

5 April 2022



Mōrena e te whānau,

Once again, thank you for your continued support during the Red traffic light setting. Like many of you, we were wishing for a change to Orange to get to a more normal school life. Here's hoping that Easter will bring that change so that we are able to invite you, our parent whānau back onto the school site.

We have a couple of exciting new changes to our daily operations for Term 2 which we would like to share with you.

The first is our **New Entrant school visit programme**. We will be opting for something we are calling '**4-year old Friday**'. What this means, is that once your pre-schooler turns 4, we are welcoming them into the school each Friday for an introduction to school life that extends past the 2 visits before they start. *Please note: Parents must stay on site whilst their pre-schooler is with us.*

The programme will run as follows:

**10:15am** - You and your pre-schooler arrive at the Office and sign in.

**10:25am** - Morning tea: You and your pre-schooler are invited to play alongside the rest of our akonga, starting with sitting and eating morning tea. Please make sure that you have packed a nice full lunch box.

**10:45- 12:30pm** Class time. Please meet in the courtyard in front of the Hall. A New Entrant Teacher/Deputy Principal will then place the pre-schoolers amongst the 4 classrooms (Room 5-8). Students will start with a Shared book activity before engaging normal school activities working around the theme of 'Discovery'.

Once students are settled in the classrooms, (about 10 min) parents are invited to join us in the staffroom for a cup of tea/coffee and a general discussion which will be led by one of the management team.

**12:30pm Lunch.** You and your pre-schooler are welcome to join the class for lunch-eating and a small play before signing out at the Office and going home for a rest.

As this is a more flexible arrangement, parents are able to work out what works for them and it also means that our pre-schoolers will have the opportunity to attend school at most, 40 times before they actually start school. We believe that this will ensure a smoother transition to school and prepare our New Entrants for life at school in a more natural way.

*If you have any queries, please feel free to email or call me.*

Our second exciting initiative is to have a couple of specialist teachers take our classes for a block of time each week. For Term 2 we will have 3 specialities: Te Reo Māori, Physical Education and STEAM - (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics education). It will be wonderful to add the diversity that specialists bring to the table.

As a school with many diverse cultures, we would like to acknowledge Ramadan too. We wish our Muslim families a successful fast.

We are all looking forward to the Easter Break, and the time it will give us to prepare for Term 2, so we would like to wish you and your whānau an amazing family time filled with not too many chocolate treats!

Ngā mihi

Michelle Nell

**Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini.**

*I come not with my own strengths but bring with me the gifts, talents and strengths of my family, tribe and ancestors.*