



WAIKOWHAI
INTERMEDIATE

Waikowhai Intermediate School

...developing life-long learners...

Issue 5

Term 2

29th May 2020

Greetings, Kia Ora, Fakalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Taloha, Kia Orana, Ni Hao, Buenos Dias, Chao, Malo ni Habari, Dobar dan, Bula Vinaka, Apa Khabar.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have had a very settled and positive return to school. At the time of writing this Newsletter, attendance is very nearly back to normal, with 92% of children attending.

It is the partnership between our community of parents and caregivers, teachers and students that makes Waikowhai Intermediate a great place to be and I would like to thank all of you for your work and support during the period of Home Learning. On reflecting as a Leadership Team, we believe it was the connection that our teachers, students and our parents / caregivers made during Home Learning that has helped to ensure such a smooth return to school.

We will be doing some more reflecting on the period of Home Learning in the weeks to come as a staff. While it was a period of great challenges, coming through it also offers an opportunity for new learning. It has also been a period of time that has resulted in us adjusting some of our approaches and re-working some of our calendar events, please read on in the Newsletter so you can make a note of these.

As routines settle back in, please do continue to communicate with us as you need to, as I have said in the past, email is the best form of initial contact.

Kind regards,

David King
Principal

Mid-Year Report on Attitude and Achievement

Research showed that the best thing we could do, post-lockdown, was to focus on activities that re-engaged our students and supported them to have a positive attitude. On achieving this, our students would be in a better place to learn and progress.

Therefore, we have not subjected the students to our normal testing after the period of Home Learning as this would not have been helpful. Without completing testing, teachers are unable to complete our normal Mid-Year Report in a meaningful way. So we have changed the Mid-Year Report for 2020. This year's report will focus on engagement and attitude, as this was our immediate focus after the students returned to school, and we want to ensure that all students are back at school, with the right attitude and engaged in their learning. We also want to hear from you at home that this is the case. It is the partnership with families at home that we value, because we know when schools and families work together closely, we achieve the best outcomes for students.

On the report teachers will work with children to guide them in a reflection on their time during Home Learning and after their return to school. Teachers will also add their comments for these two periods, and then we will send the report home on Tuesday 23rd June for your own comments.

At the end of Term 3, we will send home a report that will mirror our Benchmark Report at the beginning of the year, and will give a curriculum level to indicate progress and achievement. Our normal End of Year Report will still come home.

Here is a preview of what the report will look like:

Mid-year Report on Attitude and Engagement



Research showed that the best thing we could do, post-lockdown, was to focus on activities that re-engaged our students and supported them to have a positive attitude. On achieving this, our students would be in a better place to learn and progress. Therefore, the current report focuses on engagement and attitude. At the end of Term 3, we will send home a report that will mirror our Benchmark Report at the beginning of the year, and will give a curriculum level to indicate progress and achievement. Our normal End of Year Report will still come home.

At any time, please contact the school to discuss your child's learning.

Student Reflection	
<i>During Home Learning</i>	<i>After Home Learning</i>
Teacher Reflection	
<i>During Home Learning</i>	<i>After Home Learning</i>
Caregiver Reflection	
<i>During Home Learning</i>	<i>After Home Learning</i>

Signed _____
 Student Teacher Caregiver Date

Dates for Term 2

Queen's Birthday	Monday 1st June
Mid-Year Report on Attitude and Engagement comes home	Tuesday 23rd June
Photolife photos	Wednesday 1st July
Last day of Term 2, 2pm finish	Friday 3rd July

Drink Bottles and Hand sanitiser

Please do provide your child with a full drink bottle and hand sanitiser for their day at school. We do have a plentiful supply of sanitiser at school, but it is very helpful for children to take responsibility for their own hand hygiene, as it helps with the practicalities of a class full of children accessing one bottle.



School Camp and Year 8 Activity Week

Due to the costs involved for families, and the possibility of Alert Level changes creating an uncertain health and economic environment, the Leadership Team, with the support of the Board of Trustees, have decided to cancel the Year 7 camp for 2020, and change the Year 8 Activity Week so it is a school based event. We will have a school wide activity week on site towards the end of Term 4, at no charge to families. Teachers are in the process of planning a variety of activities for the week to make it a memorable one for our students. For a refund please email your bank account number to Astrid Day in our office, finance@wai-int.school.nz. If you are in Year 7 you can let Astrid know to carry the money over to 2021 costs.

TradeMe auction of donated Waifest goods

We had some extremely generous donations of goods (a particular mention to Harvey Norman) for Waifest. There are a number of great items that are still featuring on the front page of our school website. They are being auctioned on TradeMe from next Friday and we will pass on a link to the auction when we have it.

This remains a fundraiser for the school and proceeds will support the school wide activity week in Term 4.

Weekly Attendance data report to the Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education has asked schools to pass on to our communities that they will be collecting weekly attendance data to help them respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Details from them are as follows:

Student Attendance data will be sent to the Ministry of Education from 29 May. The purpose is to:

- report to the National Crisis Monitoring Centre and government on levels of attendance during the COVID-19 period
- inform and support Ministry planning for students and schools returning to normal operation, and
- evaluate and report on the effectiveness of initiatives implemented by the Ministry to respond and manage its response to COVID-19.

Request for Backgammon sets

Some of our students have expressed an interest in learning and playing Backgammon. If anyone has a spare Backgammon Game at home they would like to donate to our school, it would be very much appreciated. Please just bring it into the office.





Request to schools to place in their school newsletters/communications:

Kia ora,

During COVID-19 Alert Level 2, the Children's Community Dental Service has reopened some of its clinics for children with urgent dental care needs.

We will be in contact with you if your child requires an urgent appointment.

Alternatively, if your child is in pain, or you have immediate concerns about their teeth, please phone 0800 TALK TEETH to speak with one of our therapists.

We are not able to offer routine appointments just yet, but we will let you know as soon as this changes.

This means that your child's routine appointment may be delayed.

For more information, search for 'ARDS' on the Waitemata DHB website.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this time.

The Children's Community Dental Service.