



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 4th June 2020

Dear Parents and Whānau,

With the exception of parents not coming on site, school is now pretty much back to normal with 95% attendance and only sick children being away. It is great to have everyone (nearly) back and I know that the children are enjoying learning and playing with their friends.

Parents will remember that we were scheduled to have a teacher only day last Friday but postponed this as we felt that it was more important to have everyone at school as well as giving parents the opportunity to continue with their work commitments. The teachers do need to have this time together however as we are implementing a new student management system which will allow us to report to parents more often than twice a year about their children's progress and achievement. We have therefore decided to move this **teacher only day to Friday 7th August**, so families are asked to make a note of this. The teachers will be meeting during the next holidays in July to also work on this new system as we were going to meet in the April holidays to do this.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Neil Robinson
Principal

Look at the joy on these faces!

We are back into learning and enjoying each others company.

TERM TWO CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Tuesday 30th June	Mid-year reports come home
Wednesday 1st July	Parent Conferences (to be confirmed)
Thursday 2nd July	Parent Conferences (to be confirmed)
Friday 3rd July	3.00pm -Term Two Ends
Mon 20th July - Fri 25th Sept	Term Three
Friday 7th August	Teacher Only Day



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Blockhouse Bay

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HOW WILL SCHOOL CHANGE UNDER ALERT LEVEL ONE?

We are currently working on how things will be different once the country goes to Alert Level One and will provide everyone with this information, soon after the arrangements are made clear to us. We are expecting the Prime Minister will announce some of these details on Monday and if she does, we will give you a school update as soon as we can after this.

NETBALL

We are very pleased to announce that we have enough players for three Year 5/6 teams which is great. Unfortunately, we only have 1 coach and 1 manager confirmed and the season starts soon. We once again ask parents of these players to consider whether they could volunteer for one of these roles as the teams cannot play if we do not have adults to run them. For more information, please contact Amanda Whittome at amandaw@blockhousebay.school.nz

Next week, we will be sending notices home to Year 3 & 4 children who are interested in playing Netball this year. This competition doesn't start until after the July holidays, so we do have time to get this organised.

PARENTS OF YEAR 6 CHILDREN

If they haven't already, it is about this time of the year that parents of Year 6 children start to think about which school their child will be attending the following year. We encourage all parents to have their child enrolled by September so that their new schools can make decisions about staffing etc.

Schools that cater for Year 7 students will soon be providing information for parents and children to help them to make up their mind and to get them enrolled. We recommend that families look at this information and have these discussions soon, so that this process can be completed by the end of next term.

We will advise parents when schools contact us about year 7 enrolments.

WET WEATHER WEAR

Now that winter is upon us please remember to pack a raincoat in your child's bag. Typical Auckland weather suggests that it can be sunny in the morning when you leave home and pouring with rain later in the day. The children are walking and waiting at the gates and need to have some waterproof clothing so that they don't get colds etc.

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

The big education story over the last couple of weeks is the spectacular pay equity recognition for teacher aides. We applaud this outcome which places our learning assistants on a pay scale that is reflective of the significant input they have into the learning of our students and success of the school.

Our learning assistants are well trained and experienced in working with those children who require extra support with their learning, language and the way that they interact with others. We applaud the government's investment in supporting schools in this manner. The next group of people who we hope will receive pay equity are our office staff. These people too deserve to have a payrate that is equitable to those who work in the private sector.

We were very pleased that the government is funding the difference between what the learning assistants currently receive and their new payrate. This increase covers around 20% of the total cost of our learning assistants and schools often have to pay the money within their operations grant, to fund the rest. Often, this money is supposed to be spent in different areas of the school and so other children end up missing out. In my experience, funding to support children with additional learning needs in New Zealand is one of the worst in the western world and schools are hoping that this is just the start of a cash injection into helping all of our children get the support that they need.

Neil Robinson
Principal

LOST PROPERTY

A reminder to name all your child's clothing so that if found the office can return it to the rightful owner.

We have recently had quite a few items of clothing that have had no name on them so we have not been able to return them.

ENROLMENTS 2020/2021

Do you have a child starting school soon? Have you let the school know?

We would like to know if you have a child who will be starting school at Blockhouse Bay Primary in 2020 or 2021.

Please email leaneh@blockhousebay.school.nz with your child's name, date of birth, address and contact details.

If you live out of the school zone for Blockhouse Bay Primary please contact Leanne on 627-9940 for further information on how to enrol.

SWIMMING POOL KEYS

If you hired a key for the swimming pool over the period that the pool was open could you please return this to school with your child in a named envelope.

If you require the bond money to be paid back into your bank account please include your bank account number on the envelope and we will organise this for you.

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