

# MENPS News

Te Whare Akoranga o Maungawhau, 13 April, 2020

## Term 2 Distance Learning Begins Wed, 15 April

### From The Principal

Kia ora koutou

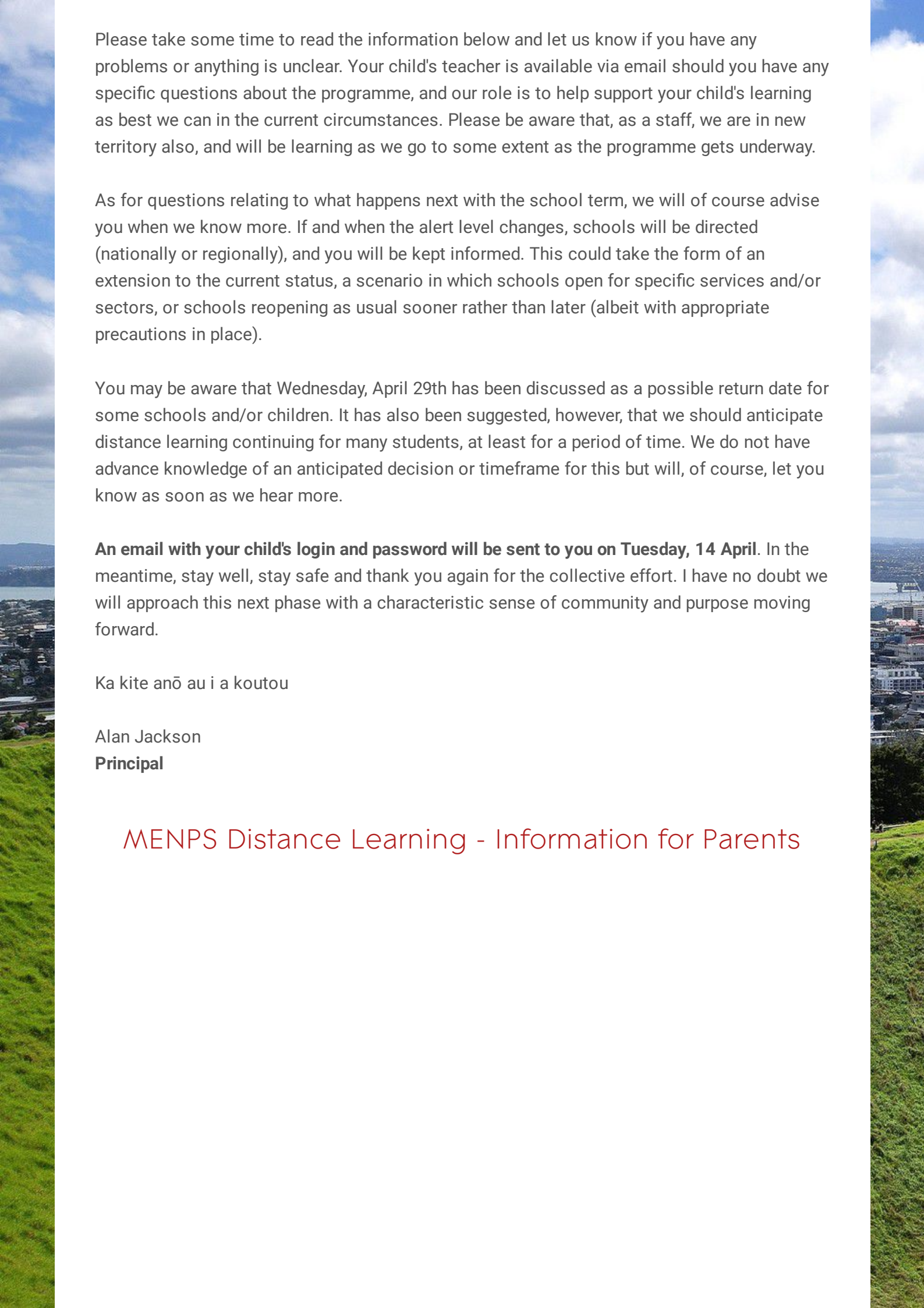
I trust everyone has managed to use the term break to take stock and find an equilibrium that includes some quality family time in these unusual circumstances. In particular, I would like to acknowledge all of those families with one or more parent involved in essential work, whose dedication and service has enabled us to rise to the challenges we are currently facing as a country.

This is certainly a situation unlike any that we have faced, and one that has led to unique adjustments to all of our lives, including our children's education.

