

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou,

Schools are very high-tech these days, and information from within schools can be shared quite easily. This is particularly good when students come to Halcombe and information can be shared with us to transition a child easily. The Ministry of Education receives information on attendance - one of the national priorities to ensure that students are in school and learning every day. This strategy is called 'Every Day Matters', and we get sent a report that analyses our school and compares it to other, similar sized schools.

Our attendance is very good when compared to other schools. Right across all year groups families are sending their children most days, and ensuring that their children are in school. And our students really enjoy school - there are interesting and challenging learning activities, physical programmes, and fun activities that are happening every day in our school.

This is not the case in some places, and absenteeism can be a problem. Ongoing absenteeism puts children in danger of not being ready for life. Being in school is extremely important - for learning, socialisation, for increased positive mindsets, for life experiences and physical development. I am very encouraged by our statistics for attendance.

Which leads me to the subject of holidays in term time...

We have a strong partnership with families and we know our community well. We have some farming families who run their farms according to a farming calendar and this doesn't follow the school calendar very well. So having holidays outside of term holiday time is understandable. There are others who want to have family trips for extended times, often to visit far-off places to reconnect with family and travel widely.

We accept and support these events as valid times where children need to be with families and experience the world. Quick, relaxing trips because holidays are cheaper outside of school holidays aren't great reasons to take pupils out of school. When pupils are away from school they are missing out on learning, and sports teams and class programmes are affected. We have had two years of lockdowns, and now the borders are open. We certainly understand the desire to get out and about! What I'd hate for us to see is a continuing trend of having holidays in term time and the undervaluing of school.

Have a great week,

Alastair & the 'H' Team.

QUIZ TIME - TEAM HALCOMBE... WE NEED YOU!

Planning is well underway for our world famous quiz night, coming up on Friday 9 September. This is a fundraising event, raising money for our digital technology programme. Any event like this relies on the support of our whānau, and we're hoping each family will be able to support us. Here is what we need:

- There will be a bottle auction at the quiz. We'd like each family to donate a bottle - it could be a bottle of wine, a fancy bottle of gin (we're after about ten 'top shelf' items), a bottle of soy sauce, olive oil, or coke - anything! Bottles can be taken to the office.
- We are asking each family to donate an item or two to contribute to a grocery raffle (dried goods only). A box of weetbix, a tube of toothpaste, a tin of baked beans, a box of chocolates, a bag of rice - anything! Grocery items can be taken to the office.
- We're also wanting a few special items that can be raffled off too. Do you have a business who may be able to support us? Do you have a neighbour who could help? Could you donate something for a 'pamper pack', a 'man box' or games, puzzles or books? We'd love to hear from you. Donated items can be taken to the office. Please note, we're after new items, rather than preloved stuff.
- Book a babysitter and organise a team for the quiz (entry form below). Get in quick, as this event is always very popular. First in, first served.

Welcome to Marie: Room 4

We welcome Marie Bourke, a retraining teacher, who will be working in Room 4 for four weeks. Lucky kids! Welcome Marie and enjoy what Halcombe has to offer!

Board of Trustees Election

At the close of nominations, we have 8 candidates for the Board of Trustees election:

Nathan Barrack, Rochelle Chase, Rachel Lane, Scott Linklater, Aaron Meurk, Luke Shannon, Kristy Staples and Simon Wishnowsky.

We will hold a postal vote to select 5 trustees for the Board.

Voting papers & candidates' statements will be posted to every parent/caregiver on our school roll this week. Full instructions are included. Votes can be posted or delivered back to the school by Wednesday 7 September 2022. The results will be declared on Tuesday 13 September 2022.

Please note: only one voting paper per person is provided. There are NO spare copies. Fill in your vote and return it to school ASAP!

Thank you to these candidates for their commitment to Halcombe School and good luck for the vote!

PTA Meeting

We continue to be incredibly well supported by our PTA. They have recently approved funding for:

- sports gear (gymnastics mats, hockey goalie gear and netballs) - \$1,700
- financial support for four of our elite athletes who are representing Halcombe School at the upcoming AIMS Games - \$350
- resources and equipment for our Enviro Club - \$180
- covering the cost of buses for students to attend interschool sports matches at South Makirikiri and Colyton Schools - \$730

Working Bee

Earlier this term, we talked about the need for a working bee to take care of a few jobs around the school. A couple of these jobs require heavy vehicles to drive across the field. It is just too wet at the moment, so our working bee is on hold until later this term. Hopefully things will have dried up a bit by then.

Interschool Sport

Best wishes to the 78 senior students involved in our winter sports exchange with Newbury School on Thursday. We are proud to be able to host our great rivals at Halcombe School. Bring it on!

Achievement Report to Board of Trustees

Several times a year the Board of Trustees receives detailed reports on the achievement of our pupils. In these they hear about successes, learning needs, professional development, and they celebrate the very good things that go on. They also consider the needs we have as a school, and consider the recommendations for future development of the school. The Board has a major report being discussed at Wednesday's meeting, and we will share these with you next week.

Scholastic Book Offer

The latest catalogues are out now. You have the option of ordering online directly from Scholastic via their new LOOP website. Your books are delivered to the classroom as usual. You can still send in cash. See the catalogue for the order forms and full details. Orders close Friday 19th August. In this issue, Scholastic are giving away free books!

Mathex

Good luck to our senior Mathex teams competing at the Manawatū Mathex competition on Friday:

Year 6: Harry, Sean, Brenna and Spencer

Year 7: Charlie, Campbell, Isaac and Cooper

Year 8: Eddie, Ella, Poppy and Finn



The poster features a large black arrow pointing right towards the text 'FREE BOOK OFFER'. Below this, it says 'To celebrate and spread the love of reading in your school, we are giving away FREE books to help you grow your home library!'. At the bottom, there is a table with the following content:

PLACE YOUR ISSUE'S ORDER and select UP TO 3 FREE BOOKS:	Receive	When you spend over
	1 Free Book	\$30
	2 Free Books	\$50
	3 Free Books	\$70

Conditions apply. See LOOP for more information.

Halcombe School Quiz Night

Friday 9th September 2022
School Hall

Doors open 6.15pm - Quiz starts at 7.00pm.

A FUN NIGHT TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME

\$15 per person

- *Get your family, friends and workmates together for a fun night out!*
- *Enter a team (4 – 6 players).*
- *Enter your team now! Entry form below, or just ring us on 328 8845 or email office@halcombe.school.nz*
- *Excellent prizes, raffles and a bottle auction.*
- *Cash bar.*
- *Great supper and nibbles provided.*
- *Limited to 35 teams - first in first served!*



Come along, join the fun and support our school!

Halcombe School Quiz Night - Friday 9th September 2022

Name: _____

Yes! We are entering a team of _____ people.

Team Name: _____

Payment enclosed for my team (\$15 per person): \$ _____

We will pay online - Account Number: 01 0625 0106729 00