

# MENPS News

Te Whare Akoranga o Maungawhau, 28 February, 2020

## Alert Level 3 - Distance Learning Recommences Mon, 1 March

### From The Principal

Kia ora koutou

There's no way to avoid feeling pretty devastated to find ourselves back in Level 3 after feeling like we were just getting back into the routines of daily life.

However, we now have the job of staying focused and determined as we return to the balancing act of working and learning from home, and it is our role to support this as best we can.

This one is for at least a week, so it is important to be up and running as quickly as we can and keep our children happy and engaged in meaningful learning.

Just remember that it is about doing what you can realistically achieve. I know it is easy to worry about our children missing out and the possible impact on their learning, so it may be a little comforting to take a look at the graph below, which shows an overview of our 2020 achievement data (which I'm publishing a little ahead of schedule!) in reading, writing and maths.

Naturally, our achievement results vary depending on the cohort of children (which is to be expected), but the trend line is consistently strong and well above national data (so don't believe everything you read in the media about declining standards!). I share this because it shows that - despite everything in 2020 - our students continued to achieve the same outstanding results, with significant number not only meeting but far exceeding year level expectations in the foundation subjects.

It may seem counter-intuitive, but I believe the combination of our amazing, motivated children, dedicated staff and parents who support their children's learning enables us to weather rough seas when we need to.

The situation we are in once again may not be what any of us would want, but I hope it helps reinforce the sense that our community, our children (and their learning) can be more resilient than we expect, and that a challenge doesn't have to mean a crisis for their learning.

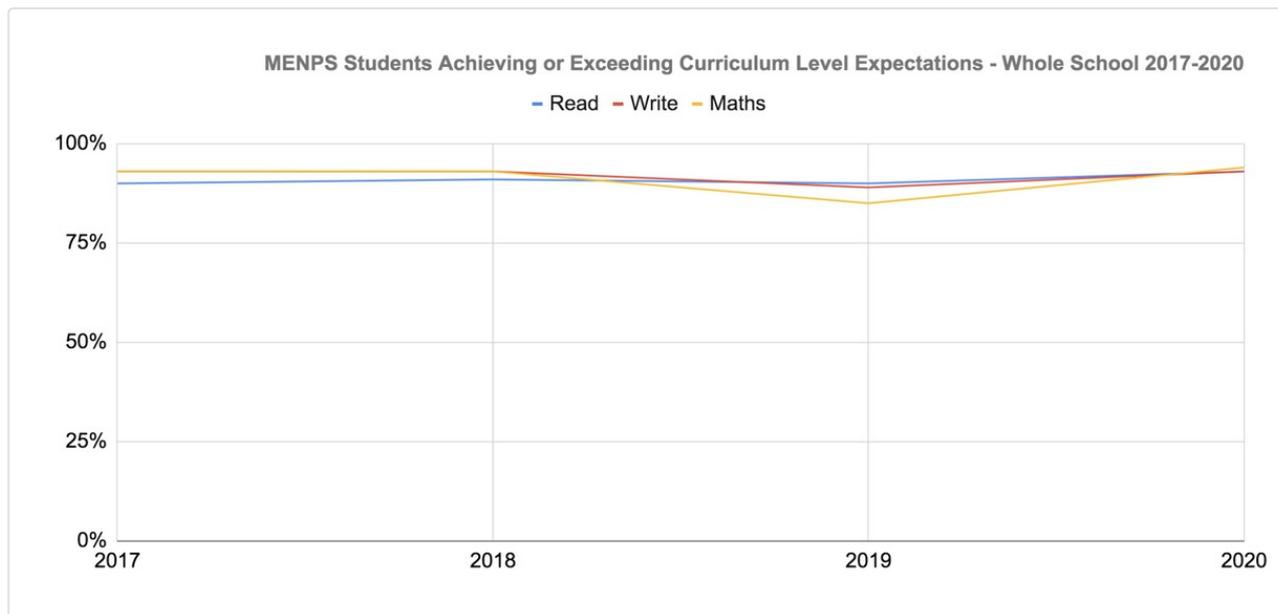
As in previous Level 3 Alert levels, children must be kept home from school. For those households in which all adults are required to work on site and who have no other caregivers to fall back on, it is essential that you fill out the form (even if you have done so previously) to let us know, and wait to hear back from us.

