Cook School whānau if they so choose (like we do in school assemblies!). Details on how to join this private James Cook School Facebook page are on the reverse. Each week, one post shared about home learning on the page will be randomly chosen to win free children's tickets for each child in the family to Focal Point Cinema, Feilding (to use once it opens up again!!).

What are the expectations for home learning at James Cook School?

For Teachers: All teachers are able to be contacted on their work email. These are listed on the reverse. Please don't hesitate to ask questions, seek clarification or get advice from our teacher experts! Even if you want a little bit extra of anything, they will be able to point you in the right direction.

For Parents/Guardians: We DO NOT expect your children to be 'doing school' from 9-3pm each day. Depending on age, the children ought to be doing about 1-2 hours of learning activities each weekday. Some days there may be more, while other days there may be less. If things are too stressful, just put things to the side. If things are going well and your child is motivated, go with that flow. It is our view that you and your family's well-being is of primary importance at this time. A number of families will be struggling in a range of different ways during this time and if home learning becomes an additional stress on life please just park it. Remember to give a lot of positive reinforcement and feedback on effort to your child/ren.

For Children: Try your very best and remember your RICHER CORE CULTURE while doing home learning activities. Know that we care very much for each and everyone of you. We look forward to seeing your learning during this period of lockdown!





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Device Distribution

Tomorrow, I have been granted permission by the Ministry of Education to enter the school site along with a couple of staff members and an IT support person to prepare our devices (ipads and chromebooks) for distribution to some families. The MoE have realised after collating all the data last week about device access, that they do not have enough devices so have asked principals to go into schools to distribute our ones first. Our school does NOT have enough devices for one for every child. Some children will be given a James Cook School device and these will be couriered out by the end of this week by Glenn Clarkson, a parent of the school (A HUGE THANKS TO HIM FOR DOING THIS!!) Others who do not receive one from the school will be on the MoE (Ministry of Education) Device Waiting List. Please go the next page to read the 'James Cook School Device Use and Care Guidelines'.

Home Learning Packs

The Ministry of Education have also planned on distributing a series of home learning packs. While I have also ordered these for each child, there is no guarantee that these will make it out to all families. We will await to see if these eventuate.

Internet Access for Those Without Internet

While the Ministry of Education has also been looking into trying to provide internet to all homes who do not currently have wifi/internet connection, we have had no further word on how this is going. Each team of teachers will provide a selection of offline and online learning activities for all children to work on.

FAREWELL FROM MS LIGHTBOURNE

We didn't get time to properly wish Ms Lightbourne and her partner, Brett, all the best for the upcoming birth of their baby girl. We managed to squeeze in a little baby shower from the staff before we were all put into lockdown. We will keep you in the loop of any developments and wish them all the best as they prepare for a life of parenthood!

Facebook: James Cook School Whānau Lockdown Page

We have set up a temporary Facebook page called, 'James Cook School Whānau Lockdown Page' to be a point of connection between ONLY staff and parents/caregivers of children at our school. While you do not have to, we warmly encourage you to share photos and/or examples of some of the learning going on at home where staff and other parents can praise and give feedback. At the end of each week we will give out a prize to a randomly chosen home learning post from our Facebook page and all James Cook School children in that family will win a free movie ticket to Focal Point Cinema in Feilding to use once the lockdown is over. Please do not use the Facebook page for asking questions, use the staff emails for that. Our Facebook page is to be used as a point of celebration like our Friday assemblies. All posts and comments are moderated by senior school staff.

Timu Niwa
(Principal)



HOME LEARNING

RICHER tips for care & use of JCS and MoE devices @ home

(Remember: all JCS and MoE devices are on loan and to be returned to school after the lockdown)



THE DEVICE IS FOR LEARNING

Closely monitor what the device is being used for. We ask that it is only used for your child's/children's learning and not to be used for any other purpose. Our IT support crew will have to reset devices if we find they have been used inappropriately as they will be redistributed to classrooms after the lockdown: **HONESTY**



LIMIT TIME ON DEVICE

While we know that devices can be used for many good things, we ask that you limit your child's time on the school device. Set time limits with the device and stick to them. Preferably keep devices within sight and make sure they are being used for learning: **RESOLUTION**




NO LIQUID OR FOOD

Please ensure devices are ALWAYS kept away from food and liquids (water, drinks, cups of tea/coffee, fizzy!). We will be unable to replace your device if it is damaged and irreparable due to a spillage or damaged by food! Look after them: **RESPECT**


BE FOCUSED AND ENGAGED

Find somewhere that will ensure your child is engaged and focused with their device for home learning. Some children work well around noise while others need a nice and quiet space to learn: **ENDEAVOUR**



ASK IF UNSURE?

If as a parent or guardian you are unsure how to use a certain site or app, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We are here together to try our best to make sure your child's learning journey in this COVID-19 situation is as smooth as possible: **CO-OPERATION**



SHARE WITH OTHERS

If there is only one device and more than one child in your bubble please ensure the device is shared around for everyone to do some of their home learning. Older children may need longer so ensure it is adequately shared around based on need and age: **INCLUSION**

