



'Growing in Faith
Together'

24 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

COVID-19 Latest Update - 24 March 2020

With the announcement by our Prime Minister yesterday, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home during the COVID-19 lockdown. We appreciate this is a sudden and significant change, and will be hugely disruptive to many people in our community.

During this time, our teachers will be supporting children with learning from home in the following ways:

- Through online learning accessed through our school website - <https://www.sanctamariaprimary.school.nz/1/pages/1149-home-learning>
- Teachers will engage with you at home through email, google sites and Seesaw
- Parents and caregivers can keep contact with teachers via email or Seesaw
- Please contact the Principal via email if there are any concerns or queries regarding your children - principal@sanctamariaprimary.school.nz

Our advice is that as a family, you take this time to help your children establish a working space for teaching and learning to occur and to chat through some expectations of working from home.

The **school holidays** have been brought forward and will start on Monday 30 March through to Tuesday 14 April. Please make sure your family takes time out to enjoy some rest and relaxation. Teachers will resume with the home learning programmes from Wednesday 15 April.

If you need to have your child cared for by someone else, you will need to identify that person or people as part of your self-isolated group. This decision will need to be done by midnight Wednesday 25 March, and the group must remain the same for the whole four-week period. The caregiver's group (e.g., their partner and children), your child and your group (eg, your parents and other children) become one group. This group needs to be limited to minimise any risk of spread and should be no more than 20 people.

Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. Parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at

this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

As noted by the Prime Minister, these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19. Please stay at home and keep isolated. If a member of your household tests positive in the next two weeks, please email principal@sanctamariaprimarieschool.nz to allow us to communicate this information.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming weeks. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community.

Stay safe and God bless you all.

Gina Benade
Principal