

# EKETAHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Preparing today's child for tomorrow's world - Whakakaha ngā tamariki mo apopo

**Phone:** 375 8191 or 022 368 1830 **Email:** [office@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:office@eketahuna.school.nz) **Website** [www.eketahuna.school.nz](http://www.eketahuna.school.nz)

*Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura Eketahuna,*

*First can I acknowledge our amazing school staff who have worked tirelessly over the last week supporting children, supporting the community, and supporting each other, while quietly preparing for the remote learning we predicted would happen during this challenging time. They are an incredible team of people fully focused on our tamariki and their well being. Thanks also to our Board of Trustees for their support and guidance during our Pandemic Planning, and their readiness to be available at any time. Whakawhetai!*

## NEW SCHOOL DATES

As you know, the Ministry of Education has advised the school holiday dates have changed. They are now:

**Holiday = Monday 30th March - Tuesday 14th April, 2020.**

**Term 2 now starts on Wednesday 15th April, 2020**

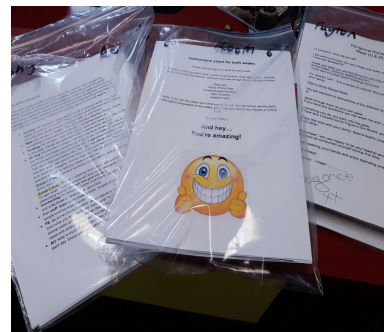
However, at the start of Term 2 **ALL SCHOOLS WILL STILL BE CLOSED** and the 'teaching and learning' will be done remotely for the first two weeks of the term:

**Week 1 (Term 2) = Wednesday 15th - Friday 17th April**

**Week 2 (Term 2) = Monday 20th - Friday 25th April**

## TERM 2 REMOTE TEACHING & LEARNING

In preparation for remote teaching in Term 2, and taking into account parent responses to our online survey, we have prepared student packs with a mixture of hard copy work and online tasks. The packs have activities for Week 1 and Week 2 of the new term while we are all in 'lockdown'. You may feel 'keen' and want to get into these packs earlier, but there will be no teacher support for the learning until Term 2 starts. Many of the packs have school equipment and some teacher's personal resources - please take good care of these and respect them. Towards the end of the 'holiday break' we will be connecting with families, and students in Year 6 - 8 via their emails to give clear instruction on how the first 'REMOTE' school day will be run!



## SCHOOL CONTACTS

During this week and at the start of the new term, while the school remains closed, students and families are able to contact Melinda via her email at: [principal@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:principal@eketahuna.school.nz). Our Office Administrator Denise will also be accessible during the 'term time' via the school cell phone on 022 368 1830 and also the office email address at [office@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:office@eketahuna.school.nz)



## CONTACTING CLASSROOM TEACHERS

All teachers to be accessible online in Term 2 from 9am - 1pm daily. Please feel free to contact them via their emails below to get advice, support, organise video calls etc during the remote learning time. (Be mindful our teachers are also caring for their own families & their own children's learning at home so they will be sticking to our 'school hours' throughout the lockdown):

**Pūtara - Room 6** Dean Parsons - [dparsons@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:dparsons@eketahuna.school.nz)

**Nireaha - Room 5** Jo Gibson - [jgibson@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:jgibson@eketahuna.school.nz)

**Nireaha - Room 5** Barbara Whitburn - [bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz)

**Hāmua - Room 3** Carol Laubscher - [clauscher@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:clauscher@eketahuna.school.nz)

**Rongomai - Room 2** Roseanne Sayles - [roseanne@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:roseanne@eketahuna.school.nz)

**Hukanui - Room 1** Joanna Green - [jgreen@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:jgreen@eketahuna.school.nz)

**Hukanui - Room 1** Jess Wilkinson - [jwilkinson@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:jwilkinson@eketahuna.school.nz)

## COMING UP:

**Friday 27th March:** Last day of Term 1

**Monday 30th March:** School Holidays begin

**Wednesday 15th April:** Term 2 starts - **REMOTE TEACHING & LEARNING WITH EKETAHUNA SCHOOL SITE CLOSED.**

**Wednesday 15th April:** Teachers available online

**CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY**

It has been great seeing everyone at the school assembly each Friday this term, but as you know we stopped all assemblies last week. However, we still had a wonderful 'movie' assembly, hosted by Rongomai (Room 2) with the intent to share it across the school. The students got to watch their 'production' on Monday. A fantastic effort by our creative and 'tech savvy' students.

