

Pukekohe Christian School

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NEWSLETTER

Edition 5 - 2 Apr 2020

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Term Dates 2020

Term 1: 28 Jan to 7 April
Term 2: 23 April to 26 Jun
**Note: Teacher only Day -
Tues 2 June 2020**
Term 3: 20 July to 25 Sept
Term 4: 12 Oct to 10 Dec

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Once again I want to thank you for supporting PCS so wholeheartedly as we moved to online learning last week. It has been a steep learning curve for us all! I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of each and every one of our teachers. The staff have been outstanding in the way they have moved so seamlessly to remote teaching. Microsoft Teams is new to all of us at PCS and I am so proud and grateful for the enthusiasm of all the teachers, parents and students ensuring that we were up and running by Thursday last week. A special thank you to Neil Vorster for all of the I.T. support he has provided to teachers and families at this challenging time.

As you and your family adjust to lock down, it is important that you take care of your wellbeing. Ensure that you find time for physical activity each and every day, read your Bible and check in with God and connect with friends using technology. The Ministry of Education has some advice regarding ways to support the wellbeing of our children at this time of uncertainty. Go to <http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-tochildren-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>. If you do have pastoral concerns about your child, please contact me at clare.humber@pcschool.co.nz so that we can continue to support you as we would if we were physically at school.

Yesterday I sent home some important information about keeping our children safe online. This is even more vital during lockdown when young people are accessing technology for larger parts of the day, including for learning purposes. It is recommended that you make a plan with your child, appropriate to his or her age, focusing on:

- reviewing and approving games and apps before they are downloaded
- reviewing privacy settings of sites and applications
- checking children's profiles and what they are posting online
- check the sites your child is accessing
- reminding children that anything that is posted online will be permanently on the internet
- taking the time to understand what sites they are visiting and who they are talking with and check in regularly
- some social media sites have age restrictions to join, check these before letting your child use them or join them
- monitoring your child's use of the internet and consider having them use it in an open, common area of the house
- making sure your children know to report any activity they don't feel comfortable with to parents and caregivers straight away

For additional information regarding internet safety, go to www.netsafe.org.nz.

Just a reminder that term will finish at 1.15pm on Tuesday 7 April. Term 2 commences on Thursday 23 April. Thank you again for your support and assistance with your child's learning at this unprecedented time.

Yours in Christ

Clare Humber

1. IMPORTANT DATES - TERM 1 2020

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
WEEK 10	30	31	1 APR	2 Newsletter 5	3
WEEK 11	6	7 LAST DAY OF TERM 1 School finishes @ 1:15pm			

TERM 2 2020

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
WEEK 1				23 APR Term 2 begins (possibly online)	24
WEEK 2	27	28	29 Assembly + Walk-a-thon results	30 Newsletter 6	1 MAY
WEEK 3	4	5	6 Assembly	7	8
WEEK 4	11	12	13 Assembly	14 Newsletter 7	15
WEEK 5	18	19	20 Internal exams begin Years 7-13	21 Internal exams Years 7-13	22 Internal exams Years 7-13
WEEK 6	25 Internal exams Years 9-13	26 Internal exams end Years 9-13	27 Assembly	28 Newsletter 8	29
WEEK 7	1 JUN	2 TEACHERS ONLY DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	3 Assembly	4	5

1. IMPORTANT DATES CONTINUED - TERM 2 2020

WEEK 8	8	9	10 Assembly	11 Newsletter 9	12
WEEK 9	15	16	17 Assembly	18	19
WEEK 10	22	23	24	25 Newsletter 10	26 LAST DAY OF TERM School closes @ 1:10pm