I know everyone will be hoping for a return to classrooms as soon as possible. In the meantime, take care, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Ka kite anō au i a koutou

Alan Jackson  
**Principal**

## Despite COVID and the Challenges of 2020, MENPS Students Are Still Going As Strong As Ever!



MENPS Distance Learning - Information for Parents



————— **MENPS** · DISTANCE LEARNING —————  
*Login • Check In • Schedule • Share Back • Celebrate*

The MENPS distance learning programme is designed to be as self-explanatory and self-directed as possible, but please let us know if you have any questions or need additional support.

Key Principles of the programme:

- **Work at your own pace** - we appreciate that parents may want to select parts of the programme, or aim to complete as many tasks as possible. This is a temporary mode of teaching and learning, and it has obvious limitations and challenges. Above all, we encourage you to be realistic in terms of the expectations you place on yourself and your child in order to achieve a balance and a schedule that is right for you and your family
- **Keep it fun** - you will have access to a range of tasks. Some of these will be more 'drill and practice', maintenance type tasks, while others will be geared towards topics to inquire into. We aim to provide a range of material, and encourage you to consider prioritising tasks that your child feels confident completing and is motivated and excited about, rather than a chore or a level of challenge they find daunting or demotivating
- **Aim for self-direction** - we will be working to tailor programmes to meet the children's needs. You can assist by supporting, facilitating and be as involved as you are able to be, but the programme doesn't need to be run as a homeschool model, and you should not have to assume the role of the class teacher as in a school classroom. We appreciate that many parents have ongoing work commitments themselves, so try to use the programme in a way that encourages independence as much as possible
- **Balance screen time** - we believe it is important to try to include aspects of the MENPS approach to teaching and learning as much as we can, encouraging independence, inquiry and discovery. You will also find that while there will be digital content, many of the tasks

are designed to be completed 'offline', which is strongly encouraged. Our programme is not designed or intended to glue children to a screen all day

- **Keep in touch** - working in isolation will be a challenge for children, teachers and parents. There will be a daily video from your child's teacher, suggestions for items the children can share back for comment, and please email your child's teacher if you have any questions. In the event distance learning continues for an extended period of time, we will be considering other ways in which we might be able to create groups, connections and a sense of cohesion for the children within each class

## Getting Started

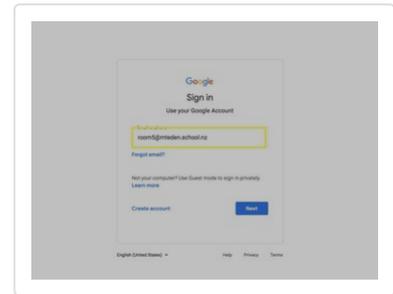
1. Visit the link (directly below) to access the 'Home Learning' page on our website. Select the 'Click here to login to MENPS Distance Learning' button to be directed to the login page (we recommend bookmarking the page):

 Home Learning | menps

[www.mteden.school.nz](http://www.mteden.school.nz)

### 1. Login

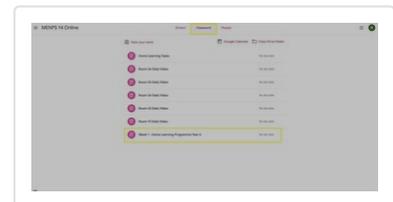
Our distance learning materials are available via Google Classroom. To access this, simply enter the email login and password for your child's room (eg: [room2@mteden.school.nz](mailto:room2@mteden.school.nz)). Your password should be included in this email (above), but please contact your child's teacher if you have any difficulty logging in.



(If a welcome screen opens asking if you are a teacher or a student, click student)

### 2. Check in

Once logged into the Google Classroom, click on 'Classwork', where the teacher's video clip and weekly tasks can be viewed.

