



Tuesday 1st February 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

A heartfelt 'welcome back' to the 2022 academic year and a special welcome to all our new students that started school today. Our New Entrants looked particularly excited to start their schooling journey. We trust this will be a wonderful year full of exciting learning opportunities for all our students. We have had some fantastic weather over the summer break. I trust you all got some time to spend with your whānau and friends, and to travel around our beautiful country.

Once again we are unfortunately starting the term with some uncertainty, but please be assured that we will do our very best to maintain a stable, supportive environment at school. We only receive any information from the Government about changes at the same time that you do, so will endeavour to keep you abreast of anything as soon as we have received notification from the Ministry of Education and have had time to process, and plan as required. Please see further information detailed under the 'covid 19 reminders' section at the end of this newsletter.

In spite of being in RED on the Covid-19 Protection Framework, we have a busy term coming up including the **Year 5 Camp** to Mangawhai Heads planned for Week 6, **Inter School Swimming, Parent Interviews and Goal Reviews in Week 7**. Please keep an eye on the calendar that is on the school APP, and on the Facebook page. Please also note the contractual **teachers only days (TODs)** on the 14th February, and 14th April. These are residual days from last year that were unable to be used due to the lockdowns. Teachers use these days to attend professional development sessions, a vital part of ensuring they are up to date with the latest information required to teach students effectively. Please note this on your calendar for reference.

We have the usual **School Assemblies** on the calendar, however until we are advised otherwise parents will not be able to attend. I am hopeful that this will not last long, and that we can welcome you all back to join us to celebrate our students' achievements, and watch their fabulous performances.

There is a **PTA Welcome Morning Tea** for new parents to the school planned for the 15th February, an invitation will be sent shortly. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents that have recently joined our school community, and to ask any questions that you might have about how things operate on a day to day basis. It is held at a local cafe, and is very informal.

Later in the term the first stage of our **Reporting to Parents** cycle takes place with **Parent Interviews and Goal reviews**. A notice with booking details will be sent home closer to the time. This is an opportunity for teachers to inform parents about what learning goals they will be focusing on and to give parents the opportunity to share their views on their child's learning needs.

Our event planning is a little up in the air at the moment, with a few things in the pipeline that we may be forced to postpone once again. Thank you to all the parents, Board members and staff that are beavering away in the background trying to make it work. We are hoping to bring you the **Model Boat show, Summer Fun Run, and Charity Golf day** during Term 1.

Keep an eye out for fliers coming home, and please do help out where you can. These events aren't able to go ahead without parent assistance. Any time you are able to spare is gratefully appreciated.

We would like to remind you that we have students in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 who have **severe or life-threatening anaphylaxis (allergies)** to a variety of nuts, seeds, eggs, wheat, rye and barley. The Year groups affected have been emailed with specific details for each Year group of what food we are requesting isn't brought to school. A physical copy was also provided to children today, so please check your child's bag. If we could request that all school families remind your children not to share food with other students due to safety issues. Any questions please contact Wendy Chittenden.

General reminders:

- School starts at 8.45am and finishes at 2.45pm. Kindly allow your child plenty of time in the morning to unpack their bag and settle into the classroom. If your child is late please park in the community carpark and then proceed to the office to sign your child in to school.
- When utilising the **Kiss, Drop and Drive zone** in the morning please do not stop for prolonged periods, this holds up the flow of traffic. Students should have everything they need ready to exit the vehicle quickly and safely.
- At this stage the uniform shop will not be open. Please order any uniform items on KINDO, or email uniform@matakana.school.nz.
- Please inform the school office if your:
 - child is sick (use the school app, email or 24 hour phone answering service).
 - contact details have changed.
 - child has a new health issue or medical condition.

Covid 19 reminders:

- If your child is unwell please keep them at home, and if necessary have them tested.
- If someone in your household is isolating at home, or has been identified as a close contact please take advice from the Ministry of Health as to whether or not your child may attend school. Please advise the school office ASAP.
- Please farewell students at the front or rear pedestrian gates where possible in the morning. In the afternoon, any students being collected will be sent through the gate that exits into the community carpark. Please wait at the entrance to the carpark gate. School pedestrian gates will be locked during school hours.
- Any parents, non-essential visitors or contractors that come on to the school grounds during school hours MUST sign in at the school office. Masks must be worn at all times, and the QR code scanned.
- All parent helpers (e.g. Garden to table) working in school are required to be fully vaccinated, and will need to provide a vaccine pass as proof.
- The Covid 19 guidelines requiring student mask use in Years 4-6 comes from the Ministry of Education under directive of the Ministry of Health. This is to provide an added level of protection to students in the school/classroom, including our immune-compromised students, who may require additional support in order to attend school. Students will be actively encouraged to socially distance where possible, and to maintain strict hygiene procedures.
- Please remember that students from Year 4 up are also mandated to wear a mask while traveling on the school bus and we strongly encourage all other students to wear a mask as well. This is due to the fact that students will mix in close proximity to each other.
- To keep students safe they have been grouped for morning tea and lunch as follows. Year 1&2, Year 3&4, and Year 5&6. Each group has been allocated their own eating area within the school grounds. Some separate play areas have also been allocated, and students are encouraged not to play with students outside their year group.
- Siblings will also be encouraged not to visit each other's classes before the start of the school day.

- Online learning will not be provided whilst school is open. However, home learning books will be provided to students that are required to isolate.
- The school will not be used as a vaccination or testing centre for students, staff or teachers

This should be a busy and invigorating Term. We all look forward to inspiring your children and our community. May the challenges we face bring out the best in all of us.

Hei konā mai,

Darrel Goosen

Thank you to our Principal Sponsors

