

Coatesville School Newsletter

“Aim! Strive! Achieve!”

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19th May 2020

Newsletter 7



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Dear Parents/Caregivers

What a great start back at school! Our children, our staff and our parents have supported us brilliantly over the first two days back. Even though we have some Alert Level 2 restrictions in place (for very good reason and we are absolutely supporting these), we have restarted superbly well, with a ‘transition week’ to support everyone returning.

We see the return to school as a very positive step for our school community. As a country we have had a great deal of success reducing the threat of COVID-19. So, at school, we are embracing this success but with the care needed to continue the excellent work from everyone over the past weeks.

The safety of everyone onsite is being very well supported, with procedures in place and reinforcement of clear messages regularly, allowing us to begin focusing on onsite, face to face learning once again.

There has been disruption to the school year, with the loss of considerable onsite school time. That has been unavoidable. But we have plans (outlined below) to quickly gain momentum again with learning, while still supporting everyone’s wellbeing.

Thank you to our children and our parents/caregivers who engaged with distance learning over the past several weeks. Your involvement and feedback to staff was hugely appreciated.

And I thank our staff, who worked in very different circumstances to engage and connect with the children over a potentially difficult time for everyone. You did a fantastic job online - and you are all so enthusiastic and excited about being back to facilitate learning face to face once again!

I thank you all. Well done!

‘Drop Off’ & ‘Pick Up’

The drop off and pick up processes are working extremely well. Thank you so much, as it would not work without the support of children and parents. It has required everyone to make some adjustment to previous routines but everyone has really adapted well.

Please continue to drop off and pick up children inside the school grounds in our ‘designated area’. This helps ensure a very safe drop off/pick up and also minimises the need for people to be onsite during the Level 2 restrictions.

Distance Learning

Distance Learning has ceased now we have returned to school at Level 2.

However, the [‘Home Learning Hub’](#) has been updated, and will continue to evolve, to support learning for all families.

'Distance Learning' programme enabled us to continue providing learning during Alert Levels 3-4 to ensure momentum would not be lost.

So we will not be returning to 'Distance Learning' - unless there is another significant event.

But we would love your feedback on how DL could impact on future learning programmes for students.

[Distance Learning Review: Parents](#) (simple survey)

Did the DL process highlight any positives for students and parents? Things we might want to think about continuing, even in a modified way?

Did it highlight any issues for students and parents? Things we should minimise with learning if possible?

Please have your say. Your voice will be very much heard and thoughts strongly considered.

Seven Weeks of Term 2

We now have a significantly shortened term to work with. As such, we have creatively structured the rest of Term 2 to maximise learning and assessment. We will use this unique opportunity (taking a positive out of adversity) to fulfil a number of essential objectives:

'The Return to School'

Amongst a range of focused activities this week we have four main themes:

- Reconnect - with classmates, teacher, other students and staff
- Support wellbeing - re-establish understanding of colour zones
- Have fun - bring smiles and enjoyment to learning!
- Review 'Distance Learning' - positives and challenges

'Service' - Term 1 Concept

We will complete learning started in Term 1 which will give outcomes to our understanding and implementation of 'Service'.

Engagement in Learning/Information Gathering

Teachers will be using the next 5-6 weeks to run specific programmes and activities to specifically re-engage students in learning, and to gather considerable, in depth information from students to give us all a very accurate picture of current progress/achievement.

This engagement/information gathering focus will fully inform planning for the rest of the year for teachers - and for school leaders.

It will also be extremely useful for sharing with parents (see below).

Igniting Term 3 learning

Teachers will use our school's comprehensive learning model framework to end the term by engaging students in planning for next term's school-wide concept for learning. This will prepare everyone for early momentum in Term 3.

Reporting to Parents (in Term 3)

Usually at the end of Term 2 we have mid-year progress reports followed by 3- way conferences (student-parent-teacher). Due to the fact we have had a hugely disrupted year, these conferences will be postponed until Wk 3 of Term 3. This will only push the process out a few weeks but it will be of much greater value to students and parents as a result.

Communication

Please continue to ring the office if there are urgent/important messages which we need to know.

Otherwise emails remain very effective in communicating with teachers and/or school leadership.

But due to the busy nature of the day emails are not often an instant or quick method of reply. Staff do endeavour to answer emails within the day or within 24 hours if that isn't possible.

Face to face meetings are still able to be scheduled when necessary.

We want communication channels to still be very much open even during these restrictions.

Thank you.

Winter Sports - Netball and Hockey

As you are well aware the hockey and netball seasons have been disrupted due to Covid-19. While there has been plenty of speculation and comment about when these sports seasons may start nothing has been confirmed by any of the organisers. We do not want to add to this uncertainty and will not be contacting teams until we have confirmed season dates and costs. Please be patient. Also please be conscious that Jo Windust, our hockey and netball coordinator, is a **parent volunteer** so please do not email her with questions at this stage. We will contact you as soon as we know. Thank you.

School Photos - Tuesday 26th May

Coatesville School's class and individual photos will be taken on Tuesday next week. A Photolife flyer with information regarding photos and ordering will be emailed out to you later this week. We are confirming if sibling photos are able to be taken this year.

ICAS Exams: Year 4-6 Students

ICAS is an academic competition that is offered as an extension opportunity for our students who are excelling in literacy, mathematics and science. ICAS requires a high level of commitment from families as students are expected to prepare for the exams at home. The school will support them by providing copies of previous exams that they can work on at home, as well as some short sessions on how to approach the exam questions.

ICAS exams are sat online in Term 3. If your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6, is excelling in science, mathematics, reading, or spelling and they can commit to putting in the time and effort needed to practice at home, then register for ICAS today!

Please click the [ICAS Exams 2020](#) link to the website NOW for more information and to register your child.

If you are interested, please make sure you sign up and pay for the 2020 exams by Friday 3rd July. Please note that due to current circumstances, there will be no ICAS Writing exam this year. If you have already signed up to sit this exam and paid, we will organise a refund for you.

Ka kite ano. Hei konā mai.

Richard Johnson

Richard Johnson – Principal

