

Wednesday 17 June 2020



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Community Consultation: Covid-19 Alert Level 1 We are back



While we are still at **Alert level 1** and we are enforcing strict handwashing and hygiene practices I was delighted last week to see our tamariki out to play. There was tiggly, skipping, hoops, hop scotch, the adventure playgrounds basketball and netball all in action. This is fantastic for our children as they reconnect with their friends, keep fit and have fun.

We have done well with beating Covid-19 in New Zealand. Keeping our borders secure is now the main focus to keep the virus out. The other thing we need to continue keeping up is

our good hand washing practices. This means a thorough wash and drying of your hands after going to the toilet and before eating. The recommendation is a 20sec hand wash (same length of time as singing happy birthday to yourself). Soap not only kills the Covid virus it also kills general cold and flu bugs too. So as we move into winter please reinforce handwashing at home as we will at school and let's try and keep everyone healthy.

A reminder too Doctor's visits are free for children under 14 years old.

Reading Tip: Want to help your child succeed at school? Try this advice from well know author Mem Fox.

Ten read-aloud commandments

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes *every single day* reading aloud.
2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read.
3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don't be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.
4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.
5. Read the stories that the kids love, over and over and over again, and always read in the same 'tune' for each book: i.e. with the same intonations on each page, each time.
6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing any old song that you can remember; or be noisy together doing clapping games.
7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in

books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.

8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start the child's name and yours, remembering that it's never work, it's always a fabulous game.



9. Never ever *teach* reading, or get tense around books.

10. Please read aloud every day, mums and dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it's the right thing to do.

Matariki



Matariki is the celebration of the Maori New Year and we will begin our activities in **Week 12 (Monday 29th June)**. Throughout that week we will have a range of fun activities using tuakana tenia principles which is older students teaching younger ones. We will have Junior School classrooms going over to the Middle School for a range of fun activities such as weaving, games, kapa haka etc. Hard to believe but as we celebrate Matariki it means we are half way through 2020. And while it is a long



way back to summer the shortest day which is on 22nd June means that gradually, ever so slowly the sun will be returning with its light, longer days and its warmth.



Complaints

With the best will in the world things can sometimes go wrong. It is a fact of life & when things go wrong how we sort it out is important. At home you know if one of your little ones hits their brother or sister you talk to them about their actions, that you love them but not what they did and that there will be consequences if this behaviour continues-time out, no Tv, sent to bed early, no play station etc. Even if you don't fully recognize it every family will have a way of handling problems and getting things right again. The same applies to school and we give it an official title- a complaints policy. Basically if something is of a concern to you, the best thing you need to do is come in and see me about it. No matter what the issue is you need to talk it over with me or our management team. This initial conversation may mean that there is further investigating and reporting back to you later but talking it over is the fairest way to deal with things. Your help with this is appreciated.

Junior Awards

The hardest working pupils this week are: Taulauniu Tanielu & Racheal Afu for working hard and showing good manners and being a good role model.

Yours truly,
John Shearer
Principal

Return Slip (Return this slip and go in the draw for a book prize!)

I have received the newsletter & I have read it.
Signed.....

