

TERM DATES

Term 1

Wed 29 Jan - Thu 9 Apr

Term 2

Tue 28 Apr - Fri 3 Jul

Term 3

Mon 20 Jul - Fri 25 Sep

Term 4 Mon 12 Oct - Fri 11 Dec **EVENTS**



St John Bosco School

21 Clinton Street, New Plymouth. Phone (06) 758-3165 e-mail: office@sjb.school.nz, www.sjb.school.nz Principal: Mr Dee Luckin

From the Principals Desk..

that we welcome Isla Bishop to room Kawakawa, Isla joins her big sister Caitlin at school.

I'm loving the smiles we are seeing every morning from the children but there certainly have been some big parent ones too...

It's hard to believe that seven weeks ago we were well and truly focused on what had been a great start to the year. Our children had settled so well into school and were making great traction with their learning. One whirlwind week led us to closing our school, spending two days as a staff to designing, planning and creating a learning from home programme. A concept that excited us due to our focus on 21st Century Learning programmes but one that we hadn't fully considered. This new style of learning excited us but we knew it would be hard. Hard for us due to distance, hard for families because they had many other commitments and hard on the children because we knew that although we could share learning easily they still all value having a teacher there to support, clarify, guide and motivate.

I know also that for many of our families lock down was incredibly tough going in many ways. But I want you to know that we are here to support you from our end. Attendance dues, school fees and general wellbeing support we are here to help. We model ourselves on a great leader Jesus Christ. I know at this particular time he is walking right alongside us and as a Catholic School we want to be just like Jesus and do exactly what he would do in times of need.

I know that I've thanked our families and staff for everything you did to ensure children engaged in the best way they could but I just have to once more pass on my appreciation, thanks and gratitude to you all. It has been one my most rewarding, pleasing and satisfying times as an educator. Every piece of work that was submitted portrayed significant effort on behalf of the students and parents. I know that our children will be the winners for this effort. I have spent time this week connecting with students whom during lockdown and with amazing support from their

Welcome: It is with great pleasure whanau have literally transformed as and relationships learners. The children are telling me this too...

> Lastly, this week potentially could have been one of the toughest weeks a school leader could have in their career. But I am just so impressed and emotionally moved at how you have supported your children, the staff and myself. I am every morning touched, observing you empower the resilience of our children. This week had the potential to be quite different emotionally for children. But the talk, modelling and teaching you have done to transfer children back to school has been amazing! Well Done!!

> We have also considered a Recovery Curriculum for the next two weeks. The following are some snippets of what we are basing this on...

When our children return to school we believe there needs to be a Recovery Curriculum in place. Suddenly daily routines that children historically had. have evaporated and with it, any known curriculum framework. It's been weeks since they last packed their school bags and engaged their brain from 9:00a.m - 3:00p.m. For the past 7 weeks they have ventured to the pantry when they like. They have engaged in learning how and when they please...They emerge from this Covid19 social disorder, into a changed normal. This has not just been a break from school. For most children their daily goal in going to school won't be to learn but to see their friends and to feel a sense of self-worth that only a peer group can offer. You cannot underestimate the impact of the loss of that social interaction. Their ability to be mentally and physically engaged will need to be revitalised and the learning resilience they once had will need to be retrained.

It would be naive of any Principal / Middle Manager / Educator to think that the child will pick up the Curriculum at exactly the same point at which they left it on the day their school closed. Too much has happened. Listen to what the children are saying. Look at what the children are experiencing. None of this follows the usual pattern of a school year with all of the annual cycle of events. Compassionate Leadership, teaching

is crucial at this time

Our Four Levers for success...

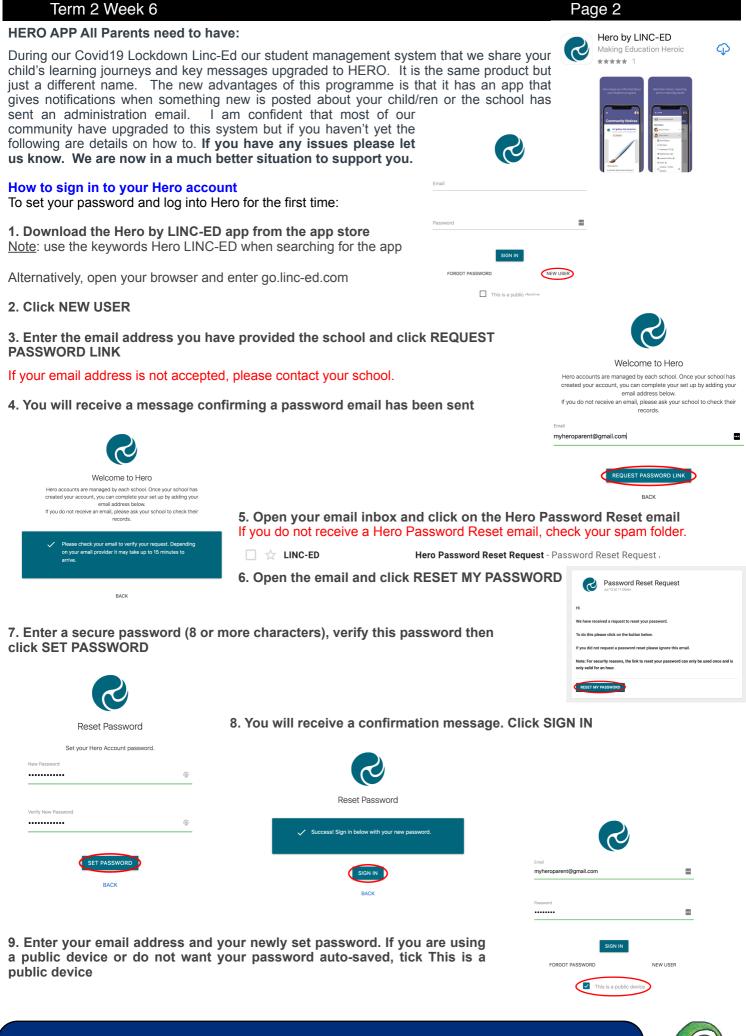
Lever 1: Transparent Curriculum all of our students / families will feel like they have lost time in learning and we must show them how we are addressing these gaps, consulting and co-constructing with our students / families to heal this sense of loss. We are in control. We know education and what skills and knowledge the children need to have to be successful.

