

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou,

The post-COVID world is quite different from our previous life, isn't it? We hear about, or experience, the effects of the tight labour market, higher inflation, supply issues and staff sickness. Here at Halcombe School we don't often get a lot of staff sickness, but that changed at the end of last term. Teachers, support staff, cleaners, caretakers, even the principal have succumbed to one of the many lurgies out there! Many schools around us have been terribly affected - some combining classes, or telling particular year groups to stay at home.

Today, I want to give a BIG shout-out to our wonderful relievers and part-time teachers! Barb B, Bex, Fritha, Gary, Sue, Barb D and Kate, have all stepped in when we needed them. They have allowed the programmes and learning to continue when our full-timers were sick. We couldn't have operated last term as well as we did without them stepping up and delivering (and it looks like we'll need them to do so again this term!).

Having such dedicated and healthy relievers meant that classes didn't have to be combined, and learning was least disrupted. Like you I am so grateful to them for their help.

We hope that the term break was a good one and that this term we are continuing to practice good hygiene methods, to keep away the lurking-lurgies.

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

Teacher's Only Day

We will be having a Teacher's Only Day on Friday 26 August. School will be closed. Year 7-8 hockey will be ON.

Board Matters:

Considering standing in the upcoming Board of Trustees elections? Read this message from current BOT member Rochelle Chase:

Being on the Board is not only a great way to have input into the strategic direction of the school, but it is also such a rewarding way of being of service within our community. The good health of our school and staff is critical to the success and wellbeing of our children. The work of the Board provides support in key areas to ensure that we collectively prioritise and value the needs of every student at our school for their individual success. It has been a privilege to serve the children, staff and families of our school community over my time on the Board. I hope that anyone interested in supporting the school in this way, will feel welcome to seek further information and support and I look forward to seeing the direction that the school takes over the coming Board term.

Nominations are now open for parent representatives. The Board requires 5 parent trustees. To date, nominations have been received for three people: Nathan Barrack, Aaron Meurk, Luke Shannon. Nominations close next Wednesday 3 August 2022, at 12pm.

More information at halcombe.school.nz/school-board-elections-22.html

Mask Wearing

You will have heard in the news that the Ministry of Education has strongly recommended the wearing of masks for students in Y4-8 to break the cycle of COVID19. We have considered what this means for our school:

- We support all students who choose to wear a mask, but it is not compulsory at Halcombe School at this stage. We have masks available at school for those who wish to wear them.
- The rules for whānau visiting our school are really simple - wear a mask anytime you're inside a school building; visiting the office, attending a 3WC, or calling in to see your child's artwork. Masks must be worn when attending assembly too. We noticed a number of people not wearing these during our final assemblies of last term. If you forget your mask, don't worry - we have a stash of them in the foyer of the hall.
- For those students aged 12+, masks must be worn on the bus. This rule has not changed.

We will review the policy around mask wearing for our school as we see the trends in sickness or absences. It may be that in the future we make mask wearing compulsory, but at this stage we are comfortable that we are meeting the safety needs of all by doing the above. Thank you for your support.

Please also note:

- Keep children home if they are not well.
- Remind the family of good personal hygiene - washing of hands, sneezing into elbows, wearing masks around those unknown to us, and safe social distancing.

New Teacher

As you know, Becs Hughes is having her first baby later this year and will be leaving us in September. We welcome the appointment of Raylene Johnston to teach in Rm3 when Becs leaves us. Ray is a very experienced teacher, with some very interesting hobbies, and she will start in *Week 7 of this term*.

Afternoon Bus Students

A reminder that if your child is **NOT** on the afternoon bus you must let Paula know before 3pm. Not letting us know delays the departure of the bus.

Three Way Conferences - next week

Bookings for these 3WConferences are now closed. These are not the compulsory ones, but if you missed out on getting one please remember that our teachers are able to meet you at any convenient time, so feel free to get in touch with them as you need (the KIT books are especially good for communication too!) If you have a 3WC slot, please ensure you are on time, as the schedule is tight. A reminder that students are expected to attend their 3WC with their parents.