As you will be aware, Term 2 commences via distance learning on Wednesday, 15th April. Our aim is simple - to provide a meaningful, engaging and flexible programme to support our tamariki and families at home during the lockdown. To be clear, it is an imperfect model. We cannot hope to replicate the experience of being in a class at school, but we have given careful consideration to how we might integrate some of the key principles of the MENPS vision and approach to teaching and learning within the constraints placed on us.

A key message I would like to emphasise, as before, is to keep expectations of yourself and of your child realistic. This is not a homeschool programme, and you should not feel the pressure to recreate the sense of 'school' any more than you should assume the role of a relieving teacher (we strongly recommend resisting any temptation to line your child up in uniform to take the roll after breakfast or ringing bells at regular intervals each day!).

Above all, we appreciate that all families will have their own pressures and commitments, particular for those working from home, and recommend that you approach and implement the programme in a way and on a schedule that works for you. Learning takes many forms. If there is an educational silver lining in the midst of the challenges we face, it may be in terms of engaging your child with experiences and passions beyond the materials we provide. You know your child best. The distance learning programme is ultimately a resource that we will be working hard to make as engaging and flexible as possible, and I would encourage you to reflect on what this may look like for you and your family.



Please take some time to read the information below and let us know if you have any problems or anything is unclear. Your child's teacher is available via email should you have any specific questions about the programme, and our role is to help support your child's learning as best we can in the current circumstances. Please be aware that, as a staff, we are in new territory also, and will be learning as we go to some extent as the programme gets underway.

As for questions relating to what happens next with the school term, we will of course advise you when we know more. If and when the alert level changes, schools will be directed (nationally or regionally), and you will be kept informed. This could take the form of an extension to the current status, a scenario in which schools open for specific services and/or sectors, or schools reopening as usual sooner rather than later (albeit with appropriate precautions in place).

You may be aware that Wednesday, April 29th has been discussed as a possible return date for some schools and/or children. It has also been suggested, however, that we should anticipate distance learning continuing for many students, at least for a period of time. We do not have advance knowledge of an anticipated decision or timeframe for this but will, of course, let you know as soon as we hear more.

**An email with your child's login and password will be sent to you on Tuesday, 14 April.** In the meantime, stay well, stay safe and thank you again for the collective effort. I have no doubt we will approach this next phase with a characteristic sense of community and purpose moving forward.

Ka kite anō au i a koutou

Alan Jackson  
**Principal**

MENPS Distance Learning - Information for Parents



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**MENPS · DISTANCE LEARNING**

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*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

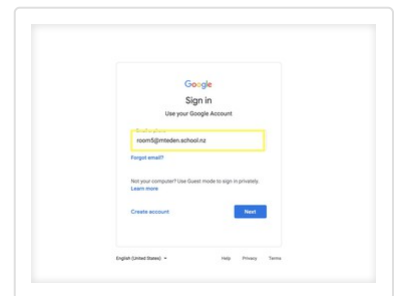
1. Visit the link (directly below) to access the 'Home Learning' page on our website. Select the 'Click here to login to MENPS Distance Learning' button to be directed to the login page (we recommend bookmarking the page):

 **Home Learning | menps**

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

### 1. Login

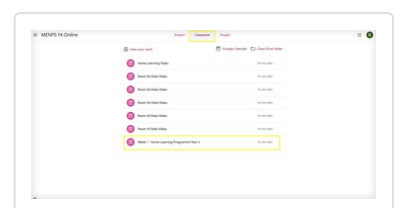
Our distance learning materials are available via Google Classroom. To access this, simply enter the email login and password for your child's room (eg: [room2@mteden.school.nz](mailto:room2@mteden.school.nz)). This has been sent to you via email.



(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.

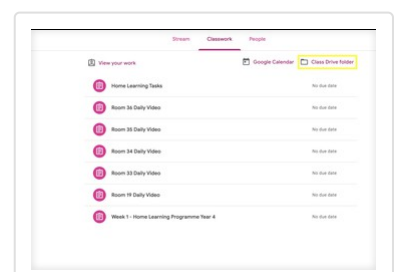


### 3. Set up a schedule

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?**

The simple answer is that we just don't know for sure at this stage. The distance learning model will stay in place while school is fully (or partially) closed

### **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?**

Not at this stage as we aim to keep things as simple as possible, although the teacher will be posting video greetings that can be viewed at any time

### **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)



