



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Whānau,
Well what a time we have all had over the last few months! I would like to commend everyone for their response to the crisis and the willingness to work positively to achieve what is best for the children. It is in times like these that you really appreciate the benefits of being in such a supportive community.

For everyone's information, we have had around 70% of our children at school this week and the other children have been supported with their learning at home. Most parents are telling us that their children will be returning over the next few weeks and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back when they are ready to do so.

Like everyone else, we are trying to make plans for the rest of the term, whilst not knowing how the country will be organised and what the restrictions will be under the different Alert Levels. Our goal is to keep you all updated as often as we need to so that everyone is aware of what is going on at school. Please remember to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

One decision we have made is to make the move to providing this newsletter to people online as opposed to a hard copy. We appear to have everyone's current email address so we think that people will prefer to receive this information in this way. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please let the office know and we can make sure that your child gets a paper version.

Have a great weekend everyone.

New Play space

Our long awaited new play space is under way.

Construction is going to plan and we are on track for children outside learning and playing by the end of May.

Thank you to all who have contributed to making this happen!



TERM TWO 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.

Tuesday 30th June
Wednesday 1st July
Thursday 2nd July
Friday 3rd July

Mid-year reports come home
Parent Conferences (to be confirmed)
Parent Conferences (to be confirmed)
3.00pm -Term Two Ends

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



Right here...



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Blockhouse Bay

STAFFING UPDATE

Before the lockdown, we made several changes to the teaching staff and these have all taken place since the end of March.

- Teacher Katy Harris has relocated to Wellington but we have continued to employ her as an online teacher (isn't technology wonderful!)
- Robyn Joyce has taken over as the Room 19 teacher and is also the Kowhai team leader.
- Emma Best started working as the Room 13 teacher during lockdown.

Katy Harris has worked in the Pohutukawa and Kowhai teams for 8 years teaching new entrants through to Year 2. She has had many responsibilities over this time including leading the Kowhai team. Katy's husband has needed to relocate to Wellington for his work so we would like to wish the Harris family all the best for this new adventure.

2020 Dates

Term Two Last day Friday 3rd July – 3.00pm finish
Term Three Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September
Term Four Monday 12th October to Tuesday 15th December

Teacher Only Days

* Friday 23rd October (Friday of Labour Weekend)

* Friday 20th November (end of week 6 of term four)

* Wednesday 16th December (day after school closes at the end of the year)

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). For further information on Covid-19 please refer to <https://www.health.govt.nz/>

If any children have any cold or flu symptoms, please keep them home from school until these symptoms have gone. The children will still be able to do their online learning from there.

Some parents have asked for clarification regarding the symptoms of a cold, flu or Covid 19 so we have found the following links if you are interested:

<https://intermountainhealthcare.org/blogs/topics/live-well/2020/03/whats-the-difference-between-a-cold-the-flu-and-coronavirus/>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/flu-allergies-coronavirus-different-symptoms>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/coronavirus-how-it-is-different-from-season-flu-and-common-cold/story-IBM6RCMVRh9Ec5F8PB3PaL.html>

SCHOOL UNIFORM DELAYS

Parents are experiencing some delays in delivery of their school uniform items and our suppliers have apologised for this. They are experiencing difficulties in getting the clothing to NZ due to the Covid 19 crisis and have advised that this could go on for some weeks yet. Children who are waiting for these items to arrive are asked to wear clothing that is as close to the uniform colours as possible. Thank you for your patience.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Whilst we are not rushing into this as we want the children to settle back to school gently. Over the next few weeks, the teachers will be assessing the children's learning levels and setting goals for them for the future. Because of the disruption caused by the lockdown, we will be producing a scaled-down version of the mid-year report which will provide everyone with the evidence of where the children are currently up to. If all goes to plan, this will be sent out in the last week of term two. It is unclear at this stage whether we will have the mid-year Child/Parent/Teacher Conferences, but we will let you all know about this later in the term.

INTER-SCHOOL SPORT

At this stage, it looks like we will not be having any inter-school sport while we are under Alert Level 2 and this includes Saturday Netball. If there is any change to this, we will let everyone know.

SCHOOL PATROLS ON BLOCKHOUSE BAY ROAD

Due to changing circumstances for some of our parents, we now do not have enough people to supervise the Blockhouse Bay Road crossing before school and are asking if anyone could assist us. If you can help on a particular day or would like to go on our phone list of people who can only help sometimes, please email mandyb@blockhousebay.school.nz and Mrs Barrett will contact you.

NEW ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS

These new systems have worked really well and have had some positive spin-offs with regards to parking and traffic congestion around the school. We would not be able to allocate this level of staffing full time but are happy to be investing this time currently to keep everyone safe.

For the time being at least, our leaving times are:

- 2.55pm - Rooms 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 and their older brothers and sisters
- 3.10pm - Rooms 21, 22, 23, 12, 13, 15 and their older brothers and sisters
- 3.20pm - Rooms 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14

We have made videos so that families can see what these will be like every morning and the links to these are below. Please show the video about the gate you will use to your children.

- There are four entry and exit gates around the school.
 - [Countdown Black gate](#)
 - [Library Gate](#)
 - [Orange Driveway Gate](#)
 - [Yellow gate next to Room 9 on Gill Crescent](#)
- Children walking home will leave the school at 3.00pm
- Children going to After School Care will be taken by a teacher to the Technology Room at 3.00pm

What if my child is late or needs to be picked up or dropped off during the school day?

- Gates will be locked at 8.50am
- If your child is late please come to the Yellow gate next to Room 9 on Gill Crescent and text the number on the gate **0275696916**.
- If you need to drop off or collect your child during the school day, please come to the office entrance from the staff car park on Gill Crescent, and the office staff will assist you
- We will record the name and contact details of parents and whānau who do come on the school grounds so contact tracing can take place

There will be exceptions made to this for example for new children to the school and if a child is hurt and needs to be collected. Parents who wish to talk to us about entry to the school site can ring 6279940 or email office@blockhousebay.school.nz and we will discuss it with you.

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>

Note this is for [Lynfield College](#) - Teacher Aide (Learning Assistant) 30 HOURS PER WEEK | TERM TIME ONLY

A fixed-term position for the remainder of the 2020 year exists for a Teacher Aide (Learning Assistant), to work with our students that have learning and behavioural needs. The successful applicant would be working as part of a collaborative team. This position is fully supported by the agencies involved.

The position would suit an active, motivated and supportive person with a calm demeanour, who can think outside the square and preferably has experience working with adolescents who require considerable support.

Please apply via email to: Lee Bullinga, Executive Secretary, jobs@lynfield.school.nz and include a brief CV with your application including the names of two referees.

Applications close at 4.00 pm on Friday 29 May 2020

Lee A Bullinga

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CATH KNELL, PRINCIPAL

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