2. CHANGES & CANCELLATIONS

- ◆ **School photos postponed** - The photos will be rescheduled for a date later in the year. We will advise you all of the rescheduled date once this has been arranged following the lockdown.
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- ◆ **School ball cancelled** - This is extremely disappointing for everyone as it is always a highlight of the school year for the senior students. We hope to be able to reassess the possibility of it being later in the year, but we will let you know if anything changes.
 - ◆ **Junior school Swimming lessons cancelled** - The Fulton swimming lessons which usually take place in Term 2 have had to be cancelled. Unfortunately at this stage, it is unlikely that they will be rescheduled, but we will notify you as soon as possible if this situation changes.
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- ◆ **Year 7-13 Progress reports postponed** - Due to the increased workload with the COVID-19 situation, teachers have been unable to send out the progress reports as planned. These will be rescheduled for Term 2. Thank you for your understanding with this.
 - ◆ **Cambridge mid-year Exams cancelled** - see below for further details
 - ◆ **Reach Assessments - 2 subjects postponed** - see below for further details
 - ◆ **Parent teacher interviews cancelled** - With parent teacher interviews scheduled to take place on 24th & 25th March and the unexpected closure of school, the parent teacher interviews will be cancelled at this stage. Please do contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns you wish to discuss.
 - ◆ **Parent Helper School Camp Meeting postponed** - This was scheduled for the 30th March. Unfortunately due to the abrupt closure of school, we will reschedule this for later in the year.
 - ◆ **First Aid Course postponed** - The first aid course that was scheduled for 24th April, will be rescheduled for after the Level 4 lockdown has been lifted and such gatherings are once again allowed.
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3. CAMBRIDGE EXAMS UPDATE

As communicated previously, Cambridge has made the difficult decision to cancel the mid-year exams this year across the globe. At this stage we are still awaiting further communication from Cambridge regarding their requirements for those students entered for exams.

Once we have exact details we will communicate with the relevant families informing you of the procedure for students to gain their CIE examination.



Some students may wish to withdraw depending upon the guidelines provided by Cambridge. The final date for withdrawals is **8th April 2020**, but we ask that you wait until we have received further information.

4. YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP



Mrs. Sam Hughes and some of our Year 11 Geography students travelled to Port Waikato on 16th March to explore and learn about the impacts of coastal erosion.

The students had a wonderful time out and about in the PCS School van, with the trip to the beach being its maiden voyage.



5. REACH ASSESSMENTS

We have received notification from UNSW Global who facilitate the Reach Assessments and they have expressed that while they continue to monitor the changing situation as a result of the COVID-19, the Reach Assessments are still set to take place with only some minor date changes at this stage. Should this situation change at all, we will be sure to let you know as soon as possible.

The changes to dates so far are:

- Reach Digital Technologies & Reach Science - **Paper closing date is now: 5 June 2020**
- **Sitting dates are now: 20 July - 24 July 2020**

Should you have any questions, please direct your enquires to shannon.wilson@pcschool.co.nz or for more information regarding assessment dates or entering your child, please visit <https://www.unswglobal.unsw.edu.au/educational-assessments/products/reach-assessments/>

6. WALK-A-THON RESULTS

We were intending to announce the winners of the Walk-a-thon fundraiser at the end of term assembly on the 8th April, however as we are now unable to do this, we will reschedule this to the first assembly back in Term 2. We still welcome any parents who would like to attend the assembly to feel free to do so.



We are very sorry for the additional delay and we greatly appreciate your patience as we know how hard you all worked with your fundraising efforts, so...

thank you!

7. POLICE MAN DAN AND POLICE DOG VISIT

Our students were lucky enough to get a visit from our local Community Police man—Dan on the 18th March. Constable Dan brought along some friends with him, in the form of 3 police dog handlers and their furry friends.

The students were treated to an informative talk from Constable Dan with one of our students getting a first hand encounter of how the handcuffs work!

The police dogs then jumped into action giving us a full display of all their training, including their amazing obedience and how they take down an offender. The students were able to ask questions and all thoroughly enjoyed the morning. We are very grateful to the NZ Policemen who took the time to come along to our school and teach us about their jobs.



