


Kia ora koutou te whanau

As we greeted our students and families back to school last week it was uplifting seeing the smiling faces and eagerness to return. We have also welcomed new students and families to our school community which was a different start with the need to complete contact tracing protocols.

The health and safety procedures we developed have gone very smoothly and it has been brilliant to see how excited the children have been to get back to their learning and social routines. We are impressed with the patience and resourcefulness of everyone during this challenging time. Connections have been made differently with our whanau during this time, especially in supporting distance learning. These experiences will be part of our history. My parents have talked about the polio epidemic resulting in similar lockdown situations when they were children.

I would like to acknowledge our hard working staff who were thrown into a very different learning situation with huge changes needing to be made quickly to continue teaching but in an unusual way. We are very proud of our Tokoroa North School team.

*Ma te kotahitanga e whai kaha ai tātau
In unity we have strength*



Judith McLean (Principal)

PARENT / CAREGIVER REMINDERS!

With the current restrictions it is important the number of people coming on the school site is limited - therefore -

- Please do not collect your children before 3pm. Important learning continues until the end of the school day.
- If there is a reason you do have to come to the school you must sign in and out at the school office.
- Be aware the school gates do not open until 8.30am. Children are still being escorted to the school gates by staff. Please say goodbye there each morning and wait outside until children leave at the end of the day. Thank you for supporting us in keeping all our children and staff safe.



LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE Megan Lamb

Welcome back to a little bit of normality. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who kept our kids safe and happy during such an uncertain time. Everyone seems pleased to be back. It is really cool to see the children interacting with each other and hearing laughter and playing in the classroom again - it was quite a gloomy feeling when I was here by myself!

Just a reminder, if you still have classroom resources at home please send them back.

TEAM ONE (Rooms 2, 3, 4, 5, 20) Stephani Preston

*Tungia te ururoa kia tupu whakaritorito te tutū o te harakeke
Set the overgrown bush alight and the new flax shoots will spring up.*

In order to make change, we may need to leave some ways behind in order to do things differently. Different. How true these words are.

First, let me take this opportunity to thank our amazing staff who delivered amazing distance learning programmes into your homes. Many hours were needed to prepare and deliver, to engage, to undertake professional development online and to provide troubleshooting help along the way. I salute you and am in awe of the huge mahi that was put into your tamariki. To you, our whanau - well done for taking on the challenge to work alongside our kaiako and your child/children during lockdown. There were some amazing whānau stories that came out and it was fabulous to see the photos and videos shared on Facebook pages. You did it. To our tamariki. Thank you for sharing your homes with your kaiako during zooms and google meets. Well done for finding self-motivation and perseverance with tasks. Thank you for enlightening us with new talents and opening our eyes to new interests! You were amazing. Ako ngātahi ki te ora, together we learn for life.

Different. Different again when we returned to school. School was not going to be the same or look the same. Our return to school at Alert Level 2 meant many procedures and protocols needed to be put in place for everyone's safety. Along with the 'normal' hygiene practices, we have been having staggered play times and set areas to play. A survey given to our Team One children showed they felt safe back at school and they understood why the changes had to be put in place. They voiced a struggle with having restrictions about where they play so we have negotiated extra space for them this week.

Road Patrol and Other Team One Responsibilities

A huge thank you to those who have road patrol duties this term. Unfortunately, the Choices building being closed means the signs are not accessible so until then, there will be no Baird Road road patrol duty until further notice. Those children will be given notice as to when this will restart. In the meantime, Paraonui Road road patrollers will still continue their duties. There will be no Radical Readers or Room One buddies until further notice.



TEAM TWO (Rooms 8, 9, 17, 18, 19) Karen Tyrrell

It was wonderful to see most of the students back last week with so much to share and talk about from their time in lockdown. Everyone had an experience to share because it was different for us all.

We are now adjusting to being back at school with no touching, lots of hand washing and sanitizing and remembering to be kind both to ourselves and each other. I enjoy meeting all the students who come in the back gate each morning. It's a lovely way to start the day with big smiles and cheerful good mornings. Even though the cold has been a challenge for me many students are still wearing shorts and claiming they are not cold!

In Team 2 the classes are all working on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) experiments. These are a continuation of some of the activities you would have done during lockdown. The students are working together to solve problems.

With the lovely weather, we've been having P.E after lunch and skills are being practised with small balls. Students are playing with gutter-boards, participating in T-Ball, scatterball, relays and cricket games that we learnt last term.

