

# St Joseph's Catholic School

*Te Kura Katorika o Hato Hohepa*

94 Seddon Street, Pukekohe 2120. **Postal:** PO Box 1292, Pukekohe 2340  
**Ph:** 09 238 7745 • **Email:** [stjoesoffice@stjosephs.co.nz](mailto:stjoesoffice@stjosephs.co.nz) • [www.stjosephs.co.nz](http://www.stjosephs.co.nz)



2 September 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Well, it's September already and we have had a lovely spring day to enjoy at home.

Thank you for all of the support you are giving your children to help them with their learning during their time at home. I know you must be juggling work and school and families at this time. Most of our teachers have young families too and I want to thank them for the commitment they are making to ensure your children have opportunities to learn at home. It is not easy for anyone but I do think we, as a country, are doing the right thing.

A reminder that tomorrow our teachers have a Teachers Only Day, and therefore, there will be no expectation that children do schoolwork (unless they want to). It will be a good opportunity for us to connect as a staff again and have an opportunity to reflect and grow and plan for how 'learning' will look in this covid climate. Their wellbeing is important too.

We have made sure every child has either a digital device (Y5-8) or has been given a hard pack of activities. Teachers are doing an amazing job providing a variety of educational opportunities to your children; especially on a digital platform. I believe that if your child is engaged every day in their learning: reading, writing and doing maths, that they will continue to make progress especially as they have your support. My biggest concern is those children who are not engaged in their learning, not being encouraged to complete tasks or are using their time on their devices for other things. We get activity reports of school device use each week and some of our high users are not attending their learning workshops.

Our younger children are mainly interacting with their teachers through Seesaw. We understand that, if Covid Level 4 continues, we may need to send additional materials home to these children. We will let you know if this is to happen.

Much of the country is now at Level 3 but that does not mean returning to school. Any child with someone at home who can look after them should not return to school until Level 2. Level 3 is very difficult to manage at school as it takes staff away from their distance learning programme for their classes.

We thank you for continuing your children's learning programme. Remember your daily routines make a difference and to include learning in them; not just school learning but also the life skills you can give them when you do things together like baking, building and physical activity. Keep them writing every day (a journal/diary, recipe, instructions, an email or letter) and enjoy your time together playing board games, doing puzzles, playing cards. Ask them lots of questions and keep them wondering. Don't forget to pray together as a family too. This is a special time you have together - remember how quickly we got back to normal last year and looked back on Level 4 as a time to rejuvenate.

Please let us know if you need any support at this time. We are in this together. Happy Fathers Day!  
Stay well and God bless

Ursula Hall  
Principal