



OTAKIRI COUNTRY SCHOOL

Newsletter 19th August 2020

“Learners Forever, Leading the Future”

Newsletters published weekly on Thursdays

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Kia ora Whanau, Caregivers and Community members

It is pleasing to see how New Zealanders are positively responding to this latest Covid-19 outbreak. While most of us are familiar with requirements at Alert Level 2, we will continue to emphasise the importance of:

- Good hand hygiene (using hand sanitiser upon entry and exit of class) and cough and sneeze etiquette
- Using one class entry and exit point
- Staying away if sick
- Keeping an appropriate physical distance from others
- Cleaning and disinfecting our high touch surfaces daily
- Staying in our bubbles whether at home or in school
- Displaying a QR code poster at our school office and encouraging all of our community to download the NZ COVID Tracer App and use it if they come on-site
- Keeping a visitor register for anyone who cannot use the app and for other essential visitors

We know all these things will help to keep our community as safe as possible. Because of these measures being in place, your child does not need to wear a face covering while at school.

Given the new cases of COVID-19 occurring in our communities, you will appreciate the importance of contact tracing as a critical aspect of the stamp it out strategy. The quicker close contacts of cases can be identified, the sooner those people can go into self-isolation and get support.

We appreciate those parents/caregivers who are able to drop off in the mornings and wait in their car for their child in the afternoon but all parents/caregivers who intend to bring their child/ren into school need to complete the visitor register or use the QR code poster at the front office door, which will support contact tracing efforts.

Please keep connected with us, as you have been doing. We look forward to seeing everyone in person very soon.

As Helen Keller quoted, **“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence”**.

Nāku Noa

Sharon Theobald

Poi Making

Matua Murray will soon be teaching poi in kapa haka but to do so the children need poi. Do you know how to make poi? Are you able to donate some time to the children to teach them how to make poi? Please let Michelle know if you can.

We are also looking for dacron stuffing, wool and white plastic bags. If you have any of these items you are happy to donate, please see Michelle.

Student Well-being

With the coronavirus causing historic unemployment levels, disrupted education and economic freefall around the world it's very easy to feel incredibly overwhelmed. Children have had a ringside seat watching their parents/caregivers come to terms with school closures, in some cases losing their employment, having to support learning from home, the return to school and now adjusting to a change in Alert status. This stress is trickling down to our children and for some, is having a substantial impact on their levels of wellbeing.

We need to view these responses as normal reactions to very abnormal, challenging situations that have created a perfect storm of stressors, and support their psychological wellbeing.

We need to tune into our kids' needs and turn stressful situations into opportunities for growth. Scientists have studied resilience in children and research has shown that certain conditions help children adjust. The following suggestions may help to reduce the negative impact of the pandemic;

- Limit news exposure - turn off that constant bombardment from all forms of the media
- Be calm and reassuring - parents/caregivers need to be the safe, calm adults leading their children through this time of uncertainty
- Help them to manage their emotions - when children can label their emotions and talk about the big, scary feelings they are having, they will dissipate more quickly
- Give them a sense of control and power - children feel empowered when they know what to do if they start feeling worried or anxious

No Parking

You will have noticed that there are now yellow NO PARKING lines painted opposite the bus turnaround area. Please respect these as they assist Mr Candy, our bus driver, in making safe exits from school in the afternoons. We recognise that parking is at a premium in the afternoons but also appreciate the support parents/caregivers provide.

Otakiri School LEAD Expectations

At school we promote LEAD expectations;

Learn with purpose

Engage with Kindness

Act with respect

Dare to dream

Students are reminded that by keeping our school litter free they are engaging with kindness and acting with respect.

While we don't impose those same expectations for our parents/caregivers we would appreciate they respect our school environment and be positive role models by keeping the school grounds and carpark litter free. Just recently a parent was observed emptying their ashtray out onto the school carpark area which we then had to clean up.

Dog Kennel Wanted

Wanted to buy a medium size dog kennel. Please call Helen on 322 8211.

Dates and Reminders

17th August to 18th September – Dental Bus at School;

8th September – Student Led Conferences; 23rd September – School Photos; 24th September – Last Day of Term 3; 25th September – **TEACHER ONLY DAY**; 12th October – First Day of Term 4; 15th October – Ag Day; 19th October – Group Day; 28th October (NEW DATE) – Junior Tough Guy and Girl Mud Run