Working Bee

This is scheduled to happen in four weeks time, on Saturday 20th August, from 1-4pm. The main focus of this working bee is clearing away hedge branches, and replanting in the front garden. There will be plenty of jobs, and a need for everyone. Working Bees are a chance to connect to each other, have some fun, and take pride in our school. More details to follow soon.

Calendar Updates

We have a busy term ahead! In addition to our core business of teaching kids to read, write and do arithmetic, there are lots of sporting and cultural events to get excited about too! Visit our school website: <http://www.halcombe.school.nz/> so you can synchronise your calendar with ours. You'll see dates for BOT elections, interschool sport, sports practices, Mathex, the school quiz, Jump Jam competition, choir concert, senior social, who is presenting assembly each week, and the end of term dance display and prizegiving. We've even locked in lots of things for Term 4 already, including Pet Day, cross country, school photos, senior camps and prizegiving. What a lot we have to look forward to!

Gymnastics

Over the next five weeks, our PE focus will be on gymnastics. Each class will have two 45min sessions each week. Please ensure your child is wearing clothes suitable for gymnastics: shorts or tights and t shirt or a tight-fitting long sleeve top.

Year 1-6 Hockey

Good luck to the 57 students who will have their first game of the season on Monday! (except for the Green Team, who have a bye). More information is in KIT Books, and uniforms were sent home today.

Netball

After school netball practices will resume this week - Y3-6 teams on Wednesday and Y7-8 teams on Thursday.

Cereal Boxes

Room 8 is about to start working on a project where they need (empty) cereal boxes. Any shape or colour is fine. If you have any empties, please drop them into the office or Room 8.

Morning Bus

Feilding High School has two teacher only days this term, 15th August and 2nd September. On these days the morning bus that travels Mangaone Road, Makino Road and Stanway Road will not run in the morning. The bus will run in the afternoon.

Keep the New Nasty Out of Halcombe

Cyber safety is a real issue, especially for children who do not have the discernment of adults. Most social media (Facebook, TikTok) have age limits to using them. As the responsible adults, please ensure that your child is not using these apps before they are allowed to. Another very good practice is to make sure you have 'friended' your child when they are using these things. Being their virtual 'friend' allows you to monitor what is going on in their digital world, and will help you protect your child's innocence longer.

As a school we know we have no control over what goes on in home digital use. What does sometimes happen is that digital communication can spill over into the school world when students say mean and unkind things to each other. Cyber bullying, just like physical or verbal bullying, is real, it happens and is one thing parents need to be mindful of. Please be diligent in your monitoring, and restriction, of your children's use of social and online media. It's not easy being a parent!

Loyalty Schemes

Many thanks to the families who support us through national Loyalty Schemes (especially our farmers and lifestylers). Companies that offer services for Slink skins, fertiliser, bobby calves, often run loyalty schemes that connect your purchases to a school. So far this year we have received sponsorship from PGG Wrightson, Affco NZ and NZ Farmers Livestock loyalty schemes to the tune of \$350.00. This money all goes towards providing quality resources and equipment. If you do buy one of these goods and services, please make sure you have put Halcombe School down as the scheme's recipient. We are very grateful to all of you for this support!

Feilding Tennis Club.

Coaching with Brooke & Crystal Jewell.

Beginners to Intermediate level. Anything from your child's first experience or get them ready to play junior interclub for FTC this coming season.

Improve their knowledge of tennis, technique, motor skills and overall fitness.

1 hour lesson \$50.

45 minute lesson \$40.

Private 1 on 1 and group lessons are available now!!!



For any enquiries or to make a booking. Contact Jono Hurley.

Email: tigertennisnz@gmail.com

Phone: 0275 300 365.

JEDI SKATEBOARD ACADEMY

TERM 3 WEEKLY SKATEBOARD SESSIONS

Location: Arena 5 (Bell Hall) Central Energy Trust Arena. Enter via Waldegrave St, PN

Day: Saturday

Dates: July 30th, Aug 6th, 13th, 27th, Sept 17th, 24th

Time: 10.30am - 12pm

COST IS \$15 PER PERSON PER SESSION

All skateboards, safety equipment & instruction provided at each session.



REGISTER & PAY AT: WWW.ONBOARDSKATE.ORG.NZ

OnBoard
Feilding School