

Hororata Primary School



PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

AUTHOR: Marty Gameson
Principal | Tumuaki
Hororata Primary School

 Mobile: 027 229 1163
 Email: principal@hororata.school.nz

DATE: Tuesday 7 December 2021

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Unite
against
COVID-19

Overview

The purpose of this bulletin is to give you a heads up on a few things happening in our world that will impact upon your child in the next few weeks. Please note that some of these events involve your child being out of the school grounds for a period of time.

New COVID-19 Protection (Traffic Light) Framework

You will be aware that everyone in Aotearoa moved to the new COVID-19 Traffic Light Framework at 11:59pm on Thursday 2 December 2021 and that we have moved to Orange in the framework.

Elimination and the alert levels have worked well, with New Zealand having the lowest numbers of cases and hospitalisations in the OECD. While controlled, Delta is in our communities and the strategy now focuses on minimising its impact. This means that we don't have to change the way we are operating classes this year and everyone can continue to attend school onsite.

For next year, we can confirm that everyone will be back onsite for learning from the start of the school year, regardless of what setting under the new Traffic Light Framework we will be in (Red/Orange/Green). This is good news and means we can plan for a great 2022.

Health measures in place at school

This year and next, health, safety and wellbeing will continue to be a priority for us and the same public health measures you are very familiar with will remain in place:

- good hygiene and cleaning
- contact tracing systems in place
- vaccination requirements for workers (paid and unpaid)
- if you are sick, you must stay home and get tested
- good ventilation.

With all these measures in place, public health has confirmed the risk of infection remains low when at school, with households continuing to be where COVID-19 is spreading the most.

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that children and teens don't become as unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on so much as adults when in a classroom setting. However, if we do have someone confirmed with COVID-19 in our school, we have a plan in place to manage this and will contact you as soon as possible.

If you'd like to learn more about the framework visit:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/covid-19-protection-framework/>

Darfield High School Transition Day

The Darfield High School Year Six Transition Day will be held on Friday 10 December 2021. Year Six students are to meet at the DHS hall at 9:00am and ending at 3:00pm.

The DHS buses will run as usual. Students are welcome to travel on the bus to DHS and home again at the end of the day. Afternoon times are not the same as the primary-only routes we currently run and will need to be checked if time is a factor.

Students can wear their current school uniform or mufti and will need to take their morning tea, lunch and a drink bottle.

We know that this day will be one met with excitement and some nerves. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if there is anything we can do to ensure that your child gets the most out of the experience.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Hororata Primary School has an open-door policy and welcomes parents/caregivers to discuss their child's progress and elements of classroom or school programmes at any time. School reports and Parent-Teacher Conferences are a valuable part of our open-door policy.

End-of-Year School Reports were sent home to families on Friday 3 December 2021. This report is a summary of your child's progress and achievement in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and the broader curriculum this year.

As our next Parent-Teacher Conferences are not scheduled until March 2022, we offer those families moving on and/or those parents who urgently need to discuss a student's progress and achievement before the year's end, the opportunity to meet with teachers on Monday 13 December 2021 (one night only). Conferences will be held between 3:00 –7.00pm and will be 20 minutes per child in duration. Please note the purpose of this short round of conferences is to cater for those families unable to attend conferences in the New Year.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to offer childcare facilities for this round of Parent-Teacher Conferences.

If you would like to meet your child's teacher at this time, please contact them directly by phone or email, to arrange a catch-up.

Year Six Graduation Function

At the end of each year, we farewell a group of senior students who are taking their next steps onto to High School.

This year the Board of Trustees together with the Hororata Parent Teacher Association will be holding a special dinner for Year Six students and their parents (no siblings sorry), here at school from 6:00pm on Tuesday 14 December 2021.

The dinner observing the appropriate health measures and a formal attire dress code will be a great opportunity to acknowledge and thank our Year Sixes and their families for the contributions they have made to our school over the years.

