



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 3rd September 2020

Dear Parents and Whānau,
For most children, school has started this week and the children are enjoying being back with their friends. We do understand that parents have concerns about this and so will continue to provide online learning until further notice.

For some time now, we have known we have needed to improve our school's website and ways in which we communicate to our school community and this was reinforced to us by some people last term during our school survey. When we have been able to this year, the school staff have been learning how to use our new student management software, which is called 'Hero'. This will allow us to communicate with our parent community in a far clearer and up-to-date way than we have previously. Please take the time to read the piece in this newsletter about the new software as it will have implications for parents as well. More information will be provided to everyone about this in the months to come.

Have a great week everyone and keep safe.
Neil Robinson
Principal

Students are certainly enjoying being back at school playing with their friends.

TERM THREE CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Note that all events are subject to change due to Alert Levels

Thurs 17th Sept - BHB Intermediate Experience Day

Fri 25th Sept - End of Term Three (3.00pm finish)

Term Four - Monday 12th October - Tuesday 15th December

Friday 23rd Oct. - Teacher Only Day

Thurs 10th Dec - Graduation Assembly for Year 6 children



Launching at School soon!



Introducing 'Hero' our new school app and information sharing tool

Hero is a new interactive system we are going to use at school to share information and learning with parents and whānau.

The Hero app will enable us to share children's progress and achievement regularly in the form of posts. You will also be able to view the children's progress throughout the year in the New Zealand Curriculum Learning Areas. Through the app we will be able to share notices and streamline our enrolment process more easily as well.

Teachers have been learning how to use Hero for all of 2020. Students have also been learning how to post and we are getting ready to go live after Labour Weekend! We have some Hero Parent and Whānau Information Meetings planned and will let you know when they are as soon as gathering limits are increased under Alert Level 2.

Ask Avinesh

What is your property worth now?

Avinesh Prasad | a.prasad@barfoot.co.nz

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KNOWLEDGATHON

Thank you to everyone who has been working on the knowledgeathon facts at home with their children. The Teachers have been working on them in class as well. These are the new key dates:

3rd-13 th September	-	Continue to learn facts
Monday 14 th September	-	Children will be tested in class
Tuesday 15 th September	-	Results certificates will come home Parents and children start collecting sponsorship money. Please return money and forms to the school office.
Wednesday 23 rd September	-	3.30pm Last day for money to be returned if children wish to be in the draw for prizes
Friday 25 th September	-	Prizes will be given out on the last day of term

We understand that times are tough for some people and children can return forms even if they have no sponsors. Prizes will be awarded for top money collected AND top test scorers AND lucky dip from any forms returned.

All money raised will go towards the renovation of the areas outside Rooms 4-9 to provide more inviting learning and play spaces.

Some parents have asked about testing. All tests will be administered at the class teacher's discretion. Many children will use a multiple choice answer sheet and some will have the test read to them if required. We will remove all obstacles to allow the children to be successful and rewarded for their efforts.

If you have any further questions please email Annette Bradley at annetteb@blockhousebay.school.nz. Thank you for your ongoing support.

HELPFUL ADVICE

Helping children and young people cope with the changes caused by COVID-19 means providing accurate information, discussing facts without causing undue alarm, and re-establishing routines. More guidance for parents, caregivers and whānau is available [here](#) and online at [Te Rito Toi](#).

There is advice for parents on looking after their wellbeing, and the wellbeing of others, on the learning from home website. There are also [three COVID-19 Wellbeing Guides](#) available providing further advice to parents and teachers.

If parents are looking for some general information about COVID-19 to in different languages, you may find helpful information here: Updates and resources | Unite against COVID-19 and [Translations | Unite against COVID-19](#). This is from the government website and addresses general matters that might be of use in parents' home languages. Please feel free to share this with anyone who you feel might benefit from it.



Blockhouse Bay

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SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

Every three years, the school surveys the parents to get feedback about the service that we provide. We ask parents to give us their opinions about a whole range of things and then the staff and Board of Trustees use this information when planning future initiatives and ways of operating. So that everyone knows what parents think, we will be publishing the overall results from each of the questions

The final group of questions asked parents about what they thought about the school's image in that community and the quality of the cultural support we provide. We have listed the number of people who answered in each range as well as the percentage for each band of responses.

Community Image	1-3	4-6	7-10	Don't Know
The school has a positive image in the community	1 (.5%)	7 (3%)	191 (95%)	3 (2%)
The school has strong links with the community	2 (1%)	12 (6%)	175 (87%)	12 (6%)

Cultural Support	1-3	4-6	7-10	Don't Know
The School values and respects our diverse cultural community	2 (1%)	14 (7%)	182 (90%)	3 (1.5%)
The School provides a place for children and parents to recognise and celebrate aspects of their culture.	3 (1.5%)	14 (7%)	175 (87%)	12 (6%)

These questions were the last ones that we asked with regards to what people thought about the school. There were also a number of questions which asked for written responses and these are being sifted through and discussed by the school staff and Board of Trustees.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in this process as it really gave us important information about the service we provide to the Blockhouse Bay School community. We can assure you all that every response will be considered when planning for future improvements.



BHB Blockhouse Bay
Intermediate
Stand Tall • Ruia Taitea

2021 Year 7 Parent School Tours

Deputy Principals will be running guided school tours for **parents only** throughout week 8. Under alert level 2.5, we request that face covering to be worn when on site please and each group size will be 10 adults.

- Monday 7th September - 3.30pm
- Wednesday 9th September - 12pm
- Friday 11th September - 9.30am

Please arrive 5 minutes before outside the office and scan to sign in via COVID-19 contact tracing app.

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Market Analysis
of your property in 30 Minutes.**

Avinesh Prasad | a.prasad@barfoot.co.nz

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