

WHENUAPAI SCHOOL

Living is Striving



March 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Givers

We want to update you on some of our recent decisions for Term 1 in line with the Ministry of Education and Health Organisation recommendations:

- We have been encouraging your children to follow the Ministry of Health hand washing procedures, numerous times during the day.
- We are discouraging hugs, shaking hands, hongis, or close contact.
- We are encouraging our children to come up with a Whenuapai elbow/ankle greeting
- Tissues, soap and paper hand towel stocks are kept replenished.
- Any students showing any signs of illness are taken to the Wellbeing Centre (sickbay) and immediately sent home.
- The Wellbeing Centre is now a room only used for children who are sick. Any injuries are being triaged in the Administration area.
- All Team assemblies and our school fortnightly Hui and have been postponed until further notice.
- No large group gatherings are utilised for teaching procedures.
- All trips, sports events and activities for Term 1 have been postponed. This includes tennis, swimming and all school trips.
- Year 5-8 camp has been postponed.
- Fundraising activities, including disco and bake sales have been postponed until further notice.
- Our usual end of term team/class shared lunch will not take place this term
- We need you to ensure your child has their own named drink bottle by Friday as the drinking fountains will be available to fill drink bottles but not to drink from.

We will continue to communicate any further updates as they come to our attention.

The teaching staff have been working really hard behind the scenes, to create a platform for us to continue to deliver the curriculum to your child, in the event of school closure.

Now we are asking you to work with us. We are going to ask you to support us in our bid to adopt the 1.5 metre distance from other people's children.

Therefore, when you are dropping off and picking up your child, please:

- Remain in the following designated areas and allow your child to come to you.
- Do not enter the learning spaces or crowd around the doorways.
- If you are dropping things off during the day or picking your child up for an appointment you will be asked to wait in the reception area and your child will come to you

As from tomorrow Friday 20th March we will be implementing the following:

Mornings:

- Parents and Caregivers are to drop their children at the front gate.
- Please do not walk your children to class. A walking bus will operate inside the school grounds from 8.30am for children who need this support, otherwise children will independently go to class. Children will be met at the gate by a staff member.
- Please do not come earlier and congregate outside the Office area. Either wait on the grassed area in the front of the school adopting the 1.5 metre social distancing recommendation or if possible have your child/children stay with you in your vehicle until 8.30am

Afternoons: There will now be designated areas and times for pick up

- Parents and Caregivers picking up children in Year 1-4: Your children will leave class at **2.45pm** and be walked in their classes to the grassed area outside the staffroom
- Parents and Caregivers please enter the school grounds using the side gate by the staffroom
- Please wait on the grassed area outside the staffroom
- Please do not go to classrooms. Your children will be walked to the grassed area by their teacher
- The children will be dismissed by their teacher at 2.50pm at the designated area-the grassed area
- We ask that you do not come before 2.45pm as we want to minimise the congregating of parents and caregivers in one space
- Please respect the social distancing recommendation of 1.5m

Parents and Caregivers meeting Year 5-8 children. Your children will be dismissed at the usual time of **3pm**.

- Please wait on the grassed area in front of the school outside of the gate or in your vehicle.
- Bus children will line up as usual at 2.50pm in front of the Reception area

These preventative measures are to keep our children and staff safe. These measures will be reviewed in response to the changing situation, recommendations from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education

Thank you so much for supporting our school in this extremely trying time. It is certainly a time for us to embrace our Whenuapai Family values and paddle our waka in the same direction.

Please note we are aware that there is misinformation circulating that we are closing from tomorrow. At this stage I can confirm we have had no directive from the Ministry of Education to close.

In the words of Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education, we will do our best to maintain our school, as the “safest place for your child to be”.

Kind regards

Raewyn Matthys-Morris

Principal