Lever 2: Metacognition - in different environments, our students have been learning in different ways and we have guided learning in different wavs. What of this will we keep. It is vital that we make the skills for learning in a school environment explicit to our students to reskill and rebuild their confidence as learners.

Lever 3: Space - to be, to rediscover self, and to find their voice on learning in this issue. It is only natural that schools can be a place of incredible pace. But to make sure this group of learners are not disadvantaged we need to now more than ever consider the pace and relevance of what is important in providing opportunity and exploration alongside the intensity of our expectations.

Lever 4: Relationships -Opportunity to reconnect will need to be considered, time invested in the relationships restored. We need to plan and provide opportunity for this to happen, not assume that it will. Reach out to greet them, use the relationships we build to cushion the discomfort of returning. Provide curriculum time that promotes calm, chilled opportunity to work alongside in a non threatening, fun well paced manner

Students and Teachers days during Covid have been quite different to a typical school day... Our intention is to transition students and teachers back into our school in a caring, understanding nature that initially maintains some routines they have been used to, alongside some traditional normal school routine being reintroduced and lastly followed by a creative aspect of time to help increase learning resilience and foster calm socialisation...



To provide a Catholic environment where children's rights and individual needs are always considered, independence and confidence are fostered and children are challenged to produce their best efforts.

Mission Statement

Term 2 Week 6

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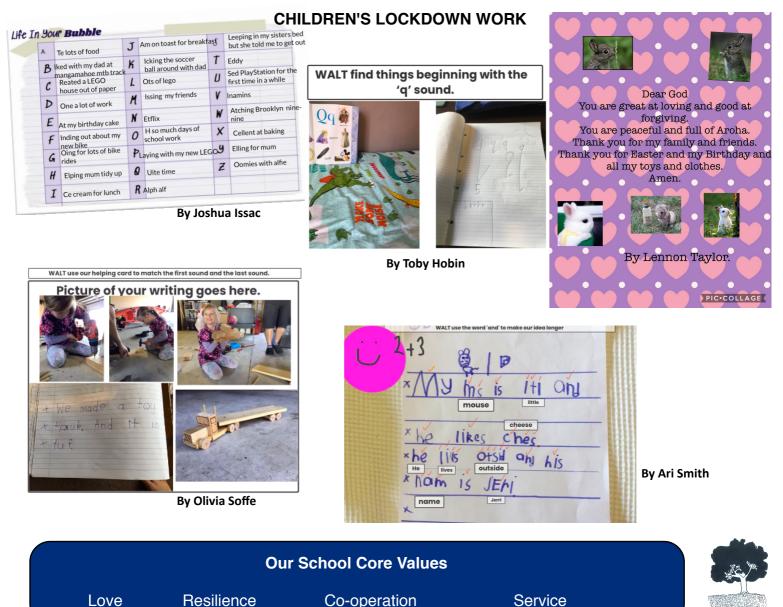
Welcome back to school, everyone! Tena koutou katoa! It is good to be back at school after weeks of staving home because of Covid 19. It is good to rejoice, to be happy, and our Easter word ALLELUIA is a great word to say to show how we are feeling. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

We began this week with a liturgy celebration, to welcome us all back to school. During the liturgy the staff of St John Bosco school blessed all our tamariki. You may also like to pray this blessing for your children, the children of our school, community and our world. We also continue to pray for those in our 'common home' who are affected by Covid-19.

> E te Atua o nga tamaríkí, For all these children who have returned to school and for those still at home, We ask your blessing. May their experiences of lockdown in a pandemic make them more aware of the human family and our need for each other and for you. May the Holy Spirit fill their hearts and keep them safe. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

This week is also Laudato si week. 24 May 2020 is the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home. Laudato Si', is an inspiration during moments of difficulty. It encourages us to reflect on the values we share and create a more just and sustainable future.

The theme of Laudato Si' Week is "everything is connected." During Laudato Si' Week, we come together as one people around the world to prayerfully discern the lessons of this moment. While the world experiences a history-defining crisis, we reflect and prepare to build a better world. Find out more at <u>https://laudatosiweek.org/</u>



Co-operation