We know you all did lots of reading to your child and listening to them read during lockdown. Please keep this up and help your child complete as much homework as they can.

TEAM THREE (Rooms 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16) Kim Lannon

Everyone is happy to be back to school. Lots of care has been put in place for the wellbeing of our tamariki; arriving at school to be greeted by a familiar person, support staff available to walk children to their classrooms, lessons in class about kindness and gratefulness.

Strict hygiene routines are in place. The children are aware of how important it is to keep their hands clean of germs. I have been making regular visits to the classrooms where all our Team 3 tamariki are engaged and enjoying school life, even assembly was done class by class. I was very impressed with the number of New Entrant children who knew all the finger rhymes and poems I had done at Friday's online assembly. Ruma Whitu won the "Golden Rubbish Bin" as the tidiest outdoor area in the Team. Congratulations Ruma Whitu!

READING AT HOME

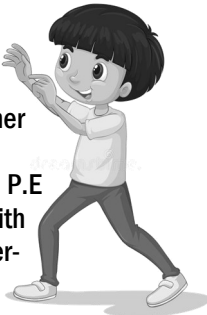
Please return the books to school that you were given for lockdown. Students will be bringing home books regularly again. Remember to keep reading to your children a lot. Children learn language through being social so read to them as much as you can.

LUNCHES

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to supply lunches until Level One. We will keep you informed. Thank you for your patience.

NETBALL

Lani Daniel, Tokoroa netball president, has been in contact and hopefully there will be a Junior netball competition next term if possible. I will send out more information once this is confirmed. If you would like your child to play netball or you are available to coach please contact me.



TEAM ONE

ARNAKA
Weird, funny, energetic, fun
Who enjoys playing with her sister and baking with her mum.
Who loves her family, seeing her friends at school and looking after her baby cousins.
Who fears the dark and riding on high roller coasters.
Who wonders when she'll get an i-phone.
Who wishes to be YouTube famous.
Who dreams she could get a cute baby brother.
Who feels like she is responsible to take care of herself and others.
Who plans to get a job at 15.
Who is going to work hard at school to achieve her dreams.

TARANI-AIVA KAITAI-MEACHEAM

Who is weird, independent, competitive and sassy.
Who enjoys sports, cooking, eating and hanging out with my cousin Teaghan.
Who loves my family, pets and travelling.
Who is fearful of thunder, lightning and losing my love ones.
Who wonders if witches exist.
Who wishes to go travelling with my family.
Who wants to go to Burger King for my breakfast.
Who wants to be playing netball and have no homework to do.
Who would like to get take aways.
Who can make an experiment out of a hot glue stick, foam and a packet of popsicle sticks.

TEAM TWO

In Room 19 we are pleased to be back at school. Some of us really liked home school and some of us didn't! We are enjoying being back at school, catching up with our friends and sharing lockdown stories.

TEAM THREE

What did we love about coming back to school?
• We were glad to see everyone and Mrs Barber.
• Mrs Barber is the best teacher. We love doing art and drawing.
• Tyler said, "We get to read with Mrs Barber and get more books."
• We like playing with the school stuff.
• Angus said, "My brothers aren't annoying me and it isn't as loud as at home."
We love learning and learning is cool.

ACHIEVEMENT BY PROMOTING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (APSEL) Raewyn Whiteman-Thorne

Sometimes one wonders where to start and, post virus, I think life is like that for a lot of us. We know what we can't do and what we want to do and somewhere in the middle is a point of balance that we will move on from over the next few months. I've watched our children come back to school and most are very settled. That shows me that you, as parents and teachers, have done an excellent job. Thank you all. I know it's been a challenge at times but I have heard so many good stories about what families have done and I hope it has been a time of reflection on what is quality in our lives. We know that is different for everyone. Thank goodness or we would all be the same and the uniqueness we value that makes our world different and interesting would be missing and life could be rather boring especially for our creative folk.

Everyone talks about the 'new normal'. I'm not sure we have a clear picture of what that is, or that I even like the term, but I know we are all responsible for our own behaviour and we can create our new normals. If ever there is a time when we can change the pictures of how we want life to be, it is now. So the challenge: what have you decided you want to be different in your family life and how will you work towards it?



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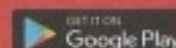
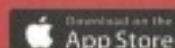
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Tokoroa North School Newsletter

Together we learn for life - Ako ngatahi ki te ora



02/2020