



NEWSLETTER

22 May 2020

Dear Parents & Caregivers

Well we have had a fantastic week back at Level 2. Life at Upper Moutere appears to have quickly returned to pre-lockdown normal with additional awareness of 'breath' distancing and extra vigilant hygiene. We are really impressed with the way our children have returned, motivated and responsive. We thought we would take this week to gradually ease back in but they, on the whole, are ready to get on where they left off.

During Lockdown Level 4 I had the cause to come up to school just twice, as I had to apply to the Ministry of Education to meet very strict criteria to gain access. The school seemed sad. It was quiet and quite eerie... Monday saw that disappear instantly and the vitality, enthusiasm and friendships returned with real joy! Now all that is missing is you.

As you are aware we continue to follow MOH and MOE guidelines at Level 2. We really appreciate how hard it is to just drop off and pick up. If you do need to come into school please do just follow our sanitising and contact tracing requirements and pop in.

Next week there is rain forecast so the sign in and sanitise stations will be under cover. The Old Post Office Gate station will be under the hall veranda, while the the main entrance station will be outside the office. Please sign in and sanitise there.

At Level 2 the MOH guidelines of Level 3; regular cleaning, wiping of common touch surfaces during the day was reduced to just the one daily clean. We have stayed with the twice daily during school time clean this week plus our usual contractor clean at the end of the day. Next week we will reduce this, however we will not dampen the enthusiasm of some of our student cleaners who have taken to it with real gusto! Hand washing/sanitising will continue at the same level as per MOH guidelines.

Thank you for all the support you gave your children over the eight weeks. The staff valued your feedback as they navigated with you the distance learning approach, learning together. The benefits of having time together as a family certainly outweighed the lack of formal schooling. And boy have your children grown in the 8 weeks!

As we went into lockdown staff were about to use our new reporting process via the @school app. We decided with all that was happening not to proceed at the time. However, now we are back we have set up a schedule to send real time assessment in specific areas starting with a "General Comment" about your child as a learner in the next ten days or so. We are hoping that as we move down the Alert levels we may be able to host Student-Led Conferences, in some format, by the end of this term or early next term.

Raffle Tickets... as you know our Easter Raffle got caught in the Lockdown. I know Saree has sent a reminder to get all Tickets back prior to next Friday 29 so we can draw it before *next* Easter!

The Board was able to meet via Zoom during Lockdown and have their first meeting back onsite next Wednesday 27 at 5.30pm in Marama.

Noho ora mai
Grant & the team at Upper Moutere School

I am aware there is social media content circulating that is wrong and unnecessarily upsetting parents and whānau. The gist of the misinformation is that the law passed on 13 May gives powers to Police and others to uplift children from school if they appear unwell and forcibly test for COVID-19, and administer medication including flu vaccinations.

If you have read this then I want to assure you that schools are exempt therefore neither Police, Oranga Tamariki nor anyone else have been given any such powers. If a child is unwell at Upper Moutere School we will contact you or your designated emergency contact as we always do and ask for your child to be collected.

Biking to school... We have a number of students who are now biking to school. They may have been biking heaps during lockdown when the roads were very quiet. BUT, please I urge you to ensure your child has the skills to bike safely to school especially now with all the traffic back on the road. We have had people in the community concerned for our cyclists safety and staff have witnessed some unsafe practice.

Pupil Awards

Ramaroa iti

Ahlia – what a super little helper you are in class. Thank you for all your help this week.

Ramaroa nui

Marcus; You have blown me away with your reading this week! Your skills and confidence have improved sooo much – a huge well done to you buddy!

Turama

Saffie, Sophie and Amira – thank you for being super spray ‘n wipers in Turama this week. You have kept our space squeaky clean! Ka pai tō mahi.

Marama

Sienna – Wow! What an amazing start back with us Sienna – all your lights are shining. Keep up this amazing positive attitude to learning!

Ollie – You quietly and confidently help out around the classroom. You encourage and support others as they settle in. Ngā Mihi Mahana

Josie; what a super start to school you have made. We love having you in our class.

Satoru; For being so responsible in checking that our cloakroom is tidy and that it's cleared every day after school – thank you Satoru

Jude & Hannah – For organising and allocating our laptops. You took total responsibility for this and did a great job! Nga mihi nui.

Keedan - You have had such an active and confident role in the classroom this week. You are always willing to share your ideas and thoughts, whilst supporting others where needed. Ka pai Keedan!

Charlie - You have been such a positive and confident influence in our space this week. It's awesome to see you challenge yourself and put yourself out there.

Principal Awards

Harrison and Lini; These two were daily attendees at Level 3 and really impressed our onsite teachers with their focus and enthusiasm. I got to see Harrison celebrate his seventh birthday with Lini, Julieanne and Jaki with a cake made by Jaki.

Music

Music tuition with Odie will not take place until at least Level 1.

Cushla's piano lessons have resumed on Wednesdays.

Sports

Congratulations to our Junior Rockets on winning their Touch tournament in Term 1! Well done. Thank you to Richard Arnott for assisting with coaching and to all the other parents who supported all the touch teams.

Netball registrations are open to those interested in playing. We are still awaiting a start date.

Dates for your Diary

1 June	Queen's Birthday
15/16 June	Y8 Whenua iti Leadership
3 July	End Term 2
20 July	Term 3 Begins
3 Aug	Dental Bus Visits