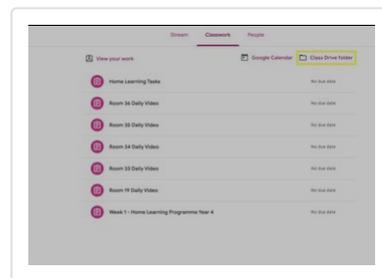


### 3. Set up a schedule

Go over the tasks and instructions, agree activities for the day and discuss any materials/resources that may be needed

### 4. Share Back

The programme includes some items the children are invited to share (these are colour coded in the programme notes). Documents, images and other files can be uploaded into the named folders in each Google Classroom. Look for the 'Class Drive' folder as shown below:



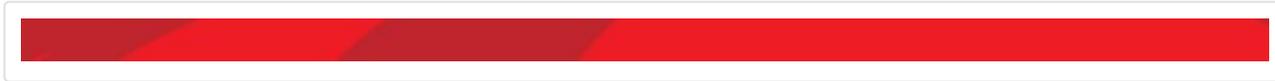
## 5. Celebrate

Set aside some time for your child to share what they have achieved for the day. What did they enjoy? What did they find hard? What was easy? What are they most proud of? What are their goals for the next day?

## English Language Learners and Learning Support

The programmes for each year level are designed to include a range of challenge to suit children with differing needs. If your child has an identified learning support need that might require additional provision, however, the class teacher will email you directly to advise on how the programme might be adapted to better suit their needs.

Parents of children in Years 2-6 who are new to English will be given access to a specialised 'ESOL' Google Classroom, which they can use instead of/in addition to the regular distance learning programme.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How long will distance learning be in place?**

At this stage, Level 3 is scheduled for 7 days

### **Does my child have to complete all the activities?**

No. The activities are designed to be self-paced. Part of your role as a parent will be to determine a schedule for your child and set some 'must-do' and 'can-do' tasks, at your discretion

### **What if I am concerned about screen time?**

These are extraordinary times, and we are operating under unprecedented constraints. Each distance learning programme is designed to offer a balance of online and offline activities, however. All screen time is not equal, particularly when it engages with learning. We encourage you to set limits and help select a variety of tasks for your child.

### **What if I or my child needs clarification or has questions?**

Please contact your child's teacher via email (see the staff contact list below)

### **Will the teacher be video conferencing children individually/in groups/as a class?**

We will be returning to a group video conference schedule as soon as possible. Details for this will be posted to your child's google classroom

### **Will my child receive feedback on their learning?**

Items that are uploaded/shared into the Class Drive folders within Google Classroom can be commented on by the teacher or teachers, which they will be engaging with regularly during distance learning. Some other online tasks will give feedback in real time

### **What if my child has specific learning needs?**

Most of the distance learning activities will be differentiated to allow for a range of needs. Parents of children who have specific learning needs that may require some adaptations to the programme or suggested alternative activities will be emailed directly by the class teacher

### **What if I and/or my child is new to speaking English?**

Google translate is not always perfect, but may be a useful tool to support those learning English. For those very new to English, alternative classes have been set up online, and you should receive an email soon with further information on this, available in both English and Mandarin

### **What if I would prefer my child to engage in other projects at this time?**

We leave that decision up to parents, but encourage you to go over the weekly programme, consider how you might get your child as involved as possible in a way that works for you and your family, and talk to them about your expectations and their progress. It is important to try and ensure learning does not become a chore for children or for their parents, so getting this balance right will not look the same for every child

## Contact Us

 Staff | Mt Eden Normal Primary ...

[www.mteden.school.nz](http://www.mteden.school.nz)

Meet the MENPS team



### Keep in touch

 Facebook

Check back on our website, or join the official Mt Eden Normal Facebook page to keep up to date!

 [admin@mteden.school.nz](mailto:admin@mteden.school.nz)

 [mteden.school.nz](http://mteden.school.nz)