**Class Awards – Star Student:**

Given to a student by their teacher to acknowledge the great work done in class and related to learning throughout the week

Room 1: Jaylah Keedwell  
Room 1: Ariki Wihone  
Room 2: Evan Governor  
Room 3: Mikey Hammond  
Room 5: Kaia Aplin  
Room 6: Anthony Dennison

**Caught Being Good Award – Duffy Book:**

Given to a student by their teacher in recognition of outstanding behaviour that exemplifies our school values and expectations:

Room 1: Ashaia O'Keeffe  
Room 1: Maisyn Parr  
Room 2: Holly Spring  
Room 3: Lana Hanson  
Room 5: Emma Drysdale  
Room 6: Sam Willetts

**Principal's Award:** Charli Read for her respectful interaction with adults and students!

*Please be aware the situation in New Zealand is 'fluid' and may change again - our school closure and the remote learning may be extended, or we may beat the virus quickly and open on site earlier! Whatever the situation is, rest assured that throughout the closure we will be keeping you 'up to date' with the latest information as we get it. From today, all staff will be following the Ministry guidelines and staying home. As noted by the Prime Minister these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19. Please take care of each other, be patient and kind, and we will all be here to welcome you back to our wonderful school. . . kia kaha!*

*Nga mihi,*

*Melinda & The Eketahuna School Team*

**Have you downloaded our School app yet?**

**Never miss important school information again!**



- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission Slips



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**Simple free download:** In Google play & App Store search '**Skool Loop**' & choose our school once installed.

DEAR PARENTS,

THERE IS NO ACADEMIC EMERGENCY THIS WEEK, SO DON'T BE SO QUICK TO SET-UP A HOMESCHOOL. OUR COUNTRY IS IN A CRISIS, AND WE ARE ALL STRESSED AND TIRED. STRESSED ADULTS CAN NOT TEACH STRESSED CHILDREN. IT IS A NEURO-BIOLOGICAL IMPOSSIBILITY. TRY FOCUSING ON CONNECTIONS AND FEELINGS OF SAFETY.



## 2020 Weekly Update

**Room 1**

A huge thank you to everyone who came to pick up the packs for term two learning. Inside there is a guide of how long to spend on activities per day. Please don't do everything in one day as the pack was not designed that way. Remember that you can't copy a real school day at home and to give lots of praise to every effort. If you're finding it hard to get your child to do the work for you, then stop and come back to it at another time. Please include lots of play, building with lego, good old fashioned blanket forts, drawing and labelling pictures, colouring in, baking, counting and just talking with your children. All these things make up part of a normal school day. Please email either Jess or myself if you have any questions or you want any other guidance. Stay safe and we hope to see you all soon. Have a good holiday.  
Jo and Jess

**Room 2**

Hi everyone thank you for coming to pick up a learning pack for term two. I have included a letter sharing what's inside the packs. Please make the most of the time with your children to create and make memories. Conversations, baking together, cooking dinner, making huts inside are just a few things that have children problem solving and learning. They will remember this time as a time of 'quality' spent with their families not what they did on a piece of paper. Take the time to read to and with your child. Take photos and videos of your time together. Feel free to send them to me. Email me if you need help or guidance. Take care and keep safe. Rongomai students I will see you soon and don't miss me too much.  
Beyonce

**Room 3**

We're all busy yesterday preparing our packs, and hope you will enjoy this unexpected break at home with your child-focus on the positive and have some fun together :)  
Keep yourselves and your families safe and we hope to see you all back at school soon.

Carol

**Room 5**

*Whakawhetai* - thank you, hugely so, to all of you who came and collected the packs for our new Term 2 start. For now though, enjoy the focus that's otherwise about to be an early holiday!

We took extra measures on Monday involving self-distancing, from ensuring no physical contact to spreading ourselves out in individual seating spaces. It looked as though we were about to sit an exam! The class was great - they calmly tuned in the new reality, and prepared themselves for working from home. Our email addresses are in both our packs of work and on the first page here, to keep in touch.

Enjoy the holiday! Kia Kaha - Jo & Barb.

**Room 6**

Kia ora whānau

Have a wonderful break, and seriously enjoy quality, family time together. Four weeks out of a lifetime is nothing... two of which are school holidays.

If you don't understand the pack - or you're not entirely sure - don't sweat it. You'll be able to contact me via email.

Remember, Wed 15th April is the beginning of the new term - so kick back with a coffee, enjoy the sunshine, keep the laughter going and chill.



