



Papakowhai School

Learning Together



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PAPAKOWHAI SCHOOL NEWSFLASH

18 March 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Response to Friday 15th March

On Friday there was a terror attack in Christchurch that killed and injured many people. We are all deeply shocked and upset by what has happened.

The victims and their families were part of the Muslim community here in New Zealand. We have many Muslim families here at Papakowhai School and we want to show our love and support for them.

We have a lot of Police families here at Papakowhai School. Some of our parents have gone to Christchurch to help. We acknowledge that this may be worrying for some of the children.

Today as a staff we met for 10 minutes before school to talk about how to speak with children about the events of Friday. We followed advice from the Ministry of Education.

This is what we talked about:

- We acknowledged that there had been a terrorist attack in Christchurch and that many people had been killed or were injured.
- We acknowledged that many people will feel upset, angry, confused or overwhelmed by what happened.
- We asked the children how they were feeling and acknowledged that their feelings were normal and okay.
- We reassured them that they were safe at school. We cannot promise that terrible things will never happen but we have things in place to keep people safe at school.
- We acknowledged that the accused was in police custody and that the Police and emergency services did a fantastic job. Teachers and children in Christchurch school went into lock down and kept everyone safe in schools.
- We talked about positive actions to support people who were feeling sad or upset.

I encouraged teachers to stay in their normal Monday routines and to keep children away from media that was focussing on the attack.

The children did want to talk about how they were feeling and teachers were able to sensitively address concerns they had. We have focussed more on how people are feeling rather than facts about what has happened.

Please note if Papakowhai School goes into lock down we will communicate with you on Skoolloop, email and Facebook. If you do not receive the school newsletter digitally, please urgently contact the office so we can help set that up for you.

PAID UNION MEETING NEXT WEDNESDAY CANCELLED

In light of Fridays' attack NZEI have cancelled all paid union meetings. School will be on as usual from 8:55-3pm on Wednesday.

HEALTH CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS & CAREGIVERS CANCELLED

The evening to be held in the staffroom on Wednesday 20 March at 7:30 pm only received three RSVP's. The consultation will now be sent out as a digital survey. There will be details in Wednesday's newsletter.

SCHOOL PICNIC AT AOTEA LAGOON IS ON!

Our annual school picnic is on Thursday 21 March. **Due to maintenance work at the Lagoon we will only be walking. There will be no bikes this year.**

We will walk to the lagoon to show safe walking for Moving March. Parents/Caregivers and whanau are welcome to walk with us (we will leave at 11:45am) or you could drive to the lagoon and join us for lunch at 12:30 pm. We will be meeting on the grass field by the playground. The children will do a range of activities in their whanau groups, including sharing ice-blocks together. We will head back to school at 2:15 pm. **This event is about being and walking together so we ask that parents/caregivers collect children from school at 3pm and not from Aotea Lagoon.**

Children will need:

- Lunch as normal
- A drink bottle with water
- Sunscreen
- Sunhat
- Walking shoes
- Whanau coloured clothing. Please check with your child's teacher if you are unsure of the whanau colour for your child.

It will be good to have a happy occasion to look forward to.

If you have anything you would like to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Mark Smith

PRINCIPAL

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