

Coatesville School Newsletter

“Aim! Strive! Achieve!”

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29 October 2021

Newsletter 26

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Dear Parents/Caregivers

I am sure many people are keeping up with the latest news and developments of the current COVID-19 situation. It continues to significantly impact all of us and we can only hope that we will shortly see faster progress towards ‘reopening’.

Obviously, as vaccination rates climb towards 90% of eligible people, the closer we are to lifting restrictions. But even then the lifting will probably be slow and cautious.

In that regard, a return to school is still uncertain and yet to be confirmed (see below).

However, with the strong push to vaccinate the country’s population, and with the government mandate that all school staff members must be fully vaccinated by January 1, 2022 (and have had a first dose by 15 November) to retain their jobs, I can confirm that **all of our staff are fully vaccinated or have had their first vaccination and are close to completing their second.**

This means all staff members will be able to return to work when we reopen this year and/or in 2022.

Regardless of your personal vaccination viewpoint, the fact our staff are (or will soon be) fully vaccinated is of relevance to how our school can safely operate once we reopen.

Reopening Schools

After a couple of announcements about announcements, the government has given an ‘indicative’ date of November 15th for a potential return to school.

We are still awaiting ‘details’ of how a return to school could be managed safely. There seems to be a lot more discussion needed before a return for Year 1-8 students is finalised. These discussions are ongoing with the government with no definite time frame for completion.

There have been suggestions made that there could be a ‘staggered’ return or different cohorts on different days. Or that most learning would be outdoors. Possible ideas only at this stage.

However, nothing has been decided yet. Whatever is forthcoming will probably leave scope for individual schools to make some decisions themselves on aspects of a return.

In this case, the Board of Trustees will consider what is best for everyone - students, staff and parents - before confirming how our school will implement any possible return.

I wish I could give more certainty to everyone but at this point there could be a return (in some form) on the 15th, after the 29th, in early December or no return at all this year! So we will communicate any decisions to you as soon as we are able. You will be kept up to date about any developments.

But in the meantime unfortunately a number of Term 4 events and processes are being cancelled or being reassessed.



Ag Day 2021 - Cancelled

Unfortunately Ag Day as an event has now been cancelled for the year.

Tomorrow would've been the official day for this year's Ag Day. I feel the disappointment of students, staff, parents/caregivers and the community due to this cancellation. I especially feel for our Year 6s who would be looking forward to their final Ag Day with plenty of anticipation.

And, even more disappointingly, no matter what happens in the next few weeks, we will be unable to run an event even slightly resembling an Ag Day during school time (as was going to be the back-up plan).

However, **we still want to share and celebrate the children's projects** (animals, plants, rural traditions) **when we get back to school if at all possible. If we do not get back to school we will ask children to think about sharing their project as per the 'animal project' information below.**

Official judging of projects with external judges will not happen this year.

Animals

Most projects will be able to be shared at a later time in the year (if that is possible onsite).

Some animal 'projects' though may get too big to bring in November/early December.

If this is the case I **encourage all children** who potentially will not be able to bring their 'project' to **document their 'journey'** as per our learning guidelines.

Record the journey with the animal - use video, photos, display board, slideshow, etc. to capture the 'journey'. Make it fun and entertaining!

This 'journey' should include:

- what they have learnt from their project
- aspects they found interesting during their project
- the successes and/or failures of their project
- aspects they would do differently next time if they repeated the 'project'

This journey can be shown to staff and students in the absence of the actual animal.

Keep it manageable and easy to show/explain in (1-2 mins)!

These children and their animals can then still be part of any possible sharing and celebration of Ag Day projects this year.

Ag Day Artwork Competition 2021

Thank you to all the children who produced such neat artwork!

Your entries were awesome!

Unfortunately because Ag Day has been cancelled, and with the many restrictions around getting orders, etc. we had to make the difficult decision that we will not produce an Ag Day t-shirt in 2021.

We did get to the stage of mocking up a potential shirt however! This included three separate pieces of artwork.

