

Halcombe School

RD 9, FEILDING
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Term 1 Week 1

1st February 2022

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou! It is GREAT to be back!

We had a whole-school assembly yesterday, and it was great to welcome our new pupils and teachers, and see everyone enthusiastic (yes, they were!), and raring to go. A school without children is a very boring place to work, but fill it up with the potential and daily interactions, and it takes on a whole new meaning. Add in COVID rules and bus changes, and you have the making of a very dynamic, busy place indeed. It's why I got into teaching in the first place - there is challenge and reward at every step.

We were reminding the students that our Triple A Values are at the heart of what we do and why we do things here. Attitude, Achievement, Adventure are the values that underpin our learning, our behaviours, our activities in class and out of it, and our success as a school.

So, welcome back parents. I look forward to seeing you all in the days ahead.

Have a great week.
Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Beach Trip

You will find attached, information about our whole school trip to Foxton Beach next week on Thursday 10th February. If you'd like to help, the form MUST be back at school by Friday this week please. This is the kind of trip you will love being a part of!

Staffing

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Casey, Mrs Gilchrist and Mrs Wasley to the teaching team this year.

Junior Team

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Mrs Margot Mackie | Room 1 (Deputy Principal and Junior Team Leader) |
| Mrs Jan Casey | Room 1 (Margot's release teacher M-Th) |
| Mrs Debbie Turner/Whaea Debbie | Room 2 |
| Mrs Rebecca Hughes | Room 3 |
| Miss Hannah Prior | Room 4 |

Senior Team

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|-------------------------|--|
| Miss Aimee Faulkner | Room 5 |
| Mrs Charlotte Gilchrist | Room 6 |
| Mrs Vanessa Wasley | Room 7 |
| Miss Di Simpson | Room 8 (Deputy Principal and Senior Team Leader) |

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|-------------------|--|
| Secretary | Mrs Paula Stace |
| Teacher Aides | Mrs Kirsten Otter, Maria Barnes, Ngaire Penn |
| Caretaker/Cleaner | Mr Alan Martin |
| Principal | Mr Alastair Schaw |

Waitangi Day Observed: 7th February

Remember that next Monday is Waitangi Day Observed. Monday is a public holiday and school is closed.

Swimming

- Each class has a swimming session **every day**, so please ensure your children have the correct gear.
- Swimming is part of the school programme, so children must bring a note if they are not swimming.
- **Names on togs and towels would be fantastic!** We cut up lost/unnamed towels for rags - we really do!
- Girls wear a one-piece suit, or have their midriff covered if wearing a two-piece suit. No board shorts.
- Boys should wear proper swimming shorts (not shorts they would wear in class) above the knee.
- Teachers will ensure all the usual rules for PE are followed; watches and taonga removed, and hair tied back.

School Rules - Reminders

- No nail polish please. Don't let your children apply nail polish if you don't have remover at home!
- No jewellery except plain stud earrings.
- Hair tied back with **simple clips/ties** please.
- Finger and toe nails should be kept short.
- Hats with a wide all round brim. Bucket hats are perfect.
- Plain haircuts (no mullets, mohawks, rat's tails, colours, zigzags etc).
- No singlet tops please - t shirts with a short sleeve are best as it stops shoulders being sunburnt.

Community School Survey

Every three years the Board of Trustees does a major review of policy, procedures, and asks the community for their thinking and ideas on a variety of things: sports, camps, new initiatives - a whole raft of things. At the end of this week we will be sending you a note in the KIT Books, and email which will have the questions. It should take you no more than a half hour to do, BUT it is important, and a chance to have your say and input. It is also a chance for you to bring up ideas to be looked at. Please don't miss your chance to have active input into your school.

Sun Safety

At our school, teachers regularly remind students to wear their hats, apply sunscreen, and spend time in the shade at break times. We are always mindful of sun safety when we're planning outdoor activities, and try to provide shade where we can. This is an important time to remind parents that older students in **Rooms 6, 7 and 8 have increasing responsibility for their OWN sun safety**. Sunscreen is always readily available at school, so if students in these classes choose not to apply it, we will not be chasing them up.

KIT Books

Our 'Keep in Touch' books are a **very important** part of our school and **key to good communication**. These books travel to and from school every day, so you can write notes for us, and teachers can let you know what is happening at school. Please read your child's KIT book each day and ensure they bring it to school. We had a few children at the end of last year who often arrived without their KIT books, which meant some confusion and missed messages about what was happening at school. We look forward to your support.

PLEASE READ THE INSIDE COVER OF YOUR CHILD'S KIT BOOK TONIGHT.

Pool Keys

The school pool is available for families to use after school and at weekends, until Wednesday 4th March. There is a \$40 charge for a key. Keys, and a contract for you to sign, are available this week at the Office. The pool is a very warm 27deg. We have three keys left - first in, first served.

Hats

Thank you everyone for remembering hats yesterday! An awesome start.

School Invoices

We will send home invoices in two or three weeks' time for:

- Stationery Packs - the price varies for each class.
- School Charge - this payment helps us to provide classroom essentials such as tissues, sunblock and the weekly newsletter. The charge is \$15 per family for the year. If you do not pay the \$15, you will need to provide your child with sunblock, tissues and print off your own newsletter if return slips are required. We do not have school fees or donations.

COVID Updates

We will continue to update our website, and our Facebook page if there is further information you need to know. Please keep abreast of any updates to how schools work under the Traffic Light system from those two pages. Our Year 4-8 students did very well with their mask wearing yesterday.

Facebook Comments

Our Facebook page is a place where we can communicate information to parents and caregivers, share learning, and celebrate the awesomeness of our students and school. It is timely to remind our community of the following:

- Except in special circumstances, we don't answer questions that have been asked on Facebook.
- You are more than welcome to leave a comment, but keep it positive. Our school Facebook page is not the place to air grievances, or share opinions about political matters. Comments that we deem to be inappropriate are deleted.

Term Dates 2022

- Term 1: Monday 31st January - Thursday 14th April (Friday 15th is Good Friday)
- Term 2: Monday 2nd May - Friday 8th July
- Term 3: Monday 25th July - Friday 30th September
- Term 4: Monday 17th October - Wednesday 14th December TBC

We have many exciting events and activities planned for 2022. Check in with our calendar that can be accessed through our school website to keep up to date with what's happening.

Our gorgeous tamariki (and teachers!) in Room 1 had a fabulous day yesterday:

