



**Blockhouse Bay**

Primary School

*We Seek - We Strive - We Soar*

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**

Dear Parents and Whānau,

Happy New Year to all children, parents, caregivers and supporters of the school.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2021 school year, particularly to our new pupils and their families. The staff are very excited about the learning year ahead and look forward to working with you all.

Apart from today, this newsletter will be sent out on Hero every Thursday. Please make sure you look at it each week as it contains useful information about what is happening at the school.

For your information, we have begun the year with approximately 530 children and are likely to grow to around 600 by the end of the year.

It was great to see so many families who could meet with their new teachers yesterday. If you were not able to make it to school, please feel free to drop in to meet your child's teacher.

Remember that it is compulsory for the children to wear their school hat every school day in terms one and four. Please note that **all schools in NZ will be closed for Waitangi Day on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February.**

Have a great week everyone.  
Neil Robinson - Principal

**TERM ONE CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021**

Please check the calendar weekly as dates and times may change.

Mon 8th Feb	<b>Waitangi Day Observed- School closed</b>
Fri 12th Feb	<b>Chinese New Year - Children can come to School in cultural clothes.</b>
Mon 15th Feb	<b>Whānau Aroha Day</b>
Wed 17th Feb	<b>9am - Kauri Assembly</b>
Wed 24th Feb	<b>9am - Rimu Assembly</b>
Wed 24th Feb	<b>2.30pm - Pōhutukawa Assembly</b>
Wed 24th Feb	<b>Y5/6 T Ball Tournament</b>
Thurs 25th Feb	<b>2.15pm - Kōwhai Assembly</b>
Wed 3rd March	<b>9am - Kauri Assembly</b>
Wed 3rd March	<b>Savings Day-Y5/6 T-Ball Tournament</b>
Thurs 4th Mar	<b>2.00pm - Whole School Assembly</b>
Wed 10th Mar	<b>2.30pm - Pōhutukawa Assembly</b>
Wed 17th Mar	<b>Y5/6 Cricket Tournament</b>
Wed 17th Mar	<b>9am - Kauri Assembly</b>
Thurs 18th Mar	<b>2.15pm - Kōwhai Assembly</b>
Wed 24th Mar	<b>Savings Day - Y5/6 Cricket Tournamen</b>
Wed 31st Mar	<b>2.30pm - Pōhutukawa Assembly</b>
Fri 2nd April	<b>Easter - No School this day</b>
Mon 5th April	<b>Easter - No School this day</b>
Tues 6th April	<b>Easter - No School this day</b>
Thurs 8th April	<b>Interschool Swimming Carnival</b>
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Centenary Celebrations including our Dance Festival. (more details to be provided)</b>
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Centenary Celebration including Cultural Performances.</b>
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>9am - Rimu Assembly</b>
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>2.15pm Kōwhai Assembly</b>
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>3.00pm -Term One Ends</b>

**2021 Dates**

Term One	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April
Term Two	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May to Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July
Term Three	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> July to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> October
Term Four	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December

**Teacher Only Days**

- \* Friday 4th June (Friday of Queen's Birthday weekend)
- \* Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October (Friday of Labour Weekend)
- \* Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November
- \* Wednesday 15th December (day after school closes at the end of the year)



**Blockhouse Bay**

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your parent representatives work hard to make sure that our school is the best it can be. They meet twice a term and these meetings are also open to the public. Please ask at the office if you would like to speak to a Board member directly.

**Chairperson:** Sheereen Ali

**Board Members:** Nick Dempsey, Anton Leyland, Annuncia Gallagher,  
Tao Qin, Sally Kilpatrick (Staff Rep) Neil Robinson (Principal)

Our next monthly Board meeting will take place in the school staffroom on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.15p.m. These are always open meetings and we invite parents to contact Sheereen Ali for more information about the Board or if you wish to come along to a meeting.

## THE SCHOOL DAY

The instructional school day goes from 8.50am - 3.00pm The children should arrive at school **no later than 8.30am** so that they can be ready for the start of the first lesson.