Families will be contacted directly by their classroom teacher over the next few days, to confirm your attendance at this special event.

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

CONNECT
TALK & LISTEN,
BE THERE,
FEEL CONNECTED

Give
Your time,
your words,
your presence

TAKE NOTICE
REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY

KEEP LEARNING
EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES.
SEE OPPORTUNITIES.
SURPRISE YOURSELF

BE ACTIVE
DO WHAT YOU CAN.
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO.
MOVE YOUR MOOD

INTRODUCE THESE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE AND YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS.
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Live Well Farm Well



Christmas Celebration Assembly

The final Celebration Assembly is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the year; highlight the success of our akonga and showcase those people who make the magic happen around here... our tamariki, kaiako and whanau.

As you have probably guessed already, COVID and the current regime of health measures in place here at school, means that we are unable to hold a traditional Celebration Assembly this year.

As we are not prepared to simply cancel the assembly, we have been forced to **'Think outside the box'; to use flexibility, creativity, innovation, and social intelligence to solve this problem (learning values).**

The NEW and QUITE DIFFERENT Celebration Assembly, will be held here at school at 10:30am on Friday 17 December 2021 for **school children and staff only**. The assembly will be recorded and shared with the school community via the school website after the event.

You will appreciate that the year that was, has meant that we do not have as many awards to give out and that our ability to prepare and practice production items has been quite limited. This means that the Celebration Assembly will not have all the bells and whistles we have traditionally enjoyed and will instead be something quite special and a chance to make history in a different way!

Although this is breaking with tradition, we are excited by the fact that you, your tamariki and wider whanau will have the opportunity to be part of our Celebration Assembly, not just those who can make it on the night... even grandma in Great Britain will be able to watch!

School Swimming Pool (Update)

Boards of Trustees are responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the school pool. In doing so they have a duty of care to everyone using the school pool inside and outside of normal school hours.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, the Board has to take all practicable steps to ensure everyone using the pool with their permission, remains safe. The school meets its Health and Safety obligations with the day-to-day monitoring and management of water quality and the pool enclosure.

Under the new COVID-19 Protection System (Traffic Light Framework) the Board has to implement a number of additional health measures to ensure that all users of the swimming pool are safe. Failure to meet these obligations, could result in the closure of the pool.

While most of us are familiar with requirements at Alert Level 2 and/or the new Traffic Light Framework, here at school, personal hygiene, social distancing, tracing our steps and monitoring the number of people using a public venue at any one time are important strategies we use to ensure that members of our learning community gather safely.

The Hororata Board of Trustees is committed to providing members of our community access to the school swimming pool. To achieve this, the following measures have been introduced to ensure everyone using the pool remains safe and healthy:

- Pool keys will be available for sale, with strict expectations of key holders
- A Pool Supervisor will be employed by the school, to monitor the health and safety of patrons
- Video surveillance will be installed in the pool enclosure to monitor the behaviour of patrons and ensure that we do not exceed our venue capacity limit of fifty (50)
- Contact tracing systems will be installed in the pool enclosure

As you can see the school has gone to great lengths to ensure that swimming pool is accessible to our community. The Board has agonised over how we can give everyone access to pool, whilst at the same time adhering to the health and safety measures necessary to stem the spread of this virus in our community.

We rely on the school community to get behind us on this and for all users of the pool to adhere to the new health and safety protocols. We all have a shared responsibility for safe management of this amazing community asset and all need to play our part in ensuring our pool is a safe place for everyone.

'He Waka Eke Noa - We're All in this Together'

Pool keys will be available for sale at the School Office, from 3:00 – 4:00pm on Friday 10 December 2021 and/or from the office during school hours i.e., 7:30am – 2:00pm. This year Pool keys have been priced at \$75.00 per key, including a \$25.00 bond for the key.



No vaccine pass required

Orange settings are currently in place



Wear a face covering



Scan in



**50 people
in this venue only**

Find out more at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

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New Zealand Government

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