



OTAUVA SCHOOL

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Newsletter

Term 3, Week 9, Thursday 17th September

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Kia ora, kotou. This week is Te Wiki o te reo Maori (Maori Language week). Students and teachers have been exploring and using a range of words and phrases in te Reo Maori within the classroom this week. *Poipoia te kakano, kia puawai.* (Nurture the seed and it will blossom).

Alert Level 2.5

For now we remain at Alert Level 2.5 - this will be reviewed on Monday 21st September. I'll update you on any changes. In the meantime, please remember the following:

- Anyone who chooses to wear a face covering will be supported to do so (students cannot be required to wear face coverings in schools).
- **Students aged 12 and above** are required to wear a face covering when on public transport (there are some exemptions including for health reasons).
- **For school transport, bus drivers are wearing face coverings, but children and young people are not required to wear face coverings.**
- Face coverings are an **extra protective physical barrier** to help keep people safe. Hand washing, good cough and sneeze etiquette, cleaning surfaces regularly, staying away if unwell and physical distancing from people you don't know all contribute to minimising spread of illness.

As mentioned above, it is very important to keep your child/ren home if they are at all unwell. This is a directive from the Ministry of Education, in line with Ministry of Health guidelines. Phone Healthline (0800 611 116) or your GP and get tested if you, or your children, have cold or flu symptoms. Please make sure you and your family members are regularly washing and drying your hands thoroughly, and sneezing and coughing into elbows.

Please make sure your child/ren are bringing a named drink bottle to school - our drinking fountains remain closed until we are at Alert Level 1. I am aware that a few children don't have a drink bottle with them at school. We know that healthy, working brains need regular water intake throughout the day to maximise learning.

Calf Club Committee

Please make sure you have the following dates in your calendar:

Saturday 10th October (last Saturday of the Term 3 holidays), if we are at Alert Level 1. There will be no indoor exhibits.

Birdhouse projects can be delivered to school during the first week of Term 4, ready for judging on Friday 16th October.

Y8 Parents Information at Waiuku College

Waiuku College has advised that the Parents Information Evening for current Y8 students and their parents, which was scheduled for 14th October, has been postponed at this stage due to gathering restrictions.

Digital Literacy

In a nutshell, the Technology learning area of the New Zealand Curriculum traditionally covers the process of identifying a need and coming up with a way in which this need can be met. More recently, this learning area has been revised to include Digital Technologies in order to ensure that all learners have the opportunity to become digitally capable individuals. The revised curriculum has a greater focus on students building their skills so they can be innovative creators of digital solutions, rather than just users and consumers of digital technologies.

At Otua School this means that students will have a broad range of opportunities to learn in and about technology. They will be developing their understanding and abilities in computational thinking, while designing and developing digital outcomes.

What might this look like? It could be that a group of children are working collaboratively to brainstorm ideas for a storyboard in response to a challenge (eg. playing fairly in the forest). This storyboard is then used to create a visual digital outcome using an app on a class Ipad. The teachers recently took this challenge on at a staff meeting and used Puppet Pals to make their digital presentation!



It might be that a group of students are learning to write digital code, which is what devices use to process information. At our level, we can use our new bank of BeeBots to learn about the way in which code is created and tested to identify any "bugs" in the system. Heaps of fun! Hannah and Brayden had some fun with the BeeBots today...it's a lot harder than it looks!

End of year dates

Here are a few dates to note in your diary...

Year 8 Dance: Thursday 10th December

Prizegiving: Wednesday 16th December at the Waiuku Town Hall

Last day of school: Thursday 17th December (lunchtime finish)

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

In the meantime, take care and stay safe.

Ngā mihi nui,
Jocelyn