**We ask that no child should arrive in the school grounds before 8.15am as staff members are busy preparing for the day and cannot supervise children before this time.** Whilst we realise that this does not suit all parents, we feel that the children's safety is very important. Please contact the school office for details about our Before School Care programme if you wish to have your child at school before 8.15am.

## STATIONERY FOR SCHOOL

If you have not already purchased your child's stationery for school you can still purchase it online by going to [www.myschool.co.nz/blockhousebayprimary](http://www.myschool.co.nz/blockhousebayprimary) enter your child's name and choose the pack that you require. They will deliver this to your home.

## NUT ALLERGIES

Our school has some students who exhibit serious reactions to anything nut. All require Epi pens to be held in the school. For their sake, we try to be nut free at our school and ask that you please help us in this endeavour. **This includes not sending any nut products, nutella, or peanut butter to school.**

## ONLINE SCHOOL SHOP - open now:

Working together with Kindo, Blockhouse Bay School offers a fantastic way to view and pay for your child's school needs online. No cash, no paper, no hassle! It is our preferred method of payment and we encourage you to set up your account today if you have not already done so.

**New User**

Setting up an account is easy. All you need is your email address which matches the one held by the school. Visit the school website 'Information Page' on details of how to register.

Shop anytime, anywhere with our Kindo online School shop. Visit the school website Information Page on details of how to register & purchase from the School Shop.

You can: view and make full or part payments on your school family account register and pay for sports teams/trips, purchase school uniforms, complete permission forms online. Choose to pay-as-you-go or add funds to your Kindo account in advance, using internet banking, account2account or Visa/Mastercard (fees apply).

**Questions:** Contact the school office on 09 627 9440 / [office@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:office@blockhousebay.school.nz) or

Contact the Kindo helpdesk on freephone 0508 4 KINDO or email [helpdesk@tgcl.co.nz](mailto:helpdesk@tgcl.co.nz)

**See it in action:** We have a tutorial on how to use the shop to help you get started, simply visit the school website 'Information Page' for the link. It's an easy one-stop shop for all your school costs. HAPPY SHOPPING!

## PARENTS OF YEAR 3- 6 CHILDREN

A reminder to these parents that we would like all of the Year 5 and 6's to have their own Chromebook at school.

**Please note that this is a Chromebook not just any Laptop computer.**

Year 3 and 4 children are very welcome to bring Chromebooks (only) to school as well.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the office and we will organise someone to give you a call.

## COMING EVENTS

### CHINESE NEW YEAR - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

On this day, we invite all students to join with us in celebrating Chinese New Year. Students are welcome to wear traditional Chinese clothes on this day and a photo will of course be taken!

### WHANAU AROHA DAY- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February

On Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> February we are celebrating all of our unique whānau and cultures at Blockhouse Bay Primary with our Whānau Aroha Day. All children are invited to come to school in their cultural clothes that reflect their unique identity e.g. Chinese, Indian, Japanese, New Zealander, artist, musician etc.

We invite you to join us for a parade at 10.20am and then take part in a shared lunch with your child's class at 10.45am. We ask that you bring a special plate of food to share that is part of your family culture.

**Please remember no nuts!** Can you please include a list of the key ingredients in your shared lunch food.

### SCHOOL CENTENARY - April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

Blockhouse Bay School has a proud history of providing an outstanding education as well as a point of focus for the community. We look forward to celebrating and recognising this with people who have been associated with the school.

To recognise this once-in-a-lifetime occasion, we are planning to have events on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021. These will include:

- The opportunity to see the school 'in action' on the Friday
- Guided tours around the school (Friday and Saturday)
- An official 'Celebration Ceremony' (Saturday)
- Entertainment from children's performance groups
- Opportunities for ex pupils and parents to reconnect
- An opportunity for ex staff and Board members to reconnect
- Displays of memorabilia from days gone by

More details will be provided in the next couple of weeks. If you or anyone else wishes to register for this event. Please go to the school website, click on 'Information' scroll down to the 2021 Centennial Page and click on Expression of Interest. Alternatively, you can go to the school Facebook page and register there.



*Student's were welcomed back to school this morning with a Whakatau.*

  
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BDS (Otago) DClinDent (Otago) MOrth RCSEd MRACDS (Orth)

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