

Jireh Christian School Newsletter



20 May 2020

Home Baking— Ginger Slice. Yum!



NOTE:

Teacher Only Days for Term 2
and Term 3 have been cancelled:
11th May and 31st August.
Remember—no school on
MONDAY 1 JUNE (Queen's
Birthday)

Dear parents

I commend you for the fantastic job you have been doing with your children during this interesting time. There has been such encouraging feedback with inspiring learning happening in homes. This is a great opportunity to reflect on life in lock down with children who are engaged in online learning. I would like us to learn from our experiences and look at ways to approach learning in the future.

I think we are all agreed that the world will never be quite the same again and that there are better and smarter ways of doing things, like more people working from home to lessen time spent in traffic. This saves so much time and is kinder on the environment and our mental health. Perhaps too, it has taught us how important it is to spend quality time with God and with our family and that these practices need to be a priority to be continued, even after coming out of hibernation. There has been so much good that has come out of this time and I would like to harness some of this to enhance the learning experience for our children and better support you in your learning journey with your child.

It has also been a time when some of the things we have had to do, have not been optimal, like not seeing loved ones or spending too much time staring at a screen.

I know that many of you will have wonderful stories to tell of the activities you have done with your children and of course some of the stresses experienced. Although we are all in the same sea we are in different wakas and our stories will reflect our successes and challenges. I would love to hear what worked well for you as a parent/teacher and what ways we can improve this

experience should it ever happen again. Hearing from you will also help to form how we do learning in the future. We were due to do some parent workshops next week but due to the Alert level 2 restrictions we will not be holding these workshops until it is safe to do so. We will frame these workshops around what you would like, to support you in the task of being a parent/teacher. Please can you follow this link to complete a survey which will help us serve you and your child better, by Friday 29th May.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rMWR8H8x0EC3c4fgEVY4GQA7V5lzKZDrP1pFvtF3GJUNIJHqjNVDm4VTNKQlNNNzBYUkcZUzdROC4u>

One of the main concerns of coming back to school after such a long time away is safety. For physical safety we have put measures in place to help stop the spread and adhere to the guidelines given by the Ministry of Health and Education which include keeping good hygiene habits, spraying and hand sanitizing regularly, washing hands regularly, coughing into the crook of the elbow, keeping visitors on site to a minimum, not having whole school assembly or other unnecessary outings or gatherings and social distancing.

Equally important is the mental and emotional safety of our children. We have been very mindful that coming back after such a long absence is exciting and happy for some but for others it can cause anxiety. The teachers have prepared lessons and activities to help students adapt back into school life as smoothly as possible, giving opportunity to discuss and debrief over the highs and lows of lockdown. Some of the things that will help your child settle into school life again are

- Reconnecting and building relationships with teachers and friends.
- Reassurance by talking about what has happened and that they will be safe to learn at

'We are a Christ centred community where learners are nurtured to glorify God'

school again.

- Model calm, happy and friendly behaviour.
 - Getting back to classroom routines which brings a sense of security and normality, knowing what is coming next.
 - Keep communication and expectations clear and easy to understand and follow.
- Please let the classroom teacher know if there is anything, they should be aware of or if there is anything they can help with, to ensure your child is learning happily and confidently at school each day.

Yours in partnership,
Sandra Bosman

Why chess?

- * Improve concentration and focus
- * Develop important life skills – fair play and decision making
- * Tactical & Strategic thinking
- * Prepare for Chess Tournaments against other schools
- * Develop a love of chess, of learning and of thinking.

CHESSE POWER COACHING

PROGRAM. Each session starts with a formal lesson; all players will learn a new strategy, idea or skill each week. Then they put those skills into practice with activities and games. All games are monitored and supervised by the coach who provides individual feedback along the way.

Throughout the program, we reward kids that do well and encourage and support kids that are struggling. At the completion of the program, we recognize each child with a certificate based on their performance.

CLASS DETAILS The chess coaching program runs on **Tuesdays** until **30th June, 5:15 – 6:15 pm**. The fee will be \$70/student for the term. The sessions will be held using Zoom application. A new full 10-week program will be made available for Term 3. You can find the time frames and dates for your

school here

<https://www.chesspower.co.nz/register>

Your child will need a microphone and a device connected to the internet. In many respects, the service we will deliver will be similar to what your child will experience in our in-person classes. Although there may be some changes to personnel, as best we can, your child will have the same Chess Power chess coach. Once schools re-open and it is safe to return to school, we will deliver the remainder of the classes in-person. **Register today!**

For more information please contact paul@chesspower.co.nz or phone 021 0271 5577 or visit

www.chesspower.co.nz and click Parents Centre.

CHESSE TOURNAMENTS: Visit

<https://www.chesspower.co.nz/page/auckland-events> (Online Cluster Tournaments). During the lock-down, cluster tournaments will run every Monday for a group of clusters. You can find out which cluster your school is part of by visiting [our clusters school list](#). Cluster tournaments will have online commentary and coaching elements included. Prizes will be shipped to the host school of each cluster for collection. Your school will be invoiced \$10/child for your entry into our cluster events.

ICAS Entries now due

It is time to receive entries for the ICAS exams for 2020. The format and cost of these exams is the same as last year. If you would like your child to enter one or all of the following exams, please email Vicki Morris on vicki.morris@jireh.school.nz with your child's name, class and the name of the exam/s you would like them to sit. They may choose from Digital Technologies, English, Maths, Science and Spelling Bee. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Writing exam is not being offered this year. Each of the ICAS exams will be sat **on-line** and will cost **\$18 each**. Once Rolene has received your payment, she will advise me and your child's entry will be submitted. Please note that it is necessary to have a minimum of 3 students entering any one exam. The deadline for entries is **Friday 3rd July**.

*From God, For God
I Atua, Hoki Atua*

PRAYER

Prayer is usually at school 8:30am Wednesday mornings but because of Level 2 restrictions, there will be no on-site meetings until further notice. However, please be encouraged to pray! Would you please consider calling a fellow Jireh parent to pray with them and lift up our school and community in prayer?



Second-hand uniforms

We still (!) have an over abundance of stock. All pieces are \$5 per item, although you will need to purchase a new logo from NZ Uniforms to sew onto whatever you buy. There are some good quality polar fleeces, worth taking a look!



Children's community Dental Clinic

The Dental Service is not able to offer routine appointments during Level 2. If your child is in pain, or you have an immediate concern, phone 0800 TEETH to speak to a therapist. Some clinics are able to offer appointments to children with urgent dental care needs. Should you have any questions or require further information, contact our area Clinical Team Leader; Louise Taberner 021467170.



+64 00 9 836 6913

+64 2108538662

administration@jireh.school.nz
www.jireh.school.nz

63 St Georges Road,
Avondale, Auckland 0600