



TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)

Good morning everyone and welcome to week 7 of this 12 week term. The first week back under Level 2 restrictions went very well and we recorded a 93% attendance at our school. Learning took place across two formats this week with children learning in class and those at home still using the online tools.

Ako - Teaching and Learning

As we move into the second week and more children are back we will reduce the online content in favour of face-to-face teaching and learning programmes. If your child is still at home and is going to remain there for now, please contact your child's teacher and arrange some form of alternative programme for them.

Awhina - supporting others

The return to school was very smooth and seamless. We were on the lookout for high anxiety or fear and saw none. The parents have been outstanding in the carpark and I remind you that you can wait up on the grass at the front of the school at 2.50pm to pick up your child(ren). Once the little ones get down to carpark level it is really difficult to find Mum and Dad.

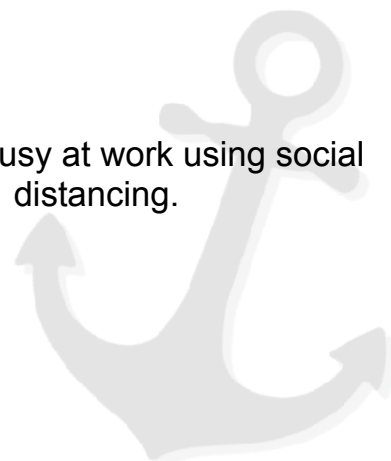
Ngākau Pono - Trust, honesty and loyalty

I wandered through the classrooms on Friday and the children were all learning busily in their rooms. It was as if we had never closed down at all and the kids have really embraced being back at school. Some of our older children are really modelling social distancing and we have tracing registers and sanitiser in every class. Hand washing and surface cleaning has also quickly become a routine. We are letting out sports gear at lunchtime and upon its return it is all cleaned before being put away.

I am very impressed with our students and teachers and the way they have embraced and followed the new 'way' of doing things.



Room 10 busy at work using social distancing.





Room 1 'spread out' for class learning.

Manaakitanga - Care for others

Student entry into the School

You will have become used to seeing staff at the front gate greeting and 'sanitising' students as they enter the site. We are maintaining a presence at the gate in the mornings, however, sanitising of hands will now shift to classrooms first thing. Teachers will reinforce this need on the students, however, they have been impressive with their attendance to this and in the absence of any cases in Hamilton we are confident we are maintaining high hygiene standards. Regular hand washing and surface cleaning is still the norm and will continue.

School Sport

At this stage there is still some uncertainty about the re-start on school sport. Some codes have asked us to confirm our entries which we have (in principle). The BoT and I have yet to make the final decision on Gordonton's position around entering competitions, or the public use of our facilities on weekends. Once we know more I will canvas those affected parents to see if you are still comfortable with your children taking part before making final confirmation of teams etc. There is a tentative option of a term 3 only competition, however, no-one is committing to anything until the Government makes an announcement on any modifications to the gathering rules. I will let you know as soon as I know more.

Photos

We had scheduled school photos to take place in March, however, due to lockdown we were unable to go ahead with them. We have now rescheduled them for Tuesday 2 June. This is the day after Queen's Birthday.

School Bus message from Greenline Buses

The time Greenline picks up your children from their designated bus stop can vary and it is almost impossible to say that the bus will arrive at a precise time, say 8.15am. We endeavour to have the buses leave the depot or their start points at the same time each day.

It is very important that parents/caregivers understand that a 'five minutes either way' rule has to be in place. This gives the bus driver some flexibility when he/she has to contend with our notorious Waikato fog, sometimes rain and sometimes road works and traffic delays, also there can be occasional additional pick-ups or at times less. Greenline asks that you be patient and understanding regarding the timing of bus pick ups and drop offs, mornings and afternoons.

Pool Key

We are now asking for all pool keys to be returned to school. One of our staff will have a container at the front gate for you to put your key into, or ask your child to put the key in there. As all keys are numbered, Dee will contact you via email regarding your refund.

Launchpad

Launchpad will start next Tuesday, 2nd June. We had previously advertised it to start this week, however it will start next week. Sorry for the confusion.

New staff

We are opening our new entrant room next week and are pleased to welcome Lucinda Ransley who will be joining us as our new teacher in Room 7. Lucinda comes to us from just across the road at Great Beginnings.

Farewell

Finally, we farewell Amanda Emery and her family who will be travelling back to the UK this week. Amanda has been at Gordonton School for several years and played a big part in assisting our youngest learners in the classroom and running various programmes to support learning. Our littlies love working with Mrs Emery and she will be missed by all. We wish the Emery's the very best of luck as they travel to the other side of the world.

*Kia hora te marino, kia whakapapa pounamu te moana,
kia tere te kārohirohi i mua i tōu huarahi.
May the calm be widespread, may the ocean glisten as greenstone,
may the shimmer of light ever dance across your pathway.*

That's about it from me. Thank you all again for your cooperation and willingness to support the school and students during this new 'normal'. I trust you are all well and looking forward to the long weekend ahead.

Heoi anō tāku mō nāianei (That's all for now).

Keith O'Donnell, Principal



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