

# Kia ora Koutou Katoa,

# WELCOME BACK

#### FINALLY!

We have been waiting a long time for the children to be back at school and finally we are. To hear the excited chatter, the engagement in the classroom learning and the spark in the teachers' voices around the school just reminds us of how much we missed "teaching" over the last 5 weeks. Online is OK, digital can be fun but it is the interactions, the banter, the bouncing of ideas that really makes learning exciting.

#### Here is the list of guidelines in place to help keep us as safe as we can at Level 2;

- 1. Children do not have to wear a mask but may, if families wish to do this.
- 2. Avoid contact and breathing on each other children should avoid touching each other and adults. Staff and students are to remain 1m away from children indoors, and 2m away when outdoors so that their breath is less likely to transfer to the other person. Teachers will remain as far away as practicable but are not required to be 1m in a classroom. Senior desks will be as far apart as possible, just as we have in other Level 2 situations. Juniors will be seated as far apart as can be managed. Classes will be widely ventilated, with windows and doors open.
- 3. The original message from the MOE is that sanitising the person is more effective than sanitising the equipment they touch. We will be sanitising our hands upon **entry and exit** of the classroom.
- 4. The drinking fountains are open but we suggest everybody must bring their own drink bottle.
- 5. Good hygiene message re-visited regularly cough into the elbow, don't touch other children, stay 2m apart in the playground. Sanitise.
- 6. We will eat in our own classrooms at lunchtime.
- 7. High contact areas such as desks, door handles, benches will be sanitised daily.
- 8. Work over the next couple of days will be focussed on the children's wellbeing and incorporate more socialising skills, reducing anxiety. We will return to "normal" routines Monday.
- *9. Children are to enter the school via the tennis courts gate.* If arriving before 8.30am the children will go to BSC, incurring the normal charge for attending BSC.
- 10. To reduce congestion we ask families to arrive at different times, especially in the afternoon. We have had a huge number of people in the carpark before 3pm and made it very congested, causing parents to collect children from the bus gate instead, or calling them across the road. If you arrive at 3.15 there is practically no-one left, you can drive in and pick up your children without even getting out of the car. Help us help you keep your kids safe. Don't all be waiting at 3pm.
- 11. <u>Any visitor/parent/relative must use the QR code, or sign in, at the office</u>, <u>including people late to</u> <u>school and bringing their children in.</u> The only place for adults to enter the school is through the Main Gate at the bus bay. Any visiting adult to wear a mask whilst on school grounds.
- 12. **Before and After School Care will be operating as normal, 7.30am 8.30am; 3.15pm 5.30pm.** Children going to Before School Care can be dropped at the main school gates, as these will be left open. Follow the usual process for picking up and ensure you sign in or use the QR code.
- 13. **Both buses are running again**. There are protocols with school buses that must be adhered to, but the 1m distancing/masks on public transport does not apply.
- 14. HATS! HATS! HATS! Please get children to bring their wide brim hats to be allowed to play in the sun.

#### **RESILIENT BEHAVIOUR**

The children have returned to school pretty well. There is still some anxiety amongst the children, and they appear more concerned about Covid than they have after either of the last 2 returns to school.

Staff are working hard to support the children, keep spirits light reduce those levels of anxiety whilst still keeping safe practices going. Here is a website you may wish to visit for ideas to help at home. Simple but effective.

www.healthnavigator.org.nz/health-a-z/c/covid-19helping-kids-cope-with-anxiety/

Even this older clip from world renown neuroscience Educator Nathan Wallis has some tips www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1632959260209446

# **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Hopefully everyone has received their photos that they ordered last term. They went home yesterday. If there are any problems with your order, or if you didn't receive your photos, please contact Masterpiece Photography directly.

### LEADERSHIP AND ALTRUSA AWARDS

At the final assembly we will finally present these two awards to the children who have done so well to earn them. Unfortunately, neither of the organisations who usually present them will be able to do so under current Level restrictions.

### SCHOOL HATS

Black bucket hats with our school logo on can be purchased from the school office for \$15. Please contact Roxy if you would like one for your child. Payment can be made into the school account

02-0316-0126443-000 at the time of purchase.

During Terms 4 and 1 ALL children must wear a bucket hat during playtimes and when classes need to go outside for activities.

#### SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Please clear your school account balance by the end of the year or contact Roxy to make a payment plan arrangement. School Donations are always optional but other fees such as stationery and bus fees must always be paid.

# WELCOME TO...



# CANCELLATIONS

There have been lots of cancellations because of the safety guidelines issued for schools. Even in Level 2 the MOE are saying "large events and activities do not take place, including those that bring parents and caregivers onsite". Over the next week we are discussing which events we normally hold at the end of the year will be cancelled, and which ones will be done differently.

Prizegiving assembly cannot be held the same way as we have done in the past but how we might hold it is being worked on. The same goes for the Year 6 dinner. Roto Athletics may go ahead, but it will be minus visitors (we were lucky to squeeze the Cross Country in when we did).

### AG DAY

Congratulations to those children who hung in there with their lambs and calves, and their gardens in a bucket. Virtual Ag Day is quite possibly *the* worst way to hold an Ag Day, but you all showed resilience and courage to complete it – that goes for the parents and adult helpers too, who put in an enormous effort constructing rings, asking judge-directed questions and supporting their children. Ribbons will be given out when we hold our next whole-school virtual assembly. The winners were as follows;

Lambs:	
Junior 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sofie-Ela & Coco
Senior 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mason & Mint Sauce
(both first in Rearing,	CFR and Leading)
Calves:	
Leading	
Presch <mark>ool 1<sup>st</sup></mark>	Rosalie & Pinky
Junior 1 <sup>st</sup>	ll <mark>a-Rose &amp; Spirit</mark>
Junior 2 <mark>nd</mark>	Archie & Cloudy
Senior 1 <sup>st</sup>	Henry & Radish
Senior 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Samuel & Muffin
Rearing	
Preschool 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rosalie & Pinky
Junior 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ila-Rose & Spirit
Junior 2nd	Archie & Cloudy
Senior 1 <sup>st</sup>	Samuel & Muffin
Senior 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Henry & Radish
Garden in a Bucket	
Junior 1 <sup>st</sup>	Penny
Junior 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Harper and Indie
Senior 1 <sup>st</sup>	Henry
Senior 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sophie

Harper who joins us as a new entrant and is very familiar with our school due to her sister Indie being here already. We also welcome Ezra to Room 2, and will no doubt settle in well with her two older cousins showing her the ropes!