

BIRKDALE

NORTHschool

Respect Integrity Perseverance Empathy

Manaaki Whakakotahi Manawanui Aroha

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Friday 27th November 2020

Newsletter

Term 4 No. 14

Principal's voice:

Tēnā koutou, talofa, bonjour, malo e lelei, kia orana and hello,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and not too stressed coming up to the holiday season! This is one of the busiest times for us at school with many extras to fit in! The teachers are working hard to get reports to Anne- Marie and I to read. The reports will be with you on 15th December.

Children get uneasy at this time of year.

This is often a time when the children begin to get a little uneasy. It is a good time to talk to your children about your plans for the holidays, what you are doing, where you are going and if you are working make sure the children know who is looking after them. We often mention how our tamariki feel better ready for school when they get to school on time and have time to read the timetable, talk to their friends and settle into the day before the bell at 8:55. At this time of year it is even more important as there are often different routines in place - extra rehearsals for assemblies, singing practise etc.

Picking children up after school - please pick them up on time.

We are very aware how tricky it can be picking children up after school, juggling other siblings, work commitments and traffic! This is a gentle reminder that we do finish at 3pm. We understand you may be a few minutes late but recently we have had children still in our care at 3:30pm.

Change to our end of year final day.

I have already sent this notice out but wanted to make sure everyone is aware of the change. I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused any of you.

Our advised date of the final day of school being the 17th December was incorrect. The final day will now be Tuesday 15th December to comply with updated dates set by the Ministry of Education.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause and thank you for your understanding and support regarding our new end of term date.

We have now moved our School picnic fun day to Thursday 10th December and our reports will be with you on 15th December

An application to the Lion Foundation has been posted.

We have applied to The Lion Foundation for support to replace our playground and add to our playground adjacent to rooms 1 and 2. We have had a clear student voice throughout the process with an initial questionnaire going out to them in the form of a google form to gather initial thoughts and information of their vision (very interesting!). As we got companies in to look at what we needed we also had a group of students talk to them to relay their ideas. We then shared the two plans with the children and voted to find out which was the most popular - it could not have been more even with 94 to 93 votes! So now we just need to keep our fingers crossed and hope The Lion Foundation sees our need as a worthy one! I would like to Acknowledge Andrew Higgins who has supported us and has put in many hours collecting background information, making contact with many playground companies. Thank you Andrew and let's hope we get everything we have asked for!

Athletics day.

What a great day, even the weather could not dampen the children's enthusiasm! There were a few showers but then the sun would be out again and we were good to go! Thank you Brenda for all the organisation and for the extra support from our parents.



We wish our teachers who are moving on all the best.

As you will already know, Whaea Tui is leaving us at the end of the year. She will be sorely missed and has been a great support to me during the past two years.

Brigitte Helgen from room 9 has also decided not to continue in room 9 due to family commitments next year.

Grace Farrant has also resigned after taking maternity leave for the past year. She intends to move permanently up North and will continue to pursue her teaching career up there.

We will miss all of these ladies who have all brought their own individual strengths and identity. We wish them well in their future careers and pathways.

I am typing this newsletter from home this week as I have been a bit under the weather with a heavy cold. I did go for a covid swab which came back negative, I was impressed at the very rapid turn around of the test and would definitely advise anyone if they are under the weather just to have it done to be on the safe side.

Blue Certificate winners.

Well done to all our learners for the past two weeks.



Have a great weekend and get outside in the sun whenever it appears!

Nga mihi nui

Jan

Upcoming Events

Term Dates 2020:

Term 4 12th October - 15th December

Whats on:

Term 4:

9th December Helpers Morning Tea 11am - 12pm

10th December School Picnic Fun Day

10th December Board of Trustees meeting 6pm

11th December Year 6 Leaving Function & Graduation

14th December End of School Assembly 9.15am - 11am

15th December Last day Term 4

Public Holidays:

The Walking School bus:

Currently suspended due to Covid.

If you have any queries or need further information, please contact Mrs Singh, Room 10.

Photo Life: You should have received your child's unique access code to view and order photos online. To take advantage of the school free delivery your order needs to be in by **midnight Sunday 6th December**. Any queries please contact the school office.

Public Health Nurses are available on 09 486 8996.

Alternatively call Healthline on 0800 611 116 or visit www.health.govt.nz. The Public Health Nurses are able to help with providing things like nit treatment, action plans for students that have medical conditions and other general health queries.

School Dental services are based at Glenfield Intermediate, Chivalry Road, Glenfield.

Ph 09 444 6160

Hearing & Vision:

If you have genuine concerns for your child's Vision or Hearing or want to rule it out as a contributor to behaviour and performance in school you can make an appointment at one of the WDHB clinics. Please click on the link below for further information.

<http://www.waitematadhb.govt.nz/hospitals-clinics/clinics-services/child-and-family-services/>

The vision screening is for distance only so if you have concerns for Vision you could see an optometrist, they will do a full eye check- Specsavers do free checks for children under 16 years.