

FOXTON BEACH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8TH FEBRUARY 2023

Kia ora e te whānau.

Welcome to week 2 of term 1 2023

It was great to see all the children back at school and excited to be in their new hubs and for some, new environments. It was really special to welcome all the new children and their families at our powhiri on Monday. It has been a while since we have been able to hold a powhiri as there have been restrictions etc.

Class Makeup for 2023

This year we have changed where all of the hubs are and who is teaching in those spaces. Clearly our communication around this did not get through to everyone. We have had to change the mix of some of the hubs due to the number of children we have in some year groups.

We have our New Entrants and some year 2's in Team Kōtare and some of the year 2's to year 4 in Team Tarānui. This is a good example of how we could not have all the year 2's together or it would be too big a group. Therefore, some of the year 2's have to be placed in the next hub.

Some of you may be asking questions as to why there are children from year 5 to year 8 in one hub. There are now three teachers in this space so the ratio of children to teachers is about 1 to 27, which is pretty good.

Some of you have asked questions about having older students with younger children. What we have seen for a number of years now is the concept of tuakana/ teina. This is where the older students support the younger students and act as role models etc. We feel it develops leadership skills.

This is not new having mixed year levels in classes/hubs, as with the size of our school, we have always had composite classes. For example, last year, Kuaka Hub was year 6-8. In the past, Kōtare have been year 0-4, and Tarānui have had year 4-6. Every year we have to adjust this to work for the current roll. No doubt it could look different again next year.

All teachers are trained to be able to teach any year level and if a teacher were to only be taking a year 5 class, there are always students that are working above where they need to be and students who struggle to be at that level, so we cater for their individual needs.

My teachers are very good at getting to know their learners and will teach to their level and set work that will challenge them. We have always done this.

In each hub, the children have been organised into home classes where they do spend a lot of time with one key teacher. Please see your hub newsletter for more detailed information about this.

If there are any ongoing questions about the makeup of the classrooms please talk to the teacher first and they will explain how things are being done.

Attendance in 2023

We are setting a goal this year around the attendance levels at school. This has been in the media a lot lately and quite frankly, things do need to improve. We are aiming to have 90% of the children at school for 90% of the week. To be able to achieve this we need to have a mindset shift from parents. It is classed as an unjustified absence if they are going shopping, getting a haircut, picking someone up from the airport or the all time favourite..... It's their birthday!

For children to learn and be a part of lessons etc, they need to be at school. We sometimes hear parents say that their children struggle to make friends. When they are at school consistently they make better connections with peers. I am going to put out some more information about our attendance strategy moving forward but we can't make progress unless we have parents on board as well.

Beach Education

We are undertaking the Beach Education program again this year as we feel it is crucial for our students to have an awareness of the power of the ocean. New Zealand's drowning statistics are shocking and recently in the northern part of New Zealand, six people died in one day. We will need the assistance of parents as it is water related, we have a very low ratio of parents to children. If you can help, please send back the form that was sent home.

School Closures

On Tuesday the 28th of February there is a stop work meeting for all teachers in Levin starting at 1:00pm. Usually we can send some teachers to the Levin meeting and some to the meeting in Palmerston North so we can keep the school open. However, none of the teachers can attend the meeting in Palmerston North this time.

This means that we need to **close the school at 12:30 on the 28th of February**. If you are a working family and you are unable to find child care for that afternoon, please phone or email the school as we will have teacher aides on site for supervision.

Please contact the school no later than 9:00am on Monday the 27th.

We also have a teacher only day on **Friday 3rd March** where all staff will be attending training with other Horowhenua schools. School will be closed on this day.

Hamish Stuart
Principal

Upcoming Events

8th February	Home & School Meeting 3 pm Board of Trustee Meeting 5.30 pm
15th February	Beach Education year 3 & 4's
16th February	Beach Education year 5 & 6's
17th February	Beach Education year 7 & 8's
28th February	Teacher Union meetings - school closes at 12.30 pm
3rd March	Teacher Only Day - school closed