

# Learning at Home

## Guidelines for Parents

Updated February 2021

These are very challenging times for us all and we are in an unknown arena. Every household will have its own needs and its own challenges so the idea that one plan fits all is not feasible.

**During lockdown, the most important thing is our physical health and our mental and emotional wellbeing. Continuing learning sits under these two priorities!**

Teachers will provide a learning at home plan however what you do with it or how you use it is up to you. Please don't add to your stress levels or the anxiety in your home by battling over learning activities.

Keep households calm. Enjoy each other's company. Make pleasant memories. Find the silver lining!

### Tips that may support learning at home

- Prepare a space designated for learning that's away from televisions and computer games.
- Set goals on what you want your children to accomplish each day; not just school activities, e.g. make their bed, put the dishes away.
- Create a schedule and stick to it; routine is important.
- Be familiar with the learning plan set up and supplied by the teacher. Regular updates will be shared.
- Learning at Home will:
  - Provide a timetable for when children are expected to be in their online classrooms.
  - An overview of tasks and activities that are to be completed as well as some optional / could do activities or ideas.
  - Provide regular communication with parents so you are aware of what is happening and when.
- Limit children's access to devices; we do not want children on devices all day.
- Use school as the framework for your morning routine thinking about:
  - When are they used to having breakfast? Snack? Morning tea? Lunch?
  - Build-in time outside; even on cooler days children can play and explore in their own environment.
  - Break the day into small chunks much like school does with subjects.
  - If your child has assigned schoolwork, do they work best in the morning or afternoon? For most children, it's the morning and that frees the afternoons up to be a little less formal and structured.

Of course, even with the most perfectly planned schedule, you will still have days when you just can't muster the energy to come up with even the simplest activity and instead let them watch another episode of their favourite show. **That's O.K too. Do what you need to do to get through that day.** You'll have your routine to go back to the next day. And the one after that, too.

## What will Teams do at level 3 and Level 4?

### Team Totara

Learning packs will only be prepared and sent home with children who do not have access to wifi or a device, as we enter a level 3 or level 4 lockdown.

The primary site Totara teachers will be using to share learning is [Seesaw](#). At present parents/caregivers have QR code to access in-class learning and parents/caregivers will be sent a Home Learning code which will enable students to see and complete tasks set up in Seesaw.

Accessing Seesaw will be shared with parents and will be available on our website.

Please read with or to your child every day: this is a lovely way to spend some quality time together.

Totara teachers will share video clips that they have made of themselves however there will be no opportunity for online lessons.

Communication between the teacher, the child and the parents will be through Seesaw.

### Team Kahikatea

Learning packs will be prepared and sent home with children in Team Kahikatea as we enter a level 3 or level 4 lockdown.

Team Kahikatea will use Seesaw as their main vehicle for sharing learning during lockdown however they will also schedule daily zoom sessions to connect with the class or to connect with groups. Codes for these zoom sessions will be shared with parents.

These daily zoom sessions will begin with a waiata and whakatauki as well as sharing the home learning tasks for the day. Teachers may also plan to do some online fitness together via Zoom.

If you don't have your home learning code for Seesaw, please contact your class teacher.

As well as learning activities set by the teacher, children can independently work on their PIA (Pride in Achievement) activities - see the school webpage for more information on these.

If you can't make the scheduled daily Zoom meeting, they will be recorded so you can watch them later in the day.

Don't stress if you don't get the activities completed, your health and wellbeing are more important at this time. Teachers will look forward to seeing you in online Zoom meetings and seeing your work being shared via Seesaw.

### Team Miro

Team Miro have put together a comprehensive Learning At Home plan. They will share weekly learning via Google Classroom which is a tool the children are familiar with. The learning plan sets out goals and learning activities.

Children will complete their learning at the bottom of the document that is shared with them. A new learning template will be shared each week. Children's University work can be completed and loaded into the portal and this will also be looked at.

# LEARNING AT HOME BANKS AVENUE SCHOOL



**TEAM MIRO**  
YEARS 4-6

**TEAM KAHIKATEA**  
YEARS 2-3

*Click on the following links to see your child's link to their class*  
**Google Classroom website:**

- Dudley (Ms Thompson and Miss Bourne)
- Awa (Miss Walsh and Mr Hastlow)
- Roto (Mr Bradley and Mrs Pannell)
- Kuaka (Miss Angela)
- Tūi (Ms Taylor)
- Kiwi (Ms Gold)
- Kea (Mrs Savage and Ms King)

**TEAM TŌTARA**  
YEARS 1-2

To contact teachers via email, please click here

We are aware that many parents have children in different teams; this portal is to help make it easier for you to access the learning that each team is providing. This [portal](#) can be accessed on our school website or you can click the link to open it.

