

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 3, WEEK

Kia ora,

Welcome to the end of week 4 of Term 3. We may not be physically at school but our children and staff are still working hard.

ONLINE LEARNING SUCCESS!!!

I am so impressed with the level of engagement we have had in just the past two days with our online learning. I have heard from all of the teachers that they have had great attendance for teaching workshops and they are impressed with the amount of work that is being completed. If all you can commit to is getting your child online for their teaching sessions then this is fine. We would most definitely say that this connection and short daily teaching time is more important and beneficial to your child than anything else.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are experiencing any technical difficulties. Connect with the class teacher first, and then we can go from there with additional support. **WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU HOWEVER WE CAN.**



5 SURPRISING BENEFITS TO DISTANCE LEARNING

As teachers we are all about making positive relationships with our children, eye contact, talking, responsiveness – We believe these are all the key ingredients of good teaching and learning and require actual, physical *closeness*. Education from a distance seems the opposite to everything we try to do in our classrooms.

But what if I were to tell you that there are some things distance education does *better* than its classroom counterpart?

It's flexible

Even though there are set teaching online times, one of the primary benefits of distance education is that students can generally fit schoolwork around other activities and family commitments. With people leading increasingly hectic lives, this sort of flexibility comes as a massive advantage.

It consolidates vital soft skills

Recent times have seen a push to promote **soft skills** across the curriculum – the transferable, general abilities that set our students up for life. Distance education is the perfect opportunity to hone such vital soft skills as:

- **Time management** – with a more flexible home learning environment comes the need for older students to prioritize their time accordingly.
- **Technological fluency** – the fact that our students are constantly attached to screens doesn't mean that they know how to adapt to technology effectively. Distance education provides valuable lessons in how to adapt to new systems and software, and how to independently troubleshoot technical issues.
- **Responsible use of technology** – Similarly, while our students might be proficient gamers and social media users, chances are they could use some upskilling when it comes to using technology



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responsibly and for a mature purpose. As with the above skill, this has never been more relevant in 'the real world' than it is now.

It's accessible for students with a variety of needs

No classroom is perfect all the time for every student. Learning from home provides students with a stable and secure environment that can be more easily tailored to their specific needs.

The benefits don't just extend to students with specific and diagnosed needs, but also to those who might otherwise struggle to keep up with the pace and intensity of a regular classroom environment. It's a safe space for students who might usually avoid speaking up, and it allows students struggling with the content to review material as much as they like at their own pace.

It encourages students to take ownership of their learning

Learning from home comes with plenty of potential distractions, but it also poses a golden opportunity for students to develop a more mature and responsible outlook on their own education.

Without you hovering over their shoulders, especially at Years 5 and 6, the onus is on students to develop some self-discipline.

You might be surprised by how well older students rise to the challenge of this approach. Allowances will have to be made for younger students who simply don't have the same capacity to work independently, but in this case, it pays to have the support of parents who can keep them on track.

It opens students' eyes to learning outside the classroom

'Lifelong learning' is an expression that gets thrown around in education circles these days, but it's always a challenge getting students to understand how learning can take place outside of school.

Distance education, by its very nature, integrates school and home life, exposing students to the real possibility of learning independently outside of a structured context. Home is no longer a place to simply crash out and watch YouTube videos after school – it's a learning environment, and an effective learning environment at that. With students no longer confined behind a desk, the possibilities for bringing learning to life and establishing real-world links are endless.

COVID - 19

Why we're in Alert Level 4

There is a very [useful article by Dr Siouxsie Wiles and Toby Morris in The Spinoff](#) that provides the science and evidence in simple terms behind the shift to Alert Level 4. There is also a visual reminder of the symptoms to look out for and seek advice about getting tested.

Remember: it isn't just cold and flu symptoms that we need to seek advice from Healthline about.



Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine approved for 12 to 15-year-olds

The Government has approved the Pfizer vaccine for 12 to 15-year-olds in New Zealand, following Medsafe's provisional approval in June. From Friday 20 August, as parents or guardians become eligible to book for a vaccination, they can also book in a vaccination for any 12 to 15-year-olds in their whānau.



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Testing for COVID-19

The government is encouraging everyone to get tested if they are experiencing any symptoms that may relate to COVID-19.

We have seen a tremendous response from New Zealanders to get booked for the vaccine (more than 200,000 bookings yesterday), and while there are lengthy queues in some parts of Auckland, overall we aren't seeing record numbers of tests.

Early identification of cases is crucial – and testing does that for us.

UP AND COMING EVENTS ...

We have lots of exciting activities planned for a continued lockdown, including online story times, Friday creatives day, let's get muddy day and some cool house challenges. All activities will be communicated with you via HERO, so please keep checking your app.

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Responsibility - Tū tika . Resilience - Tū kaha . Kindness - Atawhai . Respect - Manaaki

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GULF HARBOUR SCHOOL SPONSORS 2021



A promotional graphic for Diana Holberg, a real estate agent. It features a photograph of Diana on the left, smiling, with her arms crossed. The background is a dark blue image of a residential area with houses and a boat. Text on the right reads: "THANK YOU TO ALL MY CLIENTS!" in white, followed by "Your support allows me to be a proud sponsor of Our School, Our kids & Our Community" in white and light blue script. Below this is "DIANA HOLBERG" in white, "Harcourts" in white with a white outline, "M 022 02 09 541" in white, and "www.dianaholberg.co.nz" in light blue. At the bottom, in small white text, it says "Tandem Realty Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008".

If you would like to be a sponsor of Gulf Harbour School please contact Fiona Southgate at f.southgate@ghs.school.nz



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