



# Blockhouse Bay Primary School

*We Seek - We Strive - We Soar*

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Whānau,  
Well this has been a challenging week like no other for sure! We have tried to keep you all as updated as possible throughout this process and have appreciated the feedback that we have received about this.

One key message that we need everyone to know is that the bar has shifted with regards to children not being at school if they are in the least bit showing symptoms of having a cold or the flu. This is not because we think they might have the virus, but to stop the spread of colds or the flu when the medical profession needs to be concentrating on other things. This applies to our staff as well and as of today, we have three teachers away who would normally have been at school. We know and understand that this could well be inconvenient for parents, but we all need to do our bit here to keep everyone as well as possible.

Lastly, I want to recognise and pay my respects to everyone who was affected by the Christchurch events just over one year ago. This kind of thing should never happen and certainly is not what we expect in the relative safety of our wonderful country. It was of course heartening to see the response from our citizens, and I felt proud to be a part of a country that would respond in these ways.

Kia Kaha everyone.

Neil Robinson  
Principal

### WILL WE BE CLOSING OUR SCHOOL?

At this stage, **Blockhouse Bay School will not be closing any time soon.** We do believe though that it is very likely that NZ schools will be closed at some point in the future.

As a staff, we are preparing for how we can continue to deliver teaching and learning programmes to your homes and will be providing you all with information about this by the end of next week.

At school, we are trying to keep things as normal as possible with lots of learning and fun things going on for the children.

TERM ONE CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020	
Further dates will be published in the First Newsletter next year. Please check the calendar weekly as dates and times may change.	
Tues 24th March	2.30pm - Kowhai Assembly
Fri 27th March	2.15pm - Rimu-Koto Whanau Assembly
Mon 30th March	2.15pm Kauri Assembly
Fri 3rd April	FAB Sausage Sizzle and Mufti Day
Fri 3rd April	2.15pm - Combined Rimu Assembly
Tues 7th April	2.30pm - Kowhai Assembly
Wed 8th April	2.00pm - Whole School Assembly
Thurs 9th April	3.00pm -Term One Ends



Come and see your child's learning: 1.45-3.30pm-Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

A future National Geographic photographer's very first perfect shot...



Right here...



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## STAFFING UPDATE

There have been several staffing changes taking place recently due to personal circumstances for some of our team members:

- Saadiyah Musa is now on maternity leave and is due to have her baby in a few weeks' time
- Melinda Narayan will be leaving to go on maternity leave at the end of next week
- Katy Harris' family is relocating to Wellington as her husband has a new job in this area. Katy's last day at the school will be Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March
- Robyn Joyce has been promoted to Kōwhai Team Leader and will take over as the teacher in Room 19 from the 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- We have recently appointed an experienced teacher Emma Best, to take over as the Room 13 teacher from the 30<sup>th</sup> March. Emma has a range of teaching experiences including being Deputy Principal of two schools and even being Principal of a Gifted and Talented school and we are very fortunate to have her join our team.
- We have recently welcomed back Jan Llewellyn to our teaching team after an extended time away on sick leave with a broken foot.
- We have three trainee teachers who will be here for two weeks starting on 30<sup>th</sup> March. They will also return for a month in term three and will be placed in Room 18, 12 and 11. They are Mr Mehmet Yumrukuz, Ms Emma Peua and Mr Mubaarak Mosavel.

## 2020 Dates

Term One	Ends at 3.00pm on Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April (if not before)
Term Two	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July
Term Three	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September
Term Four	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December

## Teacher Only Days

- \* Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May (Friday of Queen's Birthday weekend)
- \* Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (Friday of Labour Weekend)
- \* Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November (end of week 6 of term four)

## CORONAVIRUS SAFETY UPDATE

We are following the advice of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education in all matters relating to the Covid-19 (novel coronavirus). Parents should have received updates from the school office this week by email. For further information on Covid-19 please refer to <https://www.health.govt.nz/>

**Please ensure your email address is up to date at the school office so that you can be kept fully informed. Parents can email us at [office@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:office@blockhousebay.school.nz) to update the email address.**

Some extra measures to keep everyone healthy have been put in place this week.

- If children are unwell with a temperature we ask that they stay home for at least 36 hours after the fever has subsided. We also ask if your child is showing symptoms of a cough or cold that they stay at home.
- Staff have been asked to stay home if unwell.
- We have held meetings to discuss our pandemic plan and to ensure we have the supplies required in all areas of the school.
- Assemblies and sports events have been postponed.
- The School Centenary celebrations have been postponed.
- Children are being reminded to frequently wash their hands and being reminded about how to cough and sneeze safely.
- Extra cleaning using anti bacterial products has been organised throughout the school day and after school.

### **Supporting Success in your School - \$500.00!**

If you're a parent, staff member or a member of the school community and draw down a new ASB home loan of \$250,000 or more, ASB will donate \$500 to your chosen participating school.

Please find the flyer attached for your school newsletter, Facebook page and enrolment packs. For more information please do not hesitate to contact me or please click on this

link: <https://www.asb.co.nz/promotions/supporting-success-in-your-school.html>

### **FAB NEWS**

We need more FAB members so we can organise amazing events for the kids at school so would love if you could consider volunteering your time to join us. We are a friendly group that meet monthly to do our planning. Our next meeting on **Thursday 2nd April**, 7pm in the Staffroom.

If you have any questions about the FAB and what we do and how you might be able to contribute, you can contact Jasmine by emailing [fab@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:fab@blockhousebay.school.nz).

#### **FAB Date of Events:**

**Thursday 19th March (after school)** - Ice Block Pup Up Stall - \$1 ice blocks

**Thursday 2nd April** - FAB Meeting 7pm Staffroom

**Friday 3rd April** - Sausage Sizzle & Mufti Day

**Friday 8th May** - School Disco

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

CARE 4 KIDZ is running a Holiday Programme during the upcoming holidays.

To find out about the activities and obtain an enrolment form, please see our Supervisor, daily between 2:45PM and 6:00PM in the Technology Room.

Enrolments are accepted till 3 April 2020

***In these uncertain times lets all keep positive and remember the following.***

***Viruses are contagious.***

***So is panic,***

***So is Fear,***

***So is Hysteria,***

***So is Calm,***

***So is Enthusiasm,***

***So is Kindness,***

***So is Joy,***

***Choose Wisely.***

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