## Timetable for Online Sessions

We are aware that in many households devices are limited so we have endeavoured to schedule online sessions for our different teams at different times of the day.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Team Kahikatea	Kea / Kiwi / Tui 9:30-10	Kea / Kiwi / Tui 9:30-10	Kea / Kiwi / Tui 9:30-10	Kea / Kiwi / Tui 9:30-10	Kea / Kiwi / Tui 9:30-10
Team Miro	Roto / Kuaka 10:30 -11:15	Roto / Kuaka 10:30 -11:15	Roto / Kuaka 10:30 -11:15	Roto / Kuaka 10:30 -11:15	Roto / Kuaka 10:30 -11:15
	Awa / Dudley 11:30 -12:15	Awa / Dudley 11:30 -12:15	Awa / Dudley 11:30 -12:15	Awa / Dudley 11:30 -12:15	Awa / Dudley 11:30 -12:15

## Educational websites and Apps children are familiar with

These are the key apps or websites children will be familiar with, that they have used at school. Consciously limit the amount of time children are online.

Name and Link	Description
<a href="#">Storyline Online</a>	This link has famous people read stories aloud.
<a href="#">Sunshine Classics</a>	To access reading books and activities

## Reading to, reading by and reading with kids!

Study after study shows the importance of reading to kids. Being home all day is a great chance to increase that habit.

Plan reading blocks. Fifteen to 20 minutes a day is a great place to start . Consider structuring this reading block in a few different ways:

- Parent reads to the child
- Child reads aloud (if the child can read),
- Parent / child take turns reading a page each and
- Family silent reading time - everyone stops and reads!

If your child wants to extend a reading period, don't worry too much about messing up the schedule. There's no such thing as too much reading, and you can always save a planned activity for the next day. We will be providing access to online reading books and activities .

## Use the time at home to reinforce the basics

Can your child:

- Listen to and follow simple instructions.
- Communicate their needs.
- Understand and retell simple stories.
  - Nursery rhymes, poems, fairy tales
- Match and sort objects
  - By colour, shape, size, use, cost
- Identify basic patterns, shapes and colours.
- Identify some numbers and understand how numbers are used.
- Write their own name

- Reading and writing are two of the hardest things a child will learn. The best way to start is to make sure they can write their own name. Use pencils, not pens. You can get them in the mood by doing lots of colouring with them, then starting to show them how to write letters.
- Know the alphabet
  - There are plenty of good toys and songs that will help, but it's not just about reciting the sounds. They also need to know the differences when it comes to writing them. Many kids get mixed up between writing "b" and "d" but be patient.
- Sing or recite songs or poems
  - Learning simple songs and rhythms helps children develop learning skills. Don't be embarrassed about singing to your child, and do it often. You can start singing when they're still in the womb, as hearing is the first sense to develop.
- Take turns and share
  - The earlier a child learns to get on well with others, the better. You can start by congratulating them for sharing toys with other children. This means your child will not be the one who gets into fights with others at school over who gets to play with the toys.
- Be sensitive to others' feelings
  - A selfish child will not be popular, so ensure they know the difference between right and wrong. They need to be told from a young age that hitting another child is very bad.
- Dress and feed themselves
  - We feed them to avoid a mess and dress them because it's quicker for us. But in the classroom, a teacher will not be able to pay them as much attention.
- Join in group activities with other children
  - Many children are shy so boost their confidence by taking them to activities and parties, anywhere where there will be other kids around.
- Make up stories (even if they make no sense)
  - You can do this while you're driving, on the bus or before bedtime. It helps their language and communication skills, and you may be amazed at how much you enjoy making up a story.
- Complete activities on their own
  - Children must learn to be independent, so you need to let them do things for themselves. If they're trying to build something with Lego don't be tempted to help them finish it off or make a suggestion. If they want to come to you for help they will.
- Join in general conversation at home
  - Family time is important. Have dinner with your child as often as possible. You could have a film night when you all watch a DVD together and then talk about it after.
  - Get the family around the table , no devices, share thoughts
  - Let kids help prepare the food.
- Focus their attention on one thing for a prolonged period
  - At a young age children have a short attention span but if this does not change as they get older, they will suffer at school. Get them to do activities they enjoy, such as painting, and they will learn to concentrate.
- Count and answer number-based questions
  - Put three potatoes on your plate, get your child to eat one and ask how many are left. Try counting everything for a day, including all your steps to the supermarket and the number of trees you walk past on the way.
- Tell the difference between past and future
  - You can help your child understand the concepts of past and future from a young age. Ask them about what they did yesterday and what they are looking forward to at the weekend.

