

Coatesville School Newsletter

“Aim! Strive! Achieve!”

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Newsletter 8



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Reconnection: Achieved!

Thank you to students, staff and families for a successful first week!

It required adjustment from everyone but I feel the adjustments were quickly and easily made in most cases!

We achieved our aim of ‘reconnecting’ last week. Students and staff took the opportunity to reconnect with each other over the course of the week, transitioning everyone from ‘home-mode’ back to ‘school-mode’.

The staff ensured there was a lot of fun too as we returned to onsite learning programmes and began to look ahead to our next phase of gathering up-to-date learning information from children.

This ‘gathering phase’ is to be conducted with children in a supportive and empowering manner, primarily to inform staff planning for Term 3 and for the reporting of current progress and achievement to parents*.

‘Reconnection with parents’ is slightly different in Alert Level 2 than it was previously, with the restrictions on visitors entering the school grounds meaning there is ‘sign in and out’ for the purposes of contact tracing.

It now appears these Level 2 restrictions may last for several more weeks. But despite that I feel we will successfully work through this period of time and it may allow us to learn some things from it.

Before any move to Alert Level 1 (which will seemingly have no restrictions on visitors to the school) we will examine how aspects like the new ‘drop-off’ system have worked for everyone.

The majority of children have made the transition extremely well.

School staff have so far been helping the transition for students but this will start to be minimised soon.

If a child is still having difficulties prior to getting to school, or once they are here, I would recommend sharing this with your child’s teacher so we can support this or work on a simple plan to help establish a more successful morning for your child and you.

Communication

Please continue to ring the office if there are urgent/important messages for staff.

Otherwise emails remain very effective in communicating with teachers, school leadership and office staff.

Due to the busy nature of the day for our staff, your email may not be immediately read or replied to.

Staff do endeavour to answer emails within the day or within 24 hours if that isn’t possible.

Face to face meetings are still scheduled when necessary.

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

* Reporting to Parents

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.

Distance Learning Review

Now we are back at school 'Distance Learning' has become an activity of the past. Hopefully we will not see the need to return there at all with COVID-19!

But we would love your feedback on how 'Distance Learning' went for your school - and how it could impact 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.

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.

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

