

## *Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers*

Kia Ora Tatou,

Last week I used the phrase, 'Believe half of what you hear about school, and we'll believe half of what we hear about home'. I have been asked what I mean by this. Well, it's pretty straight-forward and certainly not meant to offend anyone.

School and home are a partnership when it comes to a child's academic, physical and social development. Parents and teachers need to be on the same page for the partnership to work well. A strong relationship exists between our teachers and your children, and I hope and expect that you trust our teachers with what they know and how they teach and advise you too. I know my staff certainly trust you as well.

Each morning teachers hear lots of things that have happened in a child's life from the day before - there are stories of trips, pets, visits, family, and highs and lows. Mostly a child just wants to off-load and connect to their teacher so they are ready for the day. Sometimes they need to let us know how they are feeling and what they are needing, so stories come out to help the adults understand. Mostly a child will just say how something is. Sometimes they embellish the truth to make a better story. This is all natural, and we adults do it too sometimes!

The point of the phrase is not to disbelieve, but to think about what is being shared, consider how much of it is reality, and how much is embellished. Then adults need to think how to respond, or if we need to respond at all.

Bringing up, or working with kids is never easy. Always reach out to trusted others to help you, and come see us if you need to share too. That's part of what being in a partnership means.

I have worked in many New Zealand schools, and this is an amazing place to be working in. The way kids are inspired, energised and offered many, many chances to shine and try new things, is impressive. The great thing about Halcombe is that we are big enough to give options, but we are small enough to care about individuals. Teachers and parents deliver options for our students to be involved and try new things. I am thinking specifically of the sports, the lunchtime activities and the Technology options at present.

Did you know that during lunchtimes, teachers are operating activities like ukulele, choir, kapa haka, Enviro Club and Jump Jam? These are awesome cultural activities to be involved in during the wetter terms. My thanks to the staff for organising and running these fun activities.

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

### **Yummy Stickers**

The Yummy sticker promotion is set to go again for 2022, time to get crunching and collecting stickers. Sticker charts can be collected from the office. We exchange these stickers for cool sports gear.

### **Wet Weather and Spare Clothes**

The arrival of some wet weather has led to quite a few visitors to Mrs Stace at the end of lunchtime. These are children who have managed to get themselves very wet, by running through puddles, slipping over and playing with wet gear. It would be really helpful if younger children had a change of clothes in their bags. Mrs Stace's supplies were depleted yesterday! If your child has come home wearing borrowed clothes from school, please wash and return them.

### Reporting To Parents

Just a reminder now that we are living with the new normal of COVID, that if there is a burning question you would like to ask your child's teacher about please feel free to make time with them to come in and talk.

At the end of this term we will be sending formal Reports to all families about progress in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, as well as generally. It is also our intention to hold 3WC at the beginning of Term three.

### Pie Warmer Lunches

These will be available from next Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. For our new families, we have two pie warmers that children use to heat up their lunches.

- Lunches need to be wrapped securely in tinfoil, or put in **small** tinfoil trays (for anything that might leak).
- Lunches need to be clearly named with a vivid marker and with a room number.
- If you're making lunches for the freezer, name them before putting them in - vivid doesn't work on cold tinfoil!
- Children put their lunches in the pie warmers when they arrive at school.
- Popular lunches are lasagne, toasted sandwiches, pizza, mac n cheese, sausage rolls, spag bol, left overs from tea etc - anything that will heat up really!



**GOOD LUCK TO OUR SENIOR HOCKEY TEAMS AND JUNIOR NETBALL TEAMS FOR THE SEASON AHEAD!**