- You can ask what they had for lunch today. Also, make a calendar and write a letter to Santa.
- Ask lots of questions
  - Kids go through a phase of asking why all the time, but never ignore them, be patient and reward their curiosity.
  - And if you think they're asking why for the sake of it, then ask them a question in return. This engages them, and gets them thinking about the world.
- Differentiate between groups
  - Ask questions that refer to different categories. For example: "Why are some of these trees dropping leaves?" "Which animals eat meat and which don't?" Your child will learn about groups and categories without realising.
- Do a jigsaw
  - Jigsaws are great for logic skills. If they get tired of them, box them up and carry on another day.
- Be active
  - Take them to a park, an activity centre or soft-play area.
- Learn about healthy and unhealthy foods
  - Talk to your child about different healthy and unhealthy foods, and allow them to eat a variety of foods in moderation.
  - If they know they can eat sweets, but not every day, you will be amazed how often they choose to eat healthy fruit or veg instead. Let them get involved with cooking too.
- Be imaginative
  - Engage in your children's games and don't put them off by disregarding their wacky ideas.
  - Let them make the rules, so they can be in control for once. You will find they are much more creative as they grow up.
- Get messy with paints and crafts
  - Put a mat down under the kitchen table or go outside in the summer. Modelling clay is another great aid, and this kind of creative play gives them the motor skills they need for writing.
- Make and move to music
  - Musical instruments are great for kids - it gets them moving and it's good for spatial, reasoning and motor skills.
  - Put the music on and dance together - have fun!

## Asking for Help

We are aware that lockdown can be a terrifying and lonely experience for many. Being isolated or in need adds to the stress and the anxiety caused by an already challenging event. Please feel free to reach out if you think there is something we can do for you in addition to providing online learning. *Together is better!*

## Contacting Teachers

During lockdown, teachers can be contacted via email or in some cases via Seesaw. All staff have their email addresses made up of their initial and surname followed by @banksave.school.nz. Email addresses are also available on our school website. My email is [tburnside@banksave.school.nz](mailto:tburnside@banksave.school.nz)

Teachers have been directed to work normal hours while in lockdown. Most correspondence with parents should occur between 8 and 4 on weekdays.


## HEART Online Expectations

 <p><b>Hauora</b> Be well to do well</p> <p>Never give out personal information.</p> <p>Only go onto the internet when a teacher is present unless you are a trusted e-learner.</p> <p>Only use the internet for learning related activities.</p>	 <p><b>Excellence</b> Better than before</p> <p>Be creative. Explore and try new things.</p> <p>Information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.</p> <p>Aim for my best work.</p>	 <p><b>Aroha</b> Kind thoughts, words, actions</p> <p>Be polite and kind to others online. Never send a message you would not say face to face.</p>	 <p><b>Respect</b> Give respect, get respect</p> <p>Carry one device carefully with 2 hands.</p> <p>Eat and drink away from the device and always have clean hands.</p> <p>Always log out of the programme you are using.</p>	 <p><b>Togetherness</b> Together is better</p> <p>Develop global citizenship by sharing, collaborating and exploring with other children around the world.</p> <p>We are a safe learning community. Tell a teacher immediately if you find any website or material you don't like.</p>
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- Mute microphones while listening to instructions or to others online.

## Parent Checklist

Action	Explanation	Yes / No/ Almost
<b>Contact</b> school if your child needs to be on our level 3 roll.	Only students of essential workers are invited to be on our level 3 roll. All other children are expected to learn at home.	
<b>Read</b> the Home Learning Guidelines	These are available on our website.	
<b>Know</b> what platform your child will be using for their online learning	Is it seesaw? Is it google sites? Do they have zoom meetings?	
<b>Prepare</b> a home learning space	Where will you work from? Where will your children work from? I found it useful to be in a totally different room so each day I went to work...in the other room.	
<b>Prepare</b> stationery	Have pencils, felts, scissors, glue sticks etc. tucked away so if we go into lockdown you have the essentials.	
<b>Build</b> daily routines for home learning	Structure and routine will help limit stresses. Take time to build up a home learning routine.	
<b>Reinforce</b> expectations for online behaviours	We should not act any differently online than when we do in person. See our	

	HEART online expectations above.	
<b>Access</b> all the passwords and websites you will need for home learning.	Keep these easily accessible for you and your child.	
<b>Communicate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ask for help</li> <li>● Give feedback</li> <li>● Share a thought</li> <li>● Take videos</li> <li>● Be present</li> <li>● Work in partnership with the teacher</li> </ul>	
<b>Celebrate</b> and enjoy your time in lockdown		

## Finally

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.

In the words of our Prime Minister  
**be kind, keep safe, and look after each other.**

## Resources

[Free Online Resources for Families](#)

[Parents Guide to Google Classroom](#)

Logging in with [Seesaw](#)

Google Sites Guidelines