



OTAUA SCHOOL

55 Maioro Road, RD 2, Waiuku. 09

235 2741,

admin@otaua.school.nz,

www.otaua.school.nz



Newsletter

Wednesday 20th May , Week 6 Term 2

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

Welcome back everybody!

Alert Level 2

It was so good to see the children again on Monday and be able to get back into the swing of things in our 'new normal'. Thank you for adhering to our Alert Level 2 guidelines and remaining off-site as much as possible, and doing your best to social distance when at the gates. We will continue with our system of drop offs and pick ups from both gates for the time-being. Children using the bus will continue to be marked off a register each morning on arrival. Our drinking fountains continue to remain out-of-bounds at this stage so the children need to bring their own, named water bottle to school each day.

Please also continue to keep children who are unwell at home until their symptoms have cleared. If your child has a runny nose due to allergies, and is well (ie do not have a fever, headache, sore throat or cough) then they are able to come to school but please communicate with your child's classroom teacher so that they are aware of the situation.

PTA Lunches

Our Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, will be updating the nation next week regarding our progress at Alert Level 2. Once she has done this Mandy Burns, our PTA lunches coordinator, and I will revisit the timeline for starting up Tuesday and Friday lunches. We both want to feel reassured that we can provide the best level of hygiene around food preparation and deliveries. This means that lunches will NOT be available to buy at school until further notice. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Bus Conduct

Well done to all those who have talked to their children about appropriate conduct while using the bus and have returned their signed agreement forms. We only have a very small number outstanding and will be following up on these. Mrs Kelsey and I talked with the bus children on Monday this week and very clearly outlined our expectations. We don't want to have to remove anyone from the bus; however, this will be a consequence of inappropriate behavioural choices. Using the bus is a perfect opportunity for Otatau School children to display our school values of Citizenship, Fairness, Responsibility and Trustworthiness.

Teacher Only Day

You will remember that the Waiuku schools had planned an area wide (Kahui Ako) professional learning and development day for Friday 20th March last term. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic this day was postponed. A new date of **Thursday 18th June** has been tentatively scheduled. I will confirm this once we know that a gathering of this size is officially allowed to go ahead. In the meantime, please pencil this date into your diary. There will be no school for any students in Waiuku (all primary schools plus the College) on this day as all teachers and teacher aides will be at Waiuku College.

We continue to keep Carol and her husband, Ian, in our thoughts and prayers.

Take care everybody, stay safe.

Nga mihi,
Jocelyn

NATURE WARRIORS

Over the lockdown period many of the children were involved in projects that help our environment. Toby McCabe came each week to check and rebait our school traps. Adam Lowe made rat traps for his family farm. Eilis Roden and her grandad made a bee hive out of tyres. Archie Shuker recorded night sounds on his family farm listening for native bats. Mr Kelsey made a herb garden out of guttering which hangs on the fence - my help wasn't needed - I just got to make the scones for afternoon tea. I haven't caught up with everyone yet but I would love to hear of other projects the children were involved in. Any photos would also be great so we can use them in "Our Journey" book which Payton and Taliyah are working on. Would love it if you can email anything you have maria@otatau.school.nz.



