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Newsletter

Number 1

22 May 2020

Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz



Thank you

... for your support during lockdown. We think our parents are pretty amazing.

People of the week

... our Virtual talent Show participants.
... our "meeter greeters" (at the gate each morning)
... staff on extra hygiene duties.
... parents for their 100% co-operation with, and support of, our level 3 measures.

Virtues Focus for 2020

Please continue with the CARING virtue for the moment ... as relevant now as ever.

Term calendar ... *More to follow as dates come to hand!*

TBT (sorry, will post next week once details have been teased out)

Fri July 3 Final day of term 2??
Mon 20 July First day of term 3

Fitness for school

It is ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL that sick children are NOT sent to school. There are no conditions that would warrant this. To send a sick child puts other children, and staff, at risk, and could have serious knock-on effects. So, if your child has a cough, a sore throat, head or body aches, fever, breathlessness etc., please keep them home and seek medical advice if necessary. Please keep them at home for a minimum of 48 hours after cessation of final symptoms, or longer on the advice of their doctor ... **always err on the side of caution.** We suggest that you have a contingency plan in place in the event that your child is unwell, or in the event that the school contacts you with a request that you pick up your child. If you are contacted by the school to pick your child up please arrange this promptly, they can be collected from the school library where a staff member will be waiting for you.

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Children still on distance learning

Approval has been given for a very small number of children to remain home on distance learning programmes, in most cases for one more week. The Ministry of Education expects that all children will be back at school now, unless there is a good reason for them not to be. If your child has not returned to school, and they will not be at school on Monday, and you have not yet contacted the school for approval, please email Kevin urgently on principal@matarau.school.nz

If your child is struggling in re-adjusting to school ...

... we have staff in learning and pastoral support roles who are more than willing to help out. If you would like someone to monitor and support your child over coming weeks please email Mrs Robertson rrobertson@matarau.school.nz

Television and covid-19

It is possible that TV news is not helping some children to process the events around covid-19. The news tends to be negative, and this can lead to amplified levels of fear and anxiety. Children are less able to contextualise and process some events/images, given their comparatively limited life experience, and so you may want to monitor their exposure. Might be worth the effort.

Sausages and Friday lunches

During Level 2 there will be no sausages on Wednesday and no Friday lunches.

Pool Keys

If you hired a pool key last term thank you. It will soon be time to collect these and so maybe hunt around and get your key ready for return. We will request these in a couple of weeks when we have more open site access.

Headlice

Unfortunately, we are unable to undertake our customary term headlice inspection during level 2. Please be diligent at home. We request that you check your child's hair this weekend, and thereafter weekly, and treat, where necessary, before their return to school. Thank you!

Senior Tech Classes at the Hukerenui Tech Centre

Please note that year 8 students will continue tech classes through this term and slightly into term 3. Year 7 students will start after this (maybe around week 4 of term 3). The disruptions to programmes last term have made this adjustment necessary to preserve the integrity of both programmes.

Drink Bottles

As drinking fountains have been temporarily decommissioned, please ensure all children bring a drink bottle to school each day. We have processes for refilling these if required.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING MEASURES CONTINUE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Pick up time at end of the day - level 2 only

In order to avoid congestion, and facilitate the safe transfer of students at the end of the day, we are requesting that parents, *whose youngest child is in years 1 and 2*, pick **all** of their children up at **2:40 please and then vacate the carpark**. The parents of the remaining children, whose *youngest child is in year 3 and up*, are asked to **pick their children up at 3:00 pm**. This should significantly reduce the number of children departing from the upper carpark at any one time. At 2:40 staff will be at the carpark to supervise the transfer of younger children to parents - just come to the gate and we will transfer your children safely into your hands.

Hopefully, this makes things easier and safer for all concerned. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Hours of operation and parents on site

During level 2 school will resume customary hours of operation. Children can be at school from 8:00 am, but we would prefer from 8:30 am where possible. Buses will operate according to their regular timetables. One of the conditions under level 2 is the maintenance of a Visitor's Register for tracking and tracing purposes. In order for this to be manageable (and accurate) we are requesting that parents do not enter the school site (excluding carpark areas) before, after, or during school hours, unless they have made a prior appointment with a staff member. If you have general questions, or wish to pass on information, please do this by phone or email, or we can zoom with you. If you have urgent business, please enter the school by the side gate (by the hall) and report straight to the office where you will be signed in and where, hopefully, we can provide the assistance you need.

So please, if you drop your child at school, farewell them at the gate, and we will take it from there. We plan to have staff at the carpark entry gate to welcome them with a friendly smile etc for the first few days, just to get them off to a great start.

International Schools English and Maths Competitions - Years 4 - 8

If your child took practice papers home for the lockdown they can continue to work on these, or return them to school if not required. We may be in a position to issue further practice papers in due course.

We suggest that children record their times and scores to track their progress.

After School Care

If you think you would use our After School Care programme please contact Tracey on 021 127 1115 to enrol, or for more information.

Finally

A huge thank you to parents for working with us during our extended period of distance learning. You were patient when things did not go to plan, stuck with it through the difficult bits, graciously acknowledged the efforts of staff, and have been a pleasure to work with. Staff have felt appreciated by you, and want you to know that they have appreciated your efforts in return. It is truly good to have your children back on site. Thank you also for adhering to our level 3 protocols ... you have all been amazing!
More to follow in the weeks ahead on how the term, and the year, ahead might pan.

Finally .. really this time

Please err on the side of caution. Keep sick children home. If you have concerns about someone else in your household, it could be prudent to keep your child(ren) at home as well until given the all clear.

Nga mihi
Kevin Trewhella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them

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