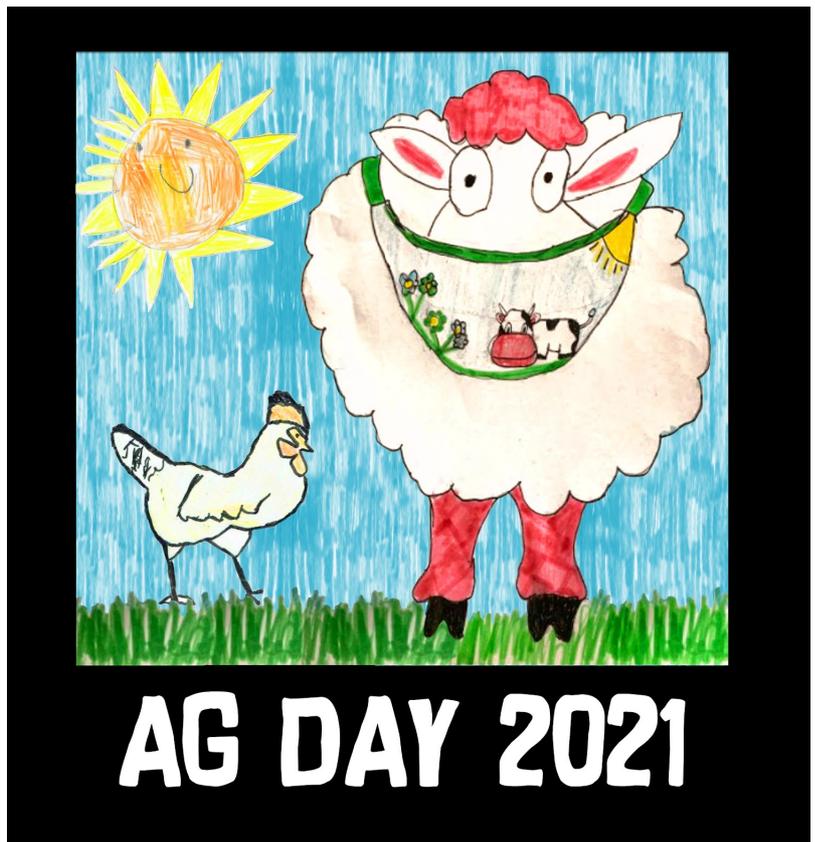
The 'masked sheep' from George Zaloum

The 'chicken' from Toby Wilson.

And the 'happy sun' from Tovah-Elise Clough.

Great job!

It is a shame the shirts will not be printed but I wanted to share the design with everyone to acknowledge the work of the children involved.



Term 4: What else will be affected?

There will be a number of school-related 'happenings' which will certainly or potentially be affected this term. Details of how they will be affected will be shared as decisions are made and any cancellation, postponement or modification is confirmed.

Please be patient as information will be shared as soon as we are able.

Also please understand that many of the decisions we may have to make are out of our control due to the current and future restrictions. If restrictions ease that will allow us to move with that possibility but, knowing the restrictions currently in place at Level 2 are significantly impacting on schools outside Auckland, I need to signal the likelihood of major disruptions.

This includes:

- 'Student Achievement reporting' (the actual reporting format/content and follow-up conferences)
- 2021 Prizegiving
- Year 6 Graduation
- Athletics Day
- EOTC activities
- Swimming pool opening

We will aim to change as little as possible and will do all we can to get the best outcomes for Term 4. But the reality is there will be an impact.

The hope is that 2022 provides a fresh start, with minimal impact from COVID-19, to give us a chance to regain momentum once more.

Thank you for your support. Stay safe and well.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend. Look forward to a step forward next week!

Ka kite ano. Hei konā mai.

Richard Johnson

Richard Johnson – Principal

Community Notices

Play Cricket with East Coast Bays Cricket

Registrations for the cricket season are now open. **Please register online at eastcoastbayscricket.co.nz**

East Coast Bays Cricket is one of the largest clubs on Auckland's North Shore, providing cricket for all ages and all levels. The Club is focused on fun, teamwork and performance providing children of all skill levels a chance to learn the game in an enjoyable environment. We cater for all children's cricket from Year 1 through to Year 8, both girls and boys. The uniform comprises a club shirt, club shorts or trousers, and club cap or wide-brimmed hat, which are available from Players Sports online or at their Onehunga shop. The Club will have clothing available for purchase on muster day. The Club provides all playing equipment required, although you are welcome to use your own. Please contact the Club for more information at ecbayscricket@gmail.com