

Wed 8th February 2022

Dear Parents/Whanau,

Welcome back to a new school year

If you are brand new to our school a special welcome. If you are returning after the school holidays I hope you all had a great break and I look forward to catching up. Thank you to all parents who have bought new uniforms and stationery our pupils are looking smart and ready for the challenges of new learning. With uniforms can I encourage you to label everything- we end up with so much lost property but without a name it is almost impossible to tell who owns what. The first pieces of lost property are already turning up! To start your child off at school on a good footing, we provide **all Year One pupils with free stationery and a \$100 uniform voucher. All our year 5 & 6 pupils have been given a chrome book to assist them with their learning.** The chrome book will remain the property of the school but the device will be used by your child for the year.



Community Consultation: Covid-19 Traffic light Red

Well, Covid continues to challenge us and we have had yet another variant to deal

with- Omicron. Thankfully as you know it is less dangerous but unfortunately easier to spread and it will spread throughout NZ. The Ministry of Education and Health have said however that it is safe for children to be at school. We have put in place extra measures to keep everyone safe

Ventilation:- windows and doors are wide open.

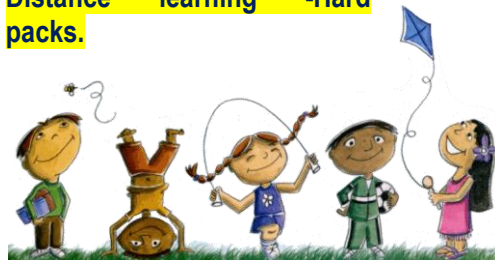
Vaccinations:- all our staff are at least double jabbed and will soon be triple jabbed

Vaccinations for five- to eleven-year-olds is now underway and the Ministry of Health encourages you to get your child vaccinated to help protect them from potentially serious illness. I strongly recommend you see your family Doctor about this.

Face Coverings:- Staff and children in Years 4-13 years must wear a mask when working inside the classroom.

Contact tracing:- We have good contact tracing with our class rolls marked twice a day so if there is an infectious case at school, we can quickly identify who was a close contact and what they need to do. For this reason, **please make sure to keep all your contact details with us up to date.**

Distance learning -Hard packs.



We will also work closely with Ministry of Health and Education and take their guidance on what to do when we have a case identified. Only with their advice would we consider moving to distance learning. However, with an abundance of caution approach we are sending home hard packs with your child. Please put them in a safe place for now unopened- just in case.

And of course, disinfecting practices and encouraging good hygiene will continue. Again, the simplest but most important thing that we all can do is wash our hands. It kills the virus immediately. We will also continue to remind pupils to stay home if they are unwell and to seek medical advice. So be reassured that the way we are operating as safely as we can.

Every day counts:-

Finally after so much disruption last year your child needs to be at school every day to get on with their learning. **This is my best advice at Traffic light Red get your child into school.**

Junior School Bell times

Just a reminder that the Junior School **Starts at 8.45am**

A good time to drop your child off is around 8.30am. This helps your child drop off their bag and get ready for school.

Finishes 2.45pm

If you are picking up your child, (especially if they are little) you need to be on time or a few minutes ahead of the bell and waiting for them up by the Main Gate. Occasionally a child has gone off to play

with friends and when you turn up and he/she is not there it is such a worry to your heart. Please be on time picking them up and wait out by the Main Gate.

Akenese Esau – Taefu R.I.P.

It is with great sadness that I need to inform you that Mrs Esau- Taefu passed away on the weekend. Mrs Esau- Taefu was a long serving teacher in the Junior School. She was a dedicated teacher and spent long hours working to get the best outcomes for the tamariki in her care. For some pupils she was nearly a second mum and she was held in high regard and affection by all those who knew her. Mrs Esau-Taefu's funeral is being held next Tuesday and in order for our staff and whanau to pay their last respects our Board Chair Mr Salesa has agreed to **close the Junior School on Tuesday 15th February.** The Junior School will reopen on **Wednesday 16th February** at 8.45am. As I know you will please keep Mrs Esau- Taefu and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.



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.