



# GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Anchored in MANA - Manaakitanga - Awhina - Ngākau Pono - Ako



## THIS WEEK'S WHAKATAUKI

E ngaki ana a  
mua, e tōtō mai  
ana a muri

First clear the  
weeds, then  
plant.

Our minds  
require a clearing  
of space to  
prepare for the  
planting of new  
ideas.  
Take time to do a  
little mind-  
weeding and  
plant some  
positivity.

## *Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)*

Welcome to Week 3. Finally seeing some rain and this will hearten many of you looking out on brown pastures. I hope there is sufficient rain to reverse some of the effects of what has been a long hot summer.



**YEAR 7&8  
IMMUNISATION**  
Forms are due  
back Friday 19th  
February



**STUDENT  
CONFERENCES**  
Tuesday 2nd &  
Wednesday 3rd  
March



**BOOKING FOR  
STUDENT  
CONFERENCES**  
This will open  
next week



**LAUNCHPAD**  
Launchpad will  
start next Tuesday  
at lunchtime

## Manaakitanga - Caring for ourselves and others

The pressing news of the week is the return, from midnight last night, to Covid Alert Level 2. This is currently anticipated to be a 72 hour imposition to isolate and further identify a community outbreak in Auckland.

While we hope it will be contained within that allocated period, experience has shown us to expect the unexpected with this pandemic.

We will be spending time over the next few days reexamining our responses from the last lockdown to provide a seamless transition into higher levels should that be declared at Government.

At the moment though we are operating under the restrictions of level 2. They are as follows:

### Alert Level 2 - All of New Zealand excluding Auckland region

Alert Level 2 applies from midnight tonight for 72 hours.

#### 1. Schools are open to everyone, and all children must attend.

At Alert Level 2 the disease is contained but there is still risk of community transmission. It is safe for children and staff to attend school as there will be appropriate measures in place, including for children and staff vulnerable to severe illness.

#### 2. Learning will be onsite with distance learning offered in some circumstances.

Distance learning will be provided for those required to self-isolate, those individuals who health authorities have asked to stay away while waiting for a test result, or those choosing to remain at home because they are vulnerable to illness. Please contact us and make

individual arrangements if you fall into this category.

#### 3. Schools are not classified as gatherings and a range of events and activities can go ahead.

For most day to day activities at schools, the rules for gatherings do not apply. [Under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Order](#), schools are exempted from physical distancing requirements when people are there to receive, provide, or support education services.

However as soon as events and activities bring people onsite who are not here for education purposes, including students, parents and caregivers, then the rules for gatherings do apply. This would include performances such as school plays, cultural events and sporting activities.

#### 4. Schools will close for cleaning and contact tracing if there is a confirmed case who was infectious when at school.

The Director of Education will work closely with the school and health authorities should this occur.

#### 5. Face coverings are not required at school or on any school transport.

This includes charter buses hired by the school to transport students and staff. Anyone who chooses to wear a face covering in any setting will be supported to do so.

#### 6. Sick people must stay at home.

They should seek medical advice if they have COVID-like symptoms and get tested if advised to do so. If that person displays relevant symptoms of COVID-19, tests positive for COVID-19, or has been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate.

#### 7. You must have a contact tracing system in place.

We have QR code posters at our entrances, and at the office. Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up at the gate and staff will be able to assist here. If at any time, you do have to



come onto the school site beyond the office or among the buildings we ask that you sign in at the office.

**8. Fundamental public health measures continue to apply at every alert level:**

- Physical distancing (not touching and not breathing on each other at Alert Level 2)
- Hand hygiene
- Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Regularly cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces.

This has been communicated out to staff and classrooms resourced accordingly.

**9. Think and plan carefully before you go ahead with any activity that brings a large number of students together and/or spectators are involved.**

Some events may need to be cancelled or postponed when we are at Alert Level 2. Inter-regional travel is possible but only where you are confident the appropriate measures will be in place at the host venue, including requirements for gatherings.

**10. Community use of the school swimming pool is suspended until further notice.**

Those families that have a key may retain them for when restrictions lift.

## **AKO - Quality teaching and learning together**

### **Meet the teacher meetings**

These are scheduled to be held on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd March. School will close from 12.30pm on the Tuesday and normal time on the Wednesday. They will be 10 mins in duration and are an opportunity to connect with your child's teacher face to face and discuss goals and highlight any issues that may affect learning. Booking instructions will be in next week's newsletter.

