



Beachlands School Update
26th March 2020 10:00am

Good morning all parents and children,

While we start our first day of isolation as New Zealanders, what a beautiful day we have to explore our home environments, both inside and outside and to make a plan as a family as to what we might do over the next week.

I just want to let you know how wonderful our staff have been in planning for distance learning, staff were at school for a considerable time yesterday working in their teams to design innovative, creative and fun ways of learning from home.

I particularly want to acknowledge Mr Eddie Harrison for the time and effort he put in to ensuring our school was left in a safe, clean and tidy state as we worked to lock down our school yesterday.

Please find the latest parent and caregiver communications.

Government announcement about children aged 0 – 14 of Essential Workers

Where possible, essential workers need to make their own arrangements for childcare from Thursday 26 March until the end of the lockdown, due to limited capacity. Where this is not possible alternative arrangements have been made so essential workers can continue to work.

What essential workers need to know when making their own arrangements

Essential workers will need to use their existing networks for in home care, for example a neighbour, relative, friend or current carer/nanny who can come to their house, or provide childcare in their own home. There are Public Health rules that must be observed:

- The person caring for your child becomes part of your self-isolating group
- This group must remain the same for the whole period
- The carer must not care for children from other households (other than their own) over the same period
- If a child or carer becomes unwell, they must stay at home

If essential workers do not have access to childcare through their own networks

If essential workers are unable to access childcare to perform their essential service, the government will fund other licensed childcare providers (for example through PORSE, Barnados and Edubase / Home Grown Kids) to provide in home care to the children aged 0-14 of essential workers. The carer would be subject to the same Public Health rules as set out above.

For the purposes of providing care to children of essential workers, the in-home carer will be classified as an essential worker in both cases.

- Initial list of contact details for providers
- Barnados website– email covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz or call 0800 BARNARDOS (0800 227 627)
- Edubase / Home Grown Kids website or call 0508 44 54 37 or email info@hgk.co.nz
- PORSE website 0800 023 456

Removing data caps for internet

Please be advised most of the major telcos have now removed data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage.

Please see the links to those major companies below and contact them if should you have any data issues.

SPARK – <https://www.spark.co.nz/help/covid-19/>

“Removing overage charges for customers who are on data-capped broadband plans, so they won’t have to worry about paying extra to stay connected. This applies to both small and medium business and consumer customers;”

VODAFONE – <https://news.vodafone.co.nz/covid-19-care>

“The removal of data caps from data-capped Broadband plans for consumers and small to medium sized businesses until at least the end of June 2020”

VOCUS/SLINGSHOT

https://help.slingshot.co.nz/hc/en-us/articles/900000386943-Our-action-against-COVID-19?_ga=2.224375707.1878754814.1585097493-87562686.1585097493

“We removed all the data caps from our plans to better enable you to work from home during this time of social distancing and self-isolation.”

2DEGREES – <https://www.2degreesmobile.co.nz/help-and-support/mobile/your-account/covid-19/>

“Any customer who was on a limited data plan on or before Friday, March 20 will now receive unlimited data through until June 2020.”

Seesaw

As you will have read in previous communications, this year we are using Seesaw at Beachlands School. It is a way for the children to share their learning with family members and most importantly talk about what they have been learning at school. This tool will be especially useful during our remote learning time which will take place after the holidays.

Seesaw is a private platform. You can only see your child’s journal. You do have the option to share this with up to 10 family members so feel free to share this link with family members who might like to connect with your child over the year.

All student entries go through the classroom teacher for approval before being uploaded. This will ensure Seesaw is used sensibly and for its intended purpose.

By midday tomorrow (Friday) you will receive a communication from your child’s teacher with a link to connect into your child’s Seesaw page. The page will come effect in Term 2.

Learning@Home

Our school learning@home page has now moved to a google site. You still click the link on our Beachlands School website www.beachlands.school.nz and you will be redirected to the site. We will keep updating this as new sites and ideas appear. We will be adding to the fun and games section with offline as well as online options over the next couple of days.

One of the best ways to make people happy, is to be happy yourself.

As always, take care, be safe and be kind.

Nga mihi nui,

Anthony Noble-Campbell

Principal