



Manurewa South School Distant Learning

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As you know we are all coming to terms with a temporary way of life in our country since the onset of Covid-19. Our school has been asked to adapt the way in which we educate our students and provide for them a Distant Learning Programme while in Lockdown. Our staff have been working hard over the holiday break to ensure that what we have to offer our students is something that will best cater for their needs given the trying and difficult situation. Below I have outlined what Home Learning looks like at Manurewa South School.

Why are we doing Distant Learning?

- On Wednesday 25 March all schools across NZ were ordered into Lockdown and closed by the Government due to our country being in Level Four of the Covid-19 Response System.
- All Schools have been asked by the Ministry of Education to start educating and connecting with our students and families via an online format starting from the beginning of Term 2 which will start on Wednesday 15 April.

What does Distant Learning at Manurewa South School look like with a Device and Internet?

- Starts every day around 10:00am and can finish anytime up to 4:00pm each day (it's up to the parent or caregiver) Monday to Friday.
- Each day can follow the Distant Learning Schedule (see attached).
- You will see that our Distant Learning Schedule is made up of a number of activities that involve devices, pen and paper and physical activity and tasks.
- Students can also complete other tasks included on the school website under Our Learning – "Home Learning."
- Senior school students (Years 5 & 6) will access the Senior School Blog for daily schoolwork covering the curriculum. Parents will also be able to comment and ask questions on this.
- Teachers will be able to connect with their students using a variety of ways eg: 'Zoom', 'Google meet', email, phone call (whatever's the best way to connect) – Teachers will schedule in these meetings and let students know.
- All teachers will be available to engage with parents answering any questions or queries and providing them with ideas about how to best support their child at home with Distant Learning. This will be done using See Saw, Zoom, texting, phone call or by emailing us.
- TVNZ have also made educational shows available for students to view on TV One and Two. This will cover all areas of the curriculum from Science, PE to Te Reo Maori and Music.

What if we have 'No Device' or 'Internet?'

- We had organised learning packs earlier for children as soon as the lockdown was confirmed, and these should have been completed by now.
- 'School Kit' (an Education service) have provided a learning resource pack for all our Year 1 to 3 students with learning activities for students to complete during this time.
- We have also got the support from the Ministry of Education who will deliver further Home Learning Packs which should hopefully also arrive at your homes in the first week of Term 2. (Note: They are servicing the whole of NZ).
- Distant Learning can start at 10:00am and can finish anytime up to 4:00pm each day (it's up to the parent or caregiver) Monday to Friday.
- Each day your child can follow the Distant Learning Schedule (see attached).
- You will see that our Distant Learning Programme is made up of a number of activities that involve pen and paper and physical activity and tasks.
- Teachers will connect with students and parents by phone call to see how the student is going and to answer any questions that parents/caregivers may have.

Important things to remember about Distant Learning at Manurewa South School?

- Home Learning is not the same as Home-schooling and online learning because most of our staff, students and parents are not prepared with the specific skills and resources needed to ensure it is the same.
- This new format of teaching is not the same as if the teacher was teaching your child in their class, but we will try to make it as beneficial for your child as possible.
- By no means is this going to be the same experience as if your child was at school but for our school it's about providing students with Learning Experiences that continue to develop within your child the desire to grow their minds and continue to love learning.
- TVNZ have also made educational shows available for students to view on TV One and Two. This will cover all areas of the curriculum from Science, PE to Te Reo Maori and Music

Expectations of Manurewa South Teachers in relation to Distant Learning?

- Teachers will provide activities and tasks on the school website under the Our Learning tab – "Home Learning," that are updated regularly and are linked to the current learning programme for their students and helps continue to grow their minds.
- Teachers will create an opportunity for a video calling session with their students as per the Home Learning Schedule using either See saw, Zoom, Blog or something similar.
- Teachers will engage with parents to answer any questions or queries and provide them with ideas about how to best support their child at home with Distant Learning using Facebook, phone call or email.

Manurewa South Parents will contribute towards Home Learning for their children by?

- Parents will provide the support and space needed for their child to carry out their Distant Learning activities and programmes.
- Parents will provide the adequate resources, food, and physical activity in order for the children to engage effectively in their learning.
- Parents will engage with their child's teacher on a regular basis to ensure that distant learning is taking place and that parents have the support and information they need to support the Distant Learning for their child. This can be in the form of a phone call, text, email, Facebook or Zoom.

I hope this explains and outlines clearly what we are planning to roll out come the start of Term 2 and I hope you can see that it will take a lot of flexibility and courage to explore and navigate this new way of learning. If you have any questions or queries please contact your child's teacher directly or you can contact me on tonek@manurewasouth.school.nz

Tone Kolose
PRINCIPAL