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School Newsletter

TERM 2 – 20 MAY 2020 – WEEK 6

Upcoming Reminders

- Monday 1 June Queen's Birthday Holiday
- Friday 3 July Last Day of Term 2



From the Principal's Desk

Kia ora koutou whanau,

It was a hugely satisfying feeling to be able to welcome our children back on Monday! It didn't take long for the school to be filled with happy voices and the sound of children playing. Well done families for your awesome work during Levels 4 and 3, in keeping your children learning, busy and safe. We stressed before lockdown that once children came back to school, as long as they felt safe and happy we would be able to get into "school learning" again, and that is exactly what has happened.



It is also important to acknowledge that while it hasn't been under the best of circumstances, I am sure that the time many parents have spent at home with their children has been invaluable. Simply spending time with your children will have exposed them to a range of experiences and new learning and also no doubt helped to strengthen your relationships.



I would like to thank the teachers for their hard work preparing online learning during the lockdown. This has been a steep learning curve with new technology, and with a few challenges along the way. Staff also shared parents' frustrations in not having children in class in front of them. Our goal was always to provide work which did not place added burdens on our parents, which therefore needed to be optional and not require significant parental input. All schools throughout New Zealand carried out online learning differently, at Woodbury we provided what we believed parents would be responsive to. In the coming weeks we will seek some feedback from parents, to review what we did and what could be improved should distance learning be required in the future.



We understand that while children may appear to have settled back into school well, they may still have some anxieties which they share at home. Please let the teacher know if this is the case so we can support you and your child.

Any other concerns also, please don't hesitate to contact your teacher or myself (please see the attached policy and flow chart on **parental concerns**). To make contact is vitally important, as it is impossible to address issues and make a plan if we are unaware that any concerns actually exist. Concerns may be around your child's progress, how your child is doing socially or how a classroom programme is operating. We all have our children's best interests at heart and a collaborative approach always works best. Teachers are always willing to make a time that suits to discuss.

As a result of the lockdown, there are a number of changes for this terms calendar which teachers are working through. We do not want to simply rule out activities we were going to do, so are re-looking at what can go ahead and how this will look.

Here are a few changes for parents to be aware of:

- We still plan on having our **school cross country**, as this forms part of our education around our key value of Perseverance. We will not be doing this with Carew Peel Forest this year however, and the South Canterbury event for our top runners is being postponed. We will let parents know about our plans for how this will run and when, and whether we are able to have spectators.
- At the end of this term we had our annual **Matariki celebration** planned. We will be going ahead with this in some form, we are just not sure again what the rules around having spectators will be.



- **School reports** are being deferred until Term 3. By now teachers will have had all their data ready and be able to start writing reports, which hasn't been possible this year. There will need to be a number of assessments made, but these won't be carried out for a few weeks while children re-integrate back into school life. It has been great to see the increased use of Dojo over the course of this year. This is forming an important part of our reporting to parents as it shows what students are actually learning, and will continue to be regularly used by teachers. A reminder that there is no set time for parent interviews this year (as discussed in previous newsletters) and that parents are welcome at any time to contact the class teacher to catch up over their child's learning and social development.
- We had a **Teacher Only Day** planned for Tuesday 2nd June, but this will now be a normal school day. We understand if some parents have already made plans for a longer Queen's Birthday weekend, just let us know if this is the case for roll purposes.

Finally, a massive thanks to all those involved in the Linseed Straw fundraiser last weekend. An excellent job in organising by Gaylene Saywell, Lynn Holmes and Robyn Worthington, and thank you to those families who came out for the morning and helped with the deliveries. Again, all money raised goes back into school to support our learners, so it is a very worthwhile venture. We also appreciate the huge support the Mackenzie family continue to give us, in baling, moving and storing the linseed straw. We are very fortunate to have so many families in Woodbury School willing to give up their time and resources to support our children.

Nga mihi

Mike de Joux
Tumuaki / Principal



Reminder: Please bring your own drink bottle

A reminder that at level 2 all drinking fountains are out of use. Please ensure your child brings their own named drink bottle, which can be refilled at school. Especially important with this finer weather and all the running around children have been doing as they get back into sports and playing in the playground.



Community Dental Van

The Community Dental Van will be at Woodbury School from the 02 – 09th June 2020. Please take note of the below notice.

Canterbury
District Health Board
Te Pōari Hauora o Waitaha

COMMUNITY
dental service

Free Dental Care for Children

One of our Community Dental Service preventive mobiles will be visiting your school soon.

- We will be aiming to see that all school age children enrolled with the Community Dental Service have their dental check-up in the dental mobile while it is there
- The dental therapist will not only be checking the children's teeth but will also Xray, clean, and apply protective treatments (including fluoride) if required.
- If your child requires further dental care such as fillings they will bring home a 'Care Plan' which will explain what dental care and appointment times are required
- When you receive the 'Care Plan' please contact our **Call Centre as soon as possible** as you will need to arrange a time to bring your child to one of our Community Clinics for this dental care
- **Please let us know ASAP if you do not wish your child to have any of this care, you can talk to the staff in the mobile or phone/email our Call Centre**
- If you wish to be present at your child's check up this will need to take place at our community clinic so please phone/email our **Call Centre** to make an appointment
- Please contact our Call Centre if you want further information on the Community Dental Service, to enrol your child or if you have any specific questions about your child's dental care (a dental therapist will call you back)

To contact our Call Centre: phone 0800 846 983 / email
comm dental@cdhb.health.nz