



## Matarau School Newsletter Term 1 Week 8

### Update on the school's covid status

It seems that we are now entering an anticipated period of peak covid cases. Our guess is that numbers will remain high through much of next week.

#### ***As already advised***

... We started last week with around 15% of students in isolation or testing positive

... Finished last week on around 20-25% of students in isolation or testing positive

... Started this week on around 35-40% in isolation or testing positive

#### ***New info***

... We are finishing this week with around 60-65% of children in isolation, testing positive **or on distance learning**.

The numbers of absent children have remained roughly evenly spread across rooms. We also have a significant number of staff members in isolation.

We are requesting that (if possible) ...

... children **currently at home**, remain on distance learning next week please

... **that children not yet on distance learning, transition to distance learning from Monday if this is possible.**

While we will **keep the school operating** at some level for those who are unable to have their children at home on distance learning, children who are on distance learning will be better connected to their programme and their regular teacher. This is probably the better option for them in the current circumstances.

**If you are unable to arrange supervision/distance learning for your child next week, and you have not yet responded to a message sent earlier today, please phone, email or leave a voice message advising of this and we will place your child in a class.**

Buses **WILL** run as normal next week, but please be aware that different loadings will inevitably alter pick up and drop off times.

## **And now to the regular newsletter!!**

### Thank you

... To our aquabot support team

... To those who joined distance learning programmes this week ... and to those gearing up to join next week.

### People of the Week

... Our aquabot team for doing us proud last weekend against very tough competition.

... Those beavering away at home on the HUMILITY virtue!

... Tyde Job-Neho who helped a much younger child with the late sign in procedure - well done Tyde. You showed great patience and care.

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

14 April Final day for term 1

2 May First day of Term 2

## **Easter break**

A reminder that Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> April is our final day of Term 1

### **School Sponsors 2022**

If you think you might be interested in becoming a sponsor for 2022 please contact Paula in our school office for information. Our sponsors are an important part of your school and we are always very grateful for their support.

### **Year 8 - Tech**

Please note, there will be no tech classes next Friday (8.4)

### **International Schools Competitions**

Over time interest in these programmes is diminishing. We know that children (and parents) lead busy lives, and it is not always easy to squeeze in the recommended practice papers. Further, these competitions are now moderated within the school, and are not sent offshore for marking and ranking, this means that our moderation process is not as accurate as it once was as we not have access to aggregated data. Having said this, and within the limitations specified above, we are willing to run this competition again for those who are keen, and who are willing to supervise two practice papers at home each week over an approximately six-week period. So, if are keen for your child to be involved please email Miranda in our school office next week at [admin2@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin2@matarau.school.nz)

### **AIMS Games - Year 7 and 8 - 3 to 9 September**

Any questions to Katie please on [kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz](mailto:kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz)

### **Coaches and Team Managers**

Already people are gearing up for winter sports. As in earlier years, we will be very much dependent on parents putting their hands up to support as coaches or managers. If approached, please give this serious thought. Without parental support we will not be able to register teams. Much more to follow.

### **Gearing up for Winter Sports**

When children wear our school colours on a Saturday morning, they bear a special responsibility to represent our school well. This means more than putting in your best performance on the field/court, it also means demonstrating sportsmanship, supporting other team members, playing fairly, encouraging others, respecting coaches and referees etc. Every child wearing our colours, and every parent who accompanies them, is expected to represent us this way, it is a condition to being in one of our teams.

The ultimate goal of all that we do (including playing sport) should be to grow character, in ourselves and in others. Please do not question referees, support coaches and managers unequivocally (and if you have a question see them early, privately, and with an open mind), respect the opposition (including their support team), and be careful with your words from the side line. Egos (not only children's egos) can be fragile, and so choose your words carefully. Please let us know of special Saturday achievements so we can celebrate these in the newsletter. Best wishes for the best season ever.

Kevin Trehella  
PRINCIPAL