



30th April 2020

Tēnā koutou katoa ngā mihi ki Te whānau o te Kura o Rimu – greetings to all families of Rimu School.

Kia kaha, kia māru, kia atawhai (be strong, be calm, be kind) are the key messages being shared during Lockdown and I'd like to take a moment to thank all of our amazing whānau and kaiako (teachers) for the strength, resilience, calmness and kindness you have demonstrated while transitioning to home learning. Our team and myself have genuinely appreciated your positive feedback and kind messages of support over the last month.

For me, a positive that has emerged from being in Lockdown is a resetting of what is important and how we spend our time, the importance of whānau, the joy we can feel from the smallest of things and the significance of aroha - kindness and empathy. For many people the future presents many uncertainties and aroha for others will be the key to supporting each other. You may have seen in the media the story of Captain Tom Moore from the United Kingdom, the 99 year old World War 2 veteran who wanted to raise money for the National Health Services to acknowledge the hard work they were undertaking in the fight against COVID-19. I was inspired by the mana motuhake (determination and resilience) he demonstrated when he undertook his own personal challenge of a walkathon doing laps of his garden, intending to raise 1000 pounds and is currently close to 21.5 million. His story is truly inspiring and has touched the hearts of many people across the world. In fact, so much so that a Bowie inspired tribute to him has been created which I thought you might enjoy watching - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiECYd0KBU5>

It has been heartening, interesting and at times quite entertaining to see (via SeeSaw) what our students have been getting up to in their home learning. Thank you whānau for your support and the awesome mahi you are doing to support your tamariki with their home learning. From our perspective the safety and wellbeing of your family is paramount, so please do not feel any pressure over perceived expectations with distance learning. It is important to recognise all the wonderful learning that you have your child/ren engaged in everyday such as; learning to make their beds, helping on the farm, helping in the kitchen, around the house or in the garden. These are all important life-long learning experiences. The SeeSaw learning we provide is essentially invitational and focused on maintaining basic reading, writing and maths skills with some other challenges just for fun. Here's a snapshot of some of the learning our tamariki have been engaged in:



