



COVID-19 Update for the 26th March 2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers

I hope you and your families are all doing well and enjoying the first official day of school holidays. Please remember at all times the priority during this time is the happiness, well being and safety of you, your family, friends and our community.

In preparation for next term's learning please remember that we will do our best to provide learning support remotely. However, it is up to you as parents to make the best decision for your own and your child's well being. At any point, we do not expect you and your child to sit down for formal learning from 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday during term time. Make a timetable that works for you. Syndicates will send out more information closer to the **start of Term 2 on Wednesday 15th April**.

SCHOOL UPDATE

As we receive more information from the Ministry of Education our plans as a school will need to update. This is what the current discussions and information to hand are.

School site closed:

As previously communicated our entire school site is completely closed.

School Facebook:

We will continue to update families with great ideas, free websites and programmes for you to access over the holidays. These are optional!

Non-digital or low-internet data families:

At present we (Greytown School) had planned for a small number of families to be working in paper form and I would be dropping these off next term. We are now waiting to hear if this is possible or not.

Thankfully the first two weeks of packs have already been delivered.

In the meantime here is the latest information about decisions or discussions to be aware of to help you.

The Ministry of Education is in the process of trying to get as many households as possible on to digital learning *just in case* we are longer than the 4 weeks we currently have planned for.

Here is the information we know off and actions you may need to take.

Removing data caps for internet

In addition to Spark, Vodafone, Vocus/Slingshot, and 2Degrees, Trustpower has now also advised they have removed their data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage - Ask.Trustpower.co.nz - *"we've removed data limits for all fixed-line broadband customers to make sure everyone can stay connected. You'll be able to keep in touch with family and friends, work or study from home, and receive vital updates without having to worry about exceeding your data limit"*.

Action:

If you are with a **different company not on this list** you can email me principal@greytown.school.nz your key details (name, address of where you are isolating your family, internet provider and phone number). I will then forward this information to the Ministry to start conversations with your provider.

Non-digital families access to the internet and devices

The Ministry of Education is in the process of finding out ways to ensure all families in our community have access to the internet and a device in their home for distance learners.

Action:

If you know of a family from Greytown School that has not already told us that they have no access to the internet or no devices at home for learning please forward their name, phone number and address of isolation point to me at principal@greytown.school.nz. I can then forward these to the Ministry.

Learning Packs (if teachers continue to be completely off-site)

The Ministry is in a discussion about how they too can support with learning packs for next term. As you can imagine this will involve a lot of logistics. Everyone in our community that we know of has the first two weeks delivered already. We will update you before these run out with more information.

Action:

If you know of a family from Greytown School that *has not already told us* that they need non-digital learning packs sent to them, please forward their name, phone number and address of isolation point to me principal@greytown.school.nz. I can then forward these to the Ministry if this becomes a confirmed option.

OFFICIAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UPDATE for 26th MARCH

Kia ora koutou

We have started into a new phase of New Zealand's response to COVID-19 and it is very different than anything most of us have ever experienced. I wanted to reassure you that our Ministry of Education, school staff and Board of Trustees will continue to be available to support your child's learning and wellbeing in the next weeks.

You will understand the importance of routine for your family. If your routine has been shaken up, like you're now working from home, it's good to structure your time. Routines are reassuring, and promote health and physical wellbeing. The below timetable (targeted at children) could be something your household adapts to use over the next weeks. A school holiday version will likely look a little different, but some form of routine will still be important as we go through the lockdown period. Remember school starts formally on Wednesday 15th April.

Daily Schedule idea

Before 9:00am	Wake up	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, put any dirty clothes in the laundry
9:00-10:00	Morning walk	Family walk with the dog, bike ride, Yoga if it's raining
10:00-11:00	Learning at home	School-led learning or Sudoku, books, flashcards, study guide, journal etc
11:00-12:00	Creative time	Legos, magnatiles, drawing, crafting, play music, cook or bake etc.
12:00 pm	Lunch :)	
12:30	Helping at home	# wipe all kitchen tables and chairs # wipe all door handles, light switches and desktops # wipe both bathrooms - sinks and toilets
1:00-2:30	Quiet time	Reading, puzzles, nap, radio NZ stories
2:30-4:00	Learning at home	School-led learning or iPad games, Prodigy, Educational show
4:00-5:00	Afternoon fresh air	Bikes, walk the dog, play outside
5:00-6:00	Dinner :)	
6:00-8:00	Free TV time	Kids shower time
8:00	Bedtime	All kids

9:00pm	Bedtime	All kids who follow the daily schedule & don't fight
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**Adapted from a resource developed by Jessica McHale Photography*

Wellbeing Information

There are links below to more wellbeing information to support your family during the lockdown.

- The Ministry of Education has developed a resource for parents, caregivers, whānau and family - <http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>.
- The Ministry of Health's website includes [Top ways to look after your mental wellbeing](#) during the Covid-19 lockdown.
- I AM HOPE is the youth and community-focused support group run by The Key to Life Charitable Trust, started by Mike King - <https://www.iamhope.org.nz/>
- Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whānau - <https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactorededucation/> -
- Tips on looking after mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 from the Mental Health Foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>
- a website by the Health Promotion Agency to help New Zealanders recognise and understand depression and anxiety - <https://depression.org.nz/covid-19/>
- Although overseas-based this is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children. Remember the rules of New Zealand's level 4 lockdown still apply - [25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D.](#)

Pacific Families

*For our Pacific families, if you are not aware the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' has been working to ensure useful information is available to Pacific peoples. A one-hour special will be aired on Tagata Pasifika's segment on **Saturday at 9 am**, and on **Sunday at 7.35 am**, Tagata Pasifika will share messages from community leaders. The Ministry is asking you to reach out to all your family members, community groups, friends and group chats to ensure our Pacific community groups are watching the programming on both days.*

Essential Workers home-based supervision and care

As advised in yesterday's Bulletin, the Government has agreed that three large home-based providers (Barnardos, Edubase and PORSE) will provide additional support to essential service workers, where workers are not able to make their own arrangements. These providers have national coverage.

The level of demand from essential service workers is not yet clear and we are exploring all options to make sure that essential service workers can do the important work necessary. In particular, we are working with the wider network of home-based providers to identify additional carers in areas of high demand.

Essential workers should still continue to contact one of the following three providers if they have been unable to make their own arrangements:

- Barnardos - covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz
- Edubase - [Home Grown Kids](#) & [Kids at Home](#) 0508 44 54 37 or info@hgk.co.nz
- [PORSE](#) 0800 023 456

Thanks

A big thank you to all of you for taking the lockdown so seriously. As the Prime Minister has noted staying at home will break the chain and save lives; breaking the rules could risk someone close to you and if the rules are not complied with, this could risk the lockdown period being extended or could risk the virus being spread to thousands

Ngā mihi Ministry of Education