## **Awhina - Supporting others to be the best they can be**

### **Launchpad**

As a result of the introduction of the Education and Training Act 2020 the community was surveyed last year around the continuation of Launchpad (religious education) in our school. The resolution of the Board of Trustees was for Launchpad to continue but during lunchtimes once a week. This will take the form of half hour lessons facilitated by external providers.

The portions of the school used for this activity will be 'closed' for normal instruction and for your child to attend you must have indicated an 'opt in' response to the school. Those who have not done this will not be permitted to attend. We will work with the Launchpad team to iron out any issues around this change. The first session is next Tuesday 23 February.

## **Ngakau Pono - Demonstrating Integrity, loyalty and honesty**

### **Student leadership**

We have received some excellent applications from Year 8 students to fill 10 student council positions for 2021. They have worked hard on their CVs and sourcing referees. The next step is interviewing and making a decision on the best candidates. The criteria is finding the best mix of students to reflect and represent the school. One of our education mandates is to prepare our learners for the world beyond school. The skills of applying for advertised positions are essential in later life. I wish them all the very best with their applications. Hopefully we will be able to introduce the 2021 Student Council in the next newsletter.

*Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī (That's all for now)*

*Keith O'Donnell, Principal*

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## YEAR 7 & 8 IMMUNISATION

### YEAR 7 IMMUNISATION

The Yr 7 immunisation for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough will be undertaken during 2021.

Consent forms will be sent home with EVERY Yr 7 student.

Please complete and return to the School Office.

There is provision within the form for your non-consent, should you wish for that.

### YEAR 8 IMMUNISATION

The Yr 8 Immunisation for HPV (Human Papillomavirus) which can develop into Cervical cancer and other HPV related cancers, will be undertaken in two doses during 2021.

Consent forms will be sent home with EVERY Yr 8 student.

Please complete and return to the School Office.

There is provision within the form for your non-consent, should you wish for that.

### PLEASE REMEMBER

**WE WOULD LIKE ALL FORMS RETURNED REGARDLESS OF IF THEY ARE FOR CONSENT OR NON-CONSENT.**

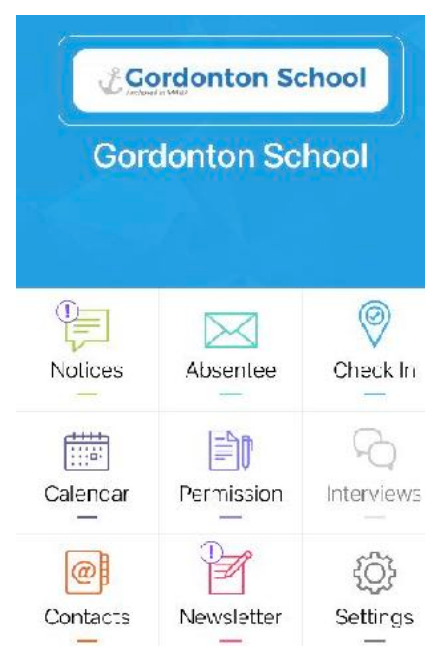
**PLEASE RETURN FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

### SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Please download the **SKOOLLOOP** app.

This app is designed to keep you up to date with school notification, school newsletters, term calendar and also submit your Childs absent form.

You will also be able to book your parent conference here as well, which will open up next week.



# COMMUNITY NOTICES



21 College Drive, Gordonton  
[office@rainbows.org.nz](mailto:office@rainbows.org.nz)  
[www.rainbows.rz](http://www.rainbows.rz) Phone: (07) 8243188  
 Rainbows are a well established Christian  
 Centre based in rural surroundings.  
 6 months - 6 years  
 8:00am - 4:30pm  
 Sessions and full days available  
 20 hours ECE subsidy and WINZ .



1. Please go to [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz) and click on **Parent Login Term 1**
2. Select your sKids site by searching or filtering.
3. Book activity - choose the booking type, days and session times you'd like your child/ren to attend.
4. Enter your email address and set a password to save your booking and create a profile
5. Add your child/ren's details
6. Complete the safety form
7. Booking completed, we look forward to seeing your child/ren at Term 1 kick off at sKids.

For any questions or help please contact  
 your local Programme Manager or  
 Customer Service on [admin@skids.co.nz](mailto:admin@skids.co.nz)

ENROLMY

