

EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Preparing today's child for tomorrow's world - Whakakaha ngā tamariki mo apopo

Phone: 375 8191 or 022 368 1830 **Email:** office@eketahuna.school.nz **Website** www.eketahuna.school.nz

Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura Ekētahuna,

We are all excited at the prospect of seeing our tamariki return to school on Monday - a big thank you to our amazing community for all your love and support during the last 9 weeks!!

BACK TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 18th MAY

As we all return to school on Monday, we appreciate that welcoming our students back, assuring them they are safe and checking on their wellbeing is the first and most important job we'll do. Once this has happened, everyone will be ready to start focusing on learning. Our first few weeks will look a little different as we work to a new daily timetable, adjust to being 'out of our bubbles', focus on building relationships, and use time to reflect on the Pandemic and home learning. We fully appreciate the time it will take for children, and some staff, to reconnect and relax will be different for everyone. We will focus on everyone's well being needs as we believe they need to be addressed before any learning can happen. So look out for lots of hands on whole class activities and lots of fun!

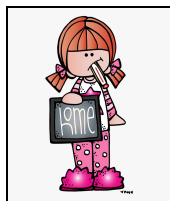


TERM 2 EVENTS

Due to the Covid - 19 and the many health guidelines for ALert Level 2 the Tararua Bush Principal Cluster have cancelled all inter school events for Term 2. We are still awaiting information on after school sport and hope to update you next week. However, we are still intending on having a whole school cross country and Matariki celebration. These events would be later in the term and carefully planned to ensure we follow Health & Safety regulations. Cross country training starts next week!

KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF UNWELL

WE ARE ASKING ALL PARENTS TO KEEP ANY SICK CHILDREN AT HOME. IF A SICK CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL, YOU WILL BE CONTACTED AND ASKED TO COLLECT THEM IMMEDIATELY. WE WANT TO KEEP EVERYONE HEALTHY AND WELL! THANK YOU.



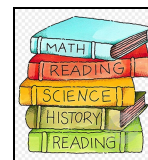
ATTENDANCE & BUSES FROM SCHOOL

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT COMING TO SCHOOL PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE 9AM TO LET THEM KNOW. A REMINDER TO ALSO NOTIFY THE OFFICE BEFORE 2:30PM IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT GOING HOME ON THEIR USUAL BUS.



RETURNING SCHOOL RESOURCES

WE ASK THAT ALL SCHOOL RESOURCES THAT WERE SENT HOME IN THE STUDENT LEARNING PACKS PLEASE BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MANY ITEMS WERE THE TEACHER'S PERSONAL RESOURCES AND WE ARE EXPECTING TO GET EVERYTHING RETURNED. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



HOME & SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Included in this 'special newsletter' is the order sheet for our Home & School pie fundraiser. The group is looking at raising funds for an alternative storage solution that will enable all of our wonderful sports and play equipment to be kept safe, as well as accessible to teachers and students. Sadly, last term, we were not able to hold the annual Golf Tournament, so it would be fantastic to get a 'heap of pies' sold! More information about the fundraiser is on the back page of this booklet. All your support will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



NEW DAILY TIMETABLE

As we start back, and our children shift from remote learning to an 'in class' environment, we are introducing a new daily timetable for Term 2 & 3 which will result in shorter blocks. Although there are now 4 learning blocks and 3 breaks the total teaching time and playtime's remain the same as in Term 1. We feel this new timetable will help the transition to school and negate the long 'wet' lunch time that can be a challenge in the winter months.

9:00 - 10:35 Class Learning
 10:35 - 11:00 First Break with morning tea eaten
 11:00 - 12:00 Class Learning
 12:00 - 12:30 Second Break with lunch/snacks eaten
 12:30 - 1:35 Class Learning
 1:35 - 2:00 Third Break with some lunch/snacks eaten
 2:00 - 2:55 Class Learning

COMING UP:

Monday 18th May - School starts
 Thursday 21st May - Eketahuna School BoT Meeting

Friday 29th May - All pie orders are to be in to school
 Monday 1st June - School closed for Queen's Birthday
 Wednesday 3rd June - Yr 7 & 8 to Technology

2020 Weekly Update

Hukanui (Room 1)

Thank you for your help and support in the last 5 weeks of learning from home. We have appreciated all you have chosen to share and being kept in touch with how you are all doing.

We are looking forward to seeing the children on Monday when school returns. **Please ensure you return all maths equipment and reading books that have been sent home during the home learning time.**

There will be some strict guidelines about dropping children off at the classroom and sick children staying home. Please contact us if you have any concerns about anything regarding returning to school. We know that some children may be apprehensive, so if there is anything we can do to help this transition go smoothly please ask. Jess & Jo

Rongomai (Room 2)



Hi everyone. Are you excited to be heading back to school next week? I know I am!!!!

Thank you for all your home help and support during the last 5 weeks. The classroom facebook page has been great and letting us all keep in touch. Your photos are awesome. Cooking this week has been a lot of fun as I always wanted my own cooking show. It has been great seeing our future Master Chefs in action with their end products of yummy baking. Please make sure you return to school any unfinished work along with your **Journal Book** ready to be placed into our Time Capsule. You will also need to bring a **NAMED** water bottle and if you haven't done so already 2 hand towels please. You will also need to bring suitable shoes and clothing as Cross Country training starts on Monday. I look forward to seeing you. Have a great weekend!!!!

Hamua (Room 3)

We're going back to school-WOOHOO!!!!

I can't wait to see everyone on Monday, but remember-no hugging or high fives for a little while longer :(

Please remember to bring back all your unfinished work, reading books.

You will also need a NAMED water bottle to keep at school, please.

See you sooooooon!!

Carol and Purl



Nireaha (Room 5)



It's so good to be returning to school on Monday! When talking to the kids who appeared on Zoom yesterday, there's certainly a sense of eagerness, with the strongