



Howick Primary School

Newsletter 1 Term 3 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to term 3. Theoretically the winter term but I am excited to be on the other side of the shortest day and rushing towards summer. (Ever the optimist!) Please be mindful of the winter bugs that are so easily spread through a class to children and teachers. We do understand it is difficult when you have to take time off work to care for your family and more so when your own sick leave starts to run out, however please do not send children if you think they are coming down with something or they are not fully recovered. Home is a far better place to be when you feel unwell. Also, please understand the pressures on the school office when parents or the emergency contact person take hours to collect a child. We are short on space and when a child is so unwell as to need to go home, their recovery is not helped by a long wait (hours in some cases) for collection. We had a large chickenpox outbreak last term, which we hope has now passed. Keep an eye out for the signs in case there is a further outbreak - People with chickenpox have small blisters (like a rash) on their skin. These can be very itchy. Other symptoms of chickenpox are:

- tiredness
- fever
- general aches and pains.

This is the link to the Ministry of Health site for further information: [Chicken pox info](#)

Teachers also appreciate if **each family sends along a box of tissues** so there is a plentiful supply for the usual runny noses etc. We do supply sanitiser so we can manage the spread of germs better but if you can please remind children how to blow their nose properly, to sneeze into their elbow rather than their hand (which carries the germs around to transfer to pencils, shared glue sticks etc) we can really make a difference. A reminder also about the **medication form** which must be filled in at the office if you need us to administer any medicines at school. **DO NOT** allow your child to have any medications whatsoever in their school bag as we have had incidents of children "sharing" in the past which is completely unsafe.

Workmen have been very busy over the holidays and all the classrooms have either been or will soon be fitted with heat pumps for better management of classroom temperatures. We have also had more CCTV cameras installed to try and capture the rotten sods who come in and damage the school grounds. It was incredibly disappointing to see the damage to the Dr Seus garden that represents many hours of work and creative energy by Susie, our amazing librarian. Our school is well covered to catch culprits as we have already found but damage like this is so upsetting.



Rooms 15 and 16 have had a much needed upgrade with fabulous new floor covering and walls to brighten up the old pre-fabs. The classes move back in this week and then a new Y1 class will start up in Room 11 with Miss Shen moving from room 9 with her little people. Mrs Oliphant already has a lot of new enrolments and we are currently advertising for a New Entrant teacher to start within this term to cope with the influx. Please let the school office know if you are aware of any children in the neighbourhood who are about to turn 5 and come to school. The best start happens with Sunflowers to ease children into school. If they rock up on the day before starting, they miss this great opportunity to settle well.

You will also notice our **Positive Behaviour For Learning** (PB4L) signs appearing around the grounds. These reinforce our values of “Respect - for self, others and the environment” and help our students to support each other in improving their behaviour. Mrs Kumud Gupta is leading the roll out this term of a “**Peer Mediation**” programme, which she has been involved with in her previous school. This will train students to help them solve their conflicts with strategies and systems that will be useful life skills.



Correct wearing of school uniform is part of our “Respect for Self” so teachers will be taking a hard line over inappropriate items of clothing being added to the uniform. This includes non-uniform hair accoutrements and nail polish. Please inspect before your child leaves home so they can represent us in the best way.

Swimming at Lloyd Elsmore is happening this term for years 3-6 students. Please check with the classroom weekly to ensure your child is prepared for these free lessons. It is an enormous privilege that our students get to have these lessons so make the most of them.

Our working bee had to be cancelled in the holidays due to some preparation work unable to happen first. Please put a ring on your calendar around **Sunday August 12th** when we will have another go at getting the outdoor classroom and garden area completed and finish other planting work. We will be having a free mufti tree planting day coming up soon (mufti because it will no doubt be muddy!!) during the school week. As soon as we have a date, we will let you know so you can join us and help if you are free.

Teacher strike - this has been planned by the Teacher Union NZEI for **Wednesday 15 August**. As yet the Board of Trustees have not made a decision about whether to close the school but as soon as we know this, you will be informed so you can make arrangements if necessary. If the Teachers do strike, and the Board decide to close the school, the day will not be made up at the end of the year but nobody will be here to look after any students. Our teachers are not striking lightly as we know fully the potential impact on you, our community. But we do need our message to be communicated clearly that Education in New Zealand is in serious strife with a shortage of teachers and an aging teacher workforce. Our job is becoming increasingly more complex and the expectations on teachers continues to grow without sufficient support or time allocated for teachers to provide the best available conditions for learning. We are sorry for the inconvenience however hope you will understand and support our quest for improved conditions.

Granny Mary has provided an amazing service to our school for decades now and the time is fast approaching when she will hang up her High Vis vest and do what other octogenarians do. She would like to ensure our students remain safe by inducting some new Traffic Safety people to take her place so that teachers can remain with the children right until the bell and our children will be safely supervised crossing the road. If you think you might be able to spare an afternoon - 2:55 - 3:15 - please email me if you think you can help us on a regular basis even for a set day per week. l.callister@howickprimary.school.nz

We continue to have challenges outside the school gate with double parking, parking on yellow lines and **dangerous behaviours** such as crossing by the gate instead of using the patrol crossing. **Please be a good role model** to your children and remind grandparents or caregivers who collect children about the safety rules. We do take photos of culprits if you break the law and send these to the Police for ticketing. Make use of a **walking school bus** and if you want to know more or even start one, please contact Mrs Sophia Toetu in room 2 s.toetu@howickprimary.school.nz

Beeswax wraps can be obtained here: [Beeswax wraps order link](#)

Upcoming events:

New Parents Welcome Evening - Thursday 26 July in the staffroom at 6:30pm



Pasifika families consultation evening: 1 August at 6 – 7pm

Maori families consultation evening: 13 September at 6 – 7pm

Chinese families consultation evening: 27 September at 6 – 7pm

More information will be sent out before each event.

PTA Quiz Night – 24 August 2018. Contact w.mitchell@howickprimary.school.nz to book your tickets.



PTA news: The Hub coffee mornings will start up again this term on a Friday morning. Keep an eye out for the first get together in the next couple of weeks.

Kind regards

Leyette Callister
Principal