

Inspiring a love of learning through an education that values the development of the whole child

19 May 2020

Week 3, Term 2



Nau mai, hoki mai! Welcome back

It is great to be back! I think we all enjoyed witnessing how happy the children were to see each other yesterday. We were also very happy to see them all - 3 dimensionally!

The tamariki have been very good at managing themselves in relation to all the level 2 rules. Of course the social distancing is a challenge, especially when overwhelmingly high fives and hugs would seem the natural response after such a long time apart, however our priority on sanitising and handwashing ensures the no touching rule breaches are effectively mitigated!

The teachers have been sharing their teaching from home stories. We have all experienced considerable digital technology skill development over the last 8 weeks. We intend to build upon this and the development children also had as they navigated new ways of learning and of being in contact with their teachers and each other. Our Staff Only Day next Friday (29th) is going to be focussed on sharing the platforms we used, the ideas and successful learning experiences that came out of the “Learning at Home” experience as well as the challenges. We will also be discussing how this development will be utilised and influences our teaching going forward.



HOME LEARNING

Your child’s ability to engage in the learning at home made all the difference to their experience. We know that everyone didn’t have the same experience and that the ability to effectively engage with the online teaching was affected by a range of factors, often ones beyond our control, or your control. (e.g, the Ministry’s decision to leave the delivery of devices in Wellington to the end.)

We will be reflecting on these factors and identifying ways to improve engagement and address issues more effectively beforehand.

Another factor that made all the difference to the “Learning at Home” experience was the engagement of parents during the lockdown. We thoroughly appreciated the efforts you all went to in your kitchen, lounge or bedroom based classrooms supporting your tamariki throughout the 6 weeks of distance learning.

There is much to be learned from this experience. We are certainly open to harnessing the positive outcomes that have emerged from the “Learning at Home” experience and engaging with other educators, boards of trustees and the Ministry of Education to explore ways it may influence and change education for the future.

For the time being, however, we are just enjoying settling back into school, re-establishing routines and re-starting our school based learning programmes and, most importantly, fostering our relationships with each and every tamaiti in our care.



Absences - The Ministry of Education has advised schools they can continue to provide at home learning support for students who remain at home due to the following reasons:

- Self isolation
- Immune compromising health factors (individual or whānau)
- Illness

Otherwise, children are now expected to be back at school.

Reports - All parents will receive a progress report by the end of term 2. They will be emailed out as teachers finish them. This means each classroom's reports will be going out at different times. I have also given teachers the option of doing a full report covering all subjects, or two reports, one this term and one next term that divide the subject coverage. Reports for Kākano, Kererū and Kākāriki will be full reports. Reports for Tōtara, Ngaio, Pōhutukawa, Tūi, Kōwhai and Kaikōmako will cover Mathematics, Literacy and the Key Competencies this term and all the other subjects in the first half of next term. The flexible reporting schedule and formats are due to the variance in demands during lockdown and information that teachers had when the term abruptly finished.



We are looking at the second half of term 3 to have parent interviews. Dates are yet to be decided but will be communicated well beforehand.



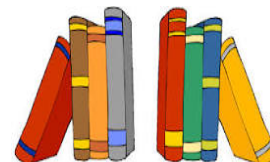
Staff Only Day - The Staff Only Day was deliberately planned for Friday 29 June as the Monday is Queen's Birthday. Although we have been away from the school for 8 weeks I decided to leave this day as planned to provide a space for reflecting, re-focusing and shared professional learning and also for those whānau who may have already made plans for this weekend. Therefore no school on 29, 30, 31 May & 1 June.

Technology for Yr 7/8 students re-starts this Friday. The bus leaves school at 8.45am.



Code Club - A date has not been set for the resumption of Code Club but it will not be before Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Library – Please return any library books you have had at home over lockdown. Overdue messaging begins again next week.



Yummy Fruit Stickers – Please continue to collect stickers (and cut out the labels from plastic bags) from Yummy Fruit. We get free sports gear for every sticker collected.

Ngā mihi
Clifford

2020 Term Dates

Term 2	Wed 15 Apr	Fri 3 Jul
Term 3	Mon 20 Jul	Fri 25 Sept
Term 4	Mon 12 Oct	Tues 15 Dec

Queen's Birthday: Mon 1 June (**Staff Only Day on Friday 29 May**)
Labour Weekend: Mon 26 Oct (**Staff Only Day on Friday 23 Oct**)

Upcoming
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Marrzipan Drama is running a special DISCOUNTED short term for the rest of term 2! Students will get to explore different scripts, choose their favourite, audition and be cast as a character and then record a MOVIE TRAILER for the play. A digital copy will be sent to parents so you can celebrate your child's achievements by watching it at home with them. Marrzipan Drama is a safe space where children are encouraged to learn at their own pace and come out of their shell when they are ready, with the guidance of our wonderful, fun and supportive Marrzipan teachers. Check out our website for more info or to book a trial class marrzipandrama.co.nz

Pride Lands Fun Holiday Adventures, Winter Holidays At Otari School, Wilton. 6-17 July 2020 from 7.00am-6pm daily. Interactive Activities and NO TV or Video Games, Kai Cubs Cooking and Life Skills Programme creating healthy Breakfast, Lunch and Afternoon Teas. One-on-one care and shuttle services available. Daily \$81/cub per session or \$148 for two or more siblings per session; Weekly: \$243 per cub/week or \$453 for two or more siblings/week. WINZ subsidies are available for eligible families. **Contact us: 0800 PRIDE 4 U or register online: www.pridelands.org.nz or www.Facebook.com/PrideLandsChildcare.**

Sunshine Drama classes shift from Zoom back to our physical teaching space this week. Classes provide a creative and fun learning space for students aged 4 - 16 years of age. Sessions engage imaginative minds, grow confidence & build communication, performance and social skills. New students are welcome to join us mid way through the term. For further information or to arrange a free trial class, contact Jenae on 0274380533 or visit www.sunshinedrama.co.nz.