

Halcombe School



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Term 3 Week 7

7th September 2021

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou,

During the last week we have been operating at Level 3, with a 'bubble' of five pupils back at school. Some people have asked why we did this with so few pupils back. My response is that although small, this is our support of a much wider response that the whole country was involved in. Although our need was small, it is a need and has allowed parents to do what they needed to do. Everyone is in the same boat and we can hold our heads high that we have done our part too.

Many thanks to the teachers and Teacher Aides, who have not hesitated in responding to our needs. And thanks to the parents who have soldiered on with their children still at home.

So, now we know what to expect and our planning for a return to Level 2 can begin to take shape...

Alastair & the H Team.

New Teacher Begins!

It has been an unusual beginning for Genna Baird who has joined our teaching team this week! Welcome Genna, who will be teaching in Room 1. We are looking forward to seeing you working with our pupils and getting to know you better.

Distance Learning Stops

Our daily Distance Learning activities have now stopped. In preparing for our Level 2 return on THURSDAY, our teachers are getting together to plan and organise classes and resources.

Level Two Return

We are looking forward to having all our pupils back on Thursday. Under Level Two there is still a focus on COVID-Safety (maintaining our bubbles, ensuring social distancing, and personal hygiene is carried out).

Under Level Two (like we did last year), we won't have parents coming into school at all. Under Level Two, we all need to be aware of not having too many adults interacting with others. To help ensure this happens:

- Please drop your child at the gate and remain in your car (your child will be met at the gate)
- If you need to contact the school, please do so either by phone or email
- At the end of the day we will bring the pupils to you. You stay in your car and the children will come to you.
- Buses will be operating as normal from Thursday morning.

Although we will continue to have assemblies, we cannot have any parents in attendance until we return to Level 1

After these past three weeks we are looking forward to returning to as much routine and in-depth learning as quickly as possible. In order to ensure this happens smoothly **here are some things to bring back to school** on day one:

- Home Learning hard packs (what is left of them, but the bags will be especially useful)
- Digital Devices we lent to you, and their chargers
- Library books and/or class readers
- Pencil cases

- Water bottle (there are no shared drinking fountains)
- Exercise books and KIT books

2022 Planning

In the midst of recent events we are thinking about 2022 already. There are two things you need to be aware of and can help us with:

- We need to know if there are any current Year 6 pupils who will not be here for intermediate. This is important for classroom planning. Please let Paula (office@halcombe.school.nz) know as soon as possible if your child will not be returning to Halcombe School in 2022.
- If you know of any new families moving into the area who have children, please can you put us in contact with them?

Both these things will be very helpful - Thank You!

2022 Teacher Position

We are advertising for a permanent teacher position for our senior classroom from the beginning of 2022. The details are on our school website. If there are any teachers you know who might be interested, please tell them about our wonderful school, our terrific parents and students. They might like to consider our position here.

Keep abreast of events

In these times of change our calendar also reflects this. Please make sure you are going into the calendar, shared on our website, to keep as up-to-date as possible.

Events Still On – Hopefully

- Daffodil Day - we intend to support this important event when we return. We'll all need a dress-up day to have some fun after lockdown is over. Start designing your outfit!
- Chin Up Champs - we will try very hard to have this very important annual event. Our PE focus on gymnastics has finished, and we will move onto our dance unit when school returns.
- Working Bee - This MIGHT go ahead, Saturday 25 September, 1.30-4pm. The first stage of the front garden upgrade is underway! More details will follow, but please keep this date and time in mind to help out if needed.