

FOXTON BEACH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2022

Kia ora koutou whānau,

This is the first school newsletter for 2022 and there is a lot to cover. I would like to thank everyone for the cooperation and consideration that you have shown towards the steps that we have had to put in place to start the year. As you all know we have moved to the red setting on the Covid Response Framework and that means we have to put steps in place to keep all our children, staff and parents safe.

As I mentioned in an earlier update, the Covid response that the Government has put in place means that many people have differing views as to the way things have been handled and the mandates that have been put in place. We respect that everyone has their own opinion, and in fact in a community you want people who challenge thinking. I have been really impressed with how our Year 4 to 8 students and their teachers have handled having to wear face masks while they are inside. This comes as we have one of the hottest summers in a long time and I think everyone has done an outstanding job dealing with them. I want to also thank those parents who brought their concerns to me and we were able to discuss the reasons why these steps have been taken and how we are managing this situation. It is through ongoing communication that we can work through issues as they develop.

I feel that we have put conditions in place that are a compromise but this also means that everyone has to be on the same page. Some schools do not allow parents to enter their grounds at all. We have gone the other way. We are allowing parents to come onto the grounds to drop children off and to pick them up but we require all parents to be wearing masks. This is due to the fact that when you are putting bags away or waiting for children to come out of class you are in close proximity to others and other children.

We ask that if you do not want to wear a mask that you please respect the conditions that we have in place and that you stay outside the gate and wait for your children to come out to you.

We are also allowing parents to come into classes but we ask that you sign in. Each classroom has a register for you to sign in and when you are inside you must wear a mask. We are trying to ensure that parents still have an open and ongoing relationship with the classroom teachers.

School Preparedness:

Obviously Omicron is in New Zealand and the number of cases is growing each day. We are naive to think that we will not have cases eventually at Foxton Beach and this will mean that potentially families and teachers will have to self isolate. The key message that I can give parents around this is that we will be putting steps in place to ensure that whatever happens we will be trying to keep our school open for instruction. I will be sharing information about the schools plans for what we will do when people have to self isolate very soon.

Teacher Only Day:

Last year we indicated that we were going to have a teacher only day on March the 4th as we were going to be having a day with Ngāti Raukawa at Matau marae. This has been postponed as we are unable to meet across school groups. However, we have now booked a **Teacher Only Day for the 14th of March** so we can work on a literacy approach across the school.

Meet The Teacher Evenings:

Sadly we have had to approach this evening in a different way. We were going to run an evening down at the beach where we were going to run some games, organize food and have it in a relaxed setting. However, we have checked on whether or not this is okay with the Ministry of Education and they have advised us that it would then mean that many families are mingling and it could end up being quite a spreader event. Therefore we are going to hold some sessions virtually so parents are able to connect with their children's teachers. More information will come out soon about this evening.

Hamish Stuart
Principal

Team Kotare

We have had a really good start to the school year. Our learners are enjoying cooling off in the pool. We are initially working through our Swimming Foundation Skills of safe entries and exits, pool confidence and floating. See our pictures ...



We have been working on developing our Hub rules and expectations. When we have finished these we will put them on Seesaw.

A large focus within our hub is developing our **Managing Self** skills. This is one of our Key Competencies, we are expecting students to have all their learning gear from their bags in the right places within the classrooms, hang up their bags, put their shoes neatly underneath their bags and put their activities away as soon as they are finished. You can help us by teaching your children to put their own clothes on at home. If they have shoes with laces, please give them supported time to learn to do their own laces.

Some exciting Play Based Learning is happening in our hub. We have had restaurants and shops open, floating and sinking investigations, sign writing, construction, problem solving, team work.



Team Tarānui

Welcome back to all our students, families and caregivers.

Team Tarānui has had a great start to the year. Our year four students are adapting well to working in our environment. We have a busy year ahead and look forward to meeting you all when you can make it in to see us or joining us on Zoom to Meet the Teachers next week.

We welcome Mrs Christine Harrison to our team on Thursday and Fridays. We look forward to her sharing her experience and interests with us.

Swimming is well underway. It is our PE programme for Term 1 so we expect everyone to bring their togs everyday.

With the hot weather we are experiencing I am sure they look forward to swimming.

We are holding our annual sleepover at the end of March. If you wish to help out please check you have the requirements needed .

Please feel free to email one of the team with any concerns or questions you may have, or drop in (masks on please) for a quick chat before or after school.

Kuaka Hub

The Kuaka Hub has had a great start to the term. We have spent time getting to know each other and checking out some of the class systems that will work this year. We have sorted our stationary and organised our job rotations and it is great to be working with so many students that are keen to help.

We have started our Treaty of Waitangi focus and have had a go with descriptive writing and an acrostic poem based upon our names and interests. This week we'll be checking out an art focus based around black and white photography and our favourite body parts! Awesome start to the term Kuaka Hub.



Meet the Kotare Teachers via zoom 3.45pm

15th February

Meet the Kuaka Teachers via zoom 5pm

15th February

Meet the Tarānui Teachers via zoom 3.30pm

17th February

Home & School Committee AGM, 6.30pm

23rd February

Year 4-8 Swimming Sports

9th March

Teacher Only Day

14th March

Please remember...

- *to send your child with a drink bottle everyday*
- *to send your child with their togs and towel everyday*
- *to name your child's uniform*
- *to update your contact details (phone numbers, addresses) with the office.*
- *Text your child absence to 027 3638331 before 9 am*