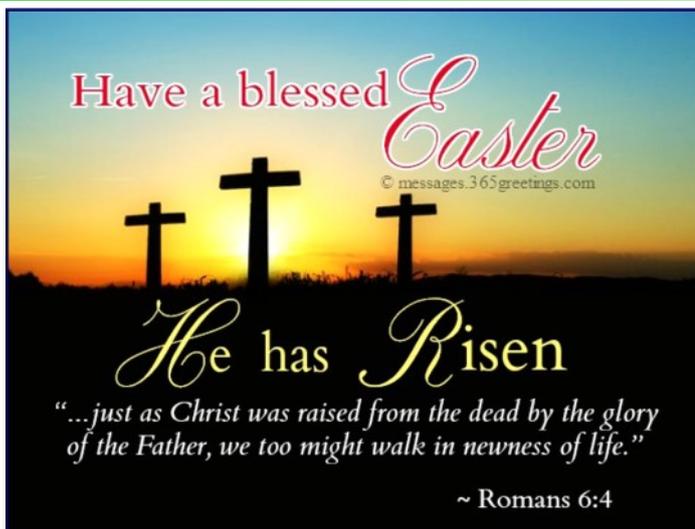
8. ONLINE LEARNING & SCHOOL FROM HOME

We would love to see and share your school-from-home experiences!

You can send them to shannon.wilson@pcschool.co.nz



9. HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE



With Easter just around the corner, it is a time that we can share together (from a distance 😊) and demonstrate our continued faith in the love and power of God and His Son. We rejoice in Jesus' sacrifice of his life on the cross for the sins of all those who believe in Him and we celebrate His resurrection. We encourage you all to take time to share in the lessons the primary children have been learning in class about the true meaning of Easter. From the PCS staff, we would like to wish our entire School Community a wonderful Easter and may the Lord continue to bless you all during these uncertain times.

10.ADS & NOTICES

Pita Pit have launched their new Kid's Meals available through Lunch Online. The Kid's Meals include a yummy Pita Pit + 2 sides delivered right to school every Friday. They continue to offer their usual great range of healthy, yummy lunch options too. We do need your support in making use of this service so we can keep Pita Pit as a supplier. You can join up by registering at www.lunchonline.co.nz and following the 4 easy steps to get started. Once you are setup, you can order online whenever you like. The cut-off time for placing orders is 9am on Friday's. Your child's lunch will be delivered to the school office just before lunchtime. Students will need to collect their lunch from the school office.


www.lunchonline.co.nz



B2B
BACK TO BASICS

BACK TO BASICS NZ make and design fun, quirky eco-friendly and practical bags. They also have copper bottles & cups and stainless-steel lunch boxes. They had an amazing stand at our Gala showcasing their vast range of eco-friendly products and they have kindly extended an offer to our PCS community of **10% off online purchases** as well as **10% of the sales coming back to the school**. Just use the discount code **PUKEKOHE** at checkout. Visit: www.backtobasics.net.nz or [@backtobasicsnewzealand](https://www.instagram.com/backtobasicsnewzealand)

 Share your ideas for your local area

Franklin Local Board is developing a new 3 year local board plan. We want to hear from the community.

Share your ideas and see what other people are saying online at: www.akhaveyoursay.co.nz/lovelocal

Freedom

COUNSELLING MINISTRIES

freedomcounsellingministries.co.nz

Children counselling now available

Freedom Counselling Ministries is excited to welcome a second counsellor to the team.



Colleen Thompson BApp (couns)

Colleen's main focus has been children aged 7-15, however, she sees clients of all ages.

She has been counselling at a local primary school (children aged 7-11 years) for the past 2 years and continues to do so, along with being the school counsellor at Pukekohe Christian School.

Colleen uses a variety of interventions, within her practice to help bring about freedom for those she works with.

For further information or to book an appointment visit: freedomcounsellingministries.co.nz

Or contact Colleen
Mobile: 021 024 83380
Email: colleenthompson2307@gmail.com



Loving God, Loving People

COVID-19
ALERT LEVEL 4

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Remember, we are currently at Alert Level 4 and are expected to remain so for a number of weeks. For full information on what Alert Level 4 means visit: <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/current-covid-19-alert-level/>

11. VERSE OF THE WEEK

Watch,
STAND FAST IN THE FAITH.
be brave, be strong.

I CORINTHIANS 16:13