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46 Kaka Street Whangarei

Tel : 09 438 7209

Newsletter

Number 1

11 February 2022



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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

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Welcome to the 2022 school year. A special welcome to our new families.

Early Thanks

... to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.

...to parents who have already acted to ensure children are well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

... to our Parent Support Group for our new picnic tables and the concreted area by the junior school (and to Lisa Ryan for your absolute dedication to this project)

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

11 th February	Tech start for Year 8's
22-25 February	Camp Year 5/6
2 March	Individual Duathlon Event
3 March	Team Duathlon Event
13 March	Trial Bike Ride
7/8 March	Parent/Teacher Interviews
8 March	First meeting of BoT for 2022
14 March	Mid-point cohort entry
24 March	Hearing and Vision Testing
4-8 April	Year 7 Camp
14 April	Final day for term 1
2 May	Commencement of term 2

Term dates

Term 2 ... 2 May to 8 July

Term 3 ... 25 July to 30 September

Term 4 ... 17 October ... TBC (possibly 14 December)

Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every second Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website and are emailed - if you would like to receive your newsletter by email, and do not currently, please contact us.

Masks for visitors

A reminder please that masks are to be worn by all visitors to the school. Visits are for drop off and pick up and otherwise by prior appointment please.

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Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

To please advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day with the reason for their absence (the Ministry of Education requires us to code each absence).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers.

Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

Covid Mitigation protocols ... masks, mandates etc

These were emailed to families before commencement of school and have been posted on our facebook page. Please note that we can expect changes as the pandemic unfolds, but you will be advised of these as early as we can. We are happy to answer questions at any stage, and remain committed to placing you front and centre as decision maker for your child.

School Contributions /Trips and Events Fee

A reminder that school contributions and events fees are being paid by the Ministry this year, so you will not receive a donation request. We hope that this has enabled you to stretch the finances just that little bit further this year. Please note that there are a very small number of exceptions to this rule ... the school will still need to levy a fee for camps and senior technology fees.

Voluntary Donations

When we consulted last year, some parents indicated that they would still like to make a donation to the school in lieu of non-participation in fund-raising events, or to support other children to attend camps, buy school T-shirts and hats etc. The school has NO expectation that parents make such donations, and is not explicitly asking for these. If, however, you would like to make a tax deductible donation for purposes similar to those stated above, you are entitled to do so. Please give Paula a call if this is your intention. These funds will be set aside from other funds so that they are used for the intended purpose.

Digital Devices 2022 - year 5 and up (NOT REQUIRED AT YEAR 4 IN 2022)

We prefer laptops and chrome books, as these fill our device needs better than an iPad, but whatever your child has we will work with. Parents should feel under no pressure to purchase devices for their children ... this is your call ... we will do our best to provide as many shared (non take home devices) as we can.

We will continue to ensure that time on devices is not overdone, there will always be plenty of time for learning and interacting in a variety of ways.

Collecting children early

With current covid restrictions, parents are strongly discouraged from entering the school unless they have an appointment (and then masks and sign-in at the office are a requirement please).

If you wish to collect your child early please ...

... phone the office (not your child's teacher) when you arrive and wait outside the **side gate**

... your child will then be collected from their classroom and brought to you (this means they don't miss too much schoolwork)

Please allow time, when collecting your child, for the office staff to locate them and for them to collect all their belongings. (Classes may be on the bottom field, in the library, computer suite etc.)

Thank you so much for your co-operation ... you have been truly amazing.

Junior pick up

Just a gentle reminder that children departing early (2:40) should be picked up from the top carpark rather than the bus bay at the end of the day. This way we can supervise them all the way to you and be sure they are safe.

Corona Virus ... Omicron etc.

Please err on the side of caution, and remember that we have a duty of care to keep each other safe.

Consequently please ...

1. Do not send sick children to school
2. Especially do not send your child to school if they have a cold, cough, running nose, fever, or other flu like symptoms.
3. Have contingencies in place in the event that you are asked to pick your child up from school
4. Keep your child at home for at least 48 hours post final symptoms
5. Keep the school advised of any matters which have the potential to impact widely.
6. If you visit school, please sign in and out from the office (with the exception of a relatively quick drop off or pick up)
7. **Advise the school urgently if you or your child have covid or are close contact.**

If concerned, unsure, or have travelled overseas please contact Healthline at 0800 611 116 or your GP for medical advice.

If you would like information on the covid vaccine for children please email Paula on admin@matarau.school.nz (we have a number of hard copies we can send home on request).

School gates

The school gates help us to keep children safe. If you are entering, or exiting, the school grounds during school hours it is important to ensure you close these gates after you. If you are dropping a child at school after the morning bell please be aware that they may not be tall enough to open these gates on their own.

Cell phones

We realise that some parents like their children to have a cell phone on them in the event of an emergency. If your child does bring a cell phone to school, please note that these must be dropped to the school office on arrival at school and picked up on departure each day. If you want to get a message to your child during the school day this should be channelled through the school office who will deliver the message to your child.

Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. All items can be purchased from **Baigents** in town (class stationery lists are available from our office on request). Additional stationery can also be purchased throughout the year from the office.

Scholastic

The new scholastic book club is out. Please send all orders to the office or order online by 25 of February.

Punctuality

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call, we understand that sometimes things don't quite go to plan. Many thanks.

Learning Support Programme

A number of parents were advised last year that their children had been placed in Learning Support programmes to commence 2022. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected.

School Swimming Pool

The school pool was booked for some major repairs and a repaint last year. Due to covid lockdowns, labour shortages, MoE process requirements, and a backlog of work, we have waited in a long queue with others. We thought we finally had this booked for January, but this has been moved to February, so fingers crossed. We are pushing to have this done as soon as possible and will keep you posted.

Bus Times

Bus times and routes are as at the end of last year and are available on our website. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.

End of Day Buses

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

Term Headlice Inspection

... will not take place this term due to covid distancing and contact protocols. Please check your children's hair weekly, and respond promptly in the event of infestation. We will resume inspections when circumstances allow. Thank you.

Pick up of Children

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by Room 13, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.
2. If dropping children off in the upper car park please note the designated drop off zone.
Please do not park in the zone and move on as quickly as you safely can.
3. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.
4. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:20PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office).

Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).



Medications

Medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. **Where we currently hold medication for your child, please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

Communications

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair, and will accommodate you where we can. Where an issue involves a dispute between children, please remember that the school is required by law to apply "natural justice" principles to every investigation, this involves hearing all sides and gathering good information, and keeping some elements of the outcome confidential. **Try to avoid settling on conclusions in advance of a thorough investigation by the school, as incidents always look a bit different when placed in their wider context.**

In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher, but senior staff are always available down the track, or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude,

ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems ... **although, remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week, may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week, and a considered non-response can build resilience. Remember, also, that when you question your child, there is a better than even chance that they will tell you what they think you want to hear.** Parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second, or third, or fourth piece of relevant information. We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask.

Homework

.. information to follow within next week or two.

Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

Research has that the following simple actions have a very positive impact on learning ...

- .. **drinking plenty of water.** Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).
- ... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM (or earlier) is suggested for all children.
- .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.
- .. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

Have your residential / contact details changed?

... if so please let Paula know.

If you formerly resided out of zone, and are now residing in zone, we are particularly keen to hear from you. In zone children generate more funding ... which means more and better resources for students. So please let us know next week if your children were balloted into the school initially and have moved into our zone since then.

Lunches

Remember you can order a nice warm lunch every Thursday or Friday Sushi. Orders need to be in on the day before 8am. Please visit the website www.lunchonline.co.nz for ordering.

In the event of a local escalation of omicron cases

In order for us to prepare for possible staff absences in the event of a local outbreak, we asked parents a couple of weeks back if they ...

1. Could support home learning relatively easily if needed
2. Could support home learning at a push
3. Would prefer home learning for health reasons in the event of a local outbreak

If any of these options suit, and you have not already advised us, please email Miranda this weekend on admin2@matarau.school.nz stating preferred option.

O2O

Final Word

A huge thank you to staff, parents and students for an amazing first week. We have loved reconnecting with students, and they have certainly loved reconnecting with their friends. There were a number of new things for people to get their heads around before start of term, but you have well and truly stepped up to the challenges. We have over 90% compliance with masks, and few complaints from children, even though masks are uncomfortable in this heat. **While mindful of the inconvenience and impact of some measures on children, and parents, we have been blown away by how well they, and you, have coped.** As omicron unfolds you can expect changes in our response, so please keep an eye on our facebook page for early notification.

A final reminder of the Board's commitment to you as the primary decision makers for your children. You will be kept in every significant loop moving forward.

Finally, you can be super proud of your children, we certainly are. **Do something special this weekend.**

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Community notices

Te Manawa Tahī

If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional wellbeing, or behaviour, TeManawa Tahī have specialists available so you can discuss your concerns directly with them.

This is a free service and each site will be identified by a Te Manawa Tahī flag. Drop into a hub or make an appointment by phoning 0800 5248 4256 or emailing TT.Support@education.govt.nz.



Te Manawa Tahī Community Timetable



WHANGĀREI

All hubs are open from 9:00am until 12:00pm unless otherwise stated.

If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional wellbeing, or behaviour, Te Manawa Tahī have specialists available so you can discuss your concerns directly with them.

This is a free service and each site will be identified by a Te Manawa Tahī flag.

Date	Hub Locations	Term 1 2022
Thu 17 Feb	Ministry of Education Office 24 Kaka Street, Morningside, Whangārei	
Wed 2 Mar	Whānau Focus Centre 61 Victoria Street, Dargaville	
Thu 10 Mar	Ministry of Education Office 24 Kaka Street, Morningside, Whangārei	
Wed 23 Mar	Bream Bay Community Trust (10:00am to 12:30pm) 9 Takutai Place, Rukākā	
Thu 31 Mar	Ministry of Education Office 24 Kaka Street, Morningside, Whangārei	

Drop into a hub or make an appointment by phoning **0800 5248 4256** or emailing TT.Support@education.govt.nz.



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FESTIVAL DAY

**9:30AM
TUESDAY
22 MARCH**

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Our Year 5 & 6 Whangarei Festival Day is a great way for schools that have been learning how to play to show off what you can do!

Come and show your whanaungatanga through the sport of cricket where fun is our number one outcome.

For further information please contact

Rob Geaney or Liam Jones - Junior and Youth Development officers
021481696 or 02108334455