



PAPAKOWHAI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 6 Term 2 20th May 2020

Kia ora koutou

THANK YOU

It has been quite a journey over the past two months! We have come through the other side of lockdown and I think we can all be proud of how we have come through this together.

I want to whole heartedly thank the staff for their flexibility, willingness and commitment to their students and the school during this unusual season. They have done a superb job of distance learning, looking after children in Level 3, keeping the administration of the organisation going and preparing the school site for everyone's return.

Thank you to the children. They have been wonderful returning to class this week. We have had over 95% attendance. They have brought enthusiasm and fun back to the school this week.

Well done to all our parents and caregivers. You have been amazing juggling home life and distance learning. Thank you for the way you have stayed in communication and supported your children and our teachers during this time. Thank you for respecting the Level 2 protocols we have in place; you have made these easy for the staff at school to implement.

NEW NORMAL

Things are slowly returning to normal, but it is a "new" normal for at least the time being.

We are keeping your children safe by:

- Limiting the number of adults in the school grounds
- Doubling the number of cleaning hours, we contract each day
- Encouraging children to wash their hands, cough into their elbows and stay home if they are sick.
- Keeping records for contact tracing
- Limiting across-class interaction
- Staggering the end of day finish to prevent overcrowding

We will review access to the school site and our Level 2 protocols at the end of next week in consultation with Ministry of Education advice.

There will not be assemblies or sporting events with spectators this term. We are planning to have certificate presentations each week with a small group or recipients which we will share online with you. We will communicate with you as soon as sporting events can restart.

We are thinking about not holding a major production in Term 4. Our production would involve a mass gathering of close to 1000 people and we are not sure when this would be permitted. We are thinking of using Term 4 to hold sporting events that could not be held over the winter season. We would look to hold the major production in 2021 instead. I would be keen to hear your feedback on this.

A full description of our Level 2 protocols was provided in last week's newsletter. Please check our website for more details.

LEARNING and WELL-BEING

I do not want you to be anxious about your child's learning. The children have participated well in distance learning over lockdown and I feel confident that they will continue to make good progress.

The area we have identified as needing focus this term is reading for our Year 1- 3 students and students in Years 4 - 8 who find reading challenging. This will be a focus for our teachers over the coming weeks.

If you and your family have experienced a difficult time during lockdown and you think this may impact on your children's learning or well-being you are welcome to discuss this with me or contact your child's teacher.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school.

Ngā mihi

Mark Smith

PRINCIPAL

mark@papakowhai.school.nz

RECEIPTS TO CLAIM YOUR TAX CREDIT FOR DONATIONS

If you have not received or have misplaced your receipts to claim your tax credit and need another copy please email heather@papakowhai.school.nz You are entitled to claim one third of the amount paid back as a tax credit.

There has been a change to the IRD system so these can be scanned and sent through at any time. To check out how to do this, search "submit a donation receipt" at www.ird.govt.nz

URGENT MESSAGES ONLY VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE

This week, while families have settled back into the routine of school, we have been happy to relay messages to your child confirming their pick-up arrangements. However, due to the way the office runs under Alert Level 2 restrictions, we no longer have runners to help deliver these messages and we currently have a reduced number of staff in the office. From tomorrow, we would ask that you ensure your child is certain about how they will get home or whether they are going to After School Care, when they are dropped at school in the morning.

We understand that emergencies and unforeseen events happen and we will continue to deliver messages in those circumstances.

THANK YOU HOME AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We would again like to thank our wonderful Home and School Committee for helping man our gates during Level 2. These mornings are not warm and to have you come and help get everyone in the grounds safely is appreciated.

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

We would like to clarify that, because the last school holidays were moved, Term 2 began on Wednesday 15 April. This means that this term will be 12 weeks long as the next holiday dates remain as planned i.e the last day of Term 2 will be Friday 3 July and Term 3 starts on Monday 20 July.

UKULELE CLUB

The Thursday morning ukulele club will not be running this week at school.

DENTAL VAN CANCELLED

We have received notification that the dental van will not be coming to school next week. We await new dates.

GOODTIME MUSIC BUS LESSONS

We have been informed that the Music Bus will be back on site from next week, Wednesday 27 May. They have shared with us their plans and procedures for contact tracing and cleaning of their instruments. Children will be expected to sanitise their hands on entering the bus and all surfaces, instruments etc will be cleaned between groups.

2020 GREAT KIWI ENGLISH, MATHS AND SCIENCE PAPERS – for students in Years 5 – 8

These online competitions will be completed during the first three weeks of Term 3. To register, please complete and return the form at the end of this newsletter or email office@papakowhai.school.nz stating your child's name and the subjects they want to enter (English, maths and/or science). Please pay the fee of \$9 per paper by internet banking to account 12-3140-0133108-01, using your child's name and UCCAM as references.

GUIDING IS FREE FOR TERM 2

GirlGuidingNZ are offering Guiding free for Term 2 as well as digital programmes Pippins Explore and Brownies Explore free for all of 2020. Take a look at these links:

<https://girlguidingnz.org.nz/join-us/#joinform>

<https://girlguidingnz.org.nz/explore/>

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE

Monday 1	Queen's Birthday public holiday – school closed
Tuesday 2	Previously advertised Teacher Only day is cancelled – school open as usual

JULY

Friday 3	Last day of Term 2
Monday 20	First day of Term 3

UCCAM ENTRY FORM (Year 5-8 students only)

I give permission for my child/ren to participate in the following 2020 UCCAM competitions:

CHILD'S NAME	CLASS	SUBJECT

I enclose \$ _____ (\$9 per subject)

OR

I have paid by EFTPOS on _____

OR

I have paid by internet banking (12-3140-0133108-01) on _____

Please reference with child's name and 'UCCAM'.

Parent/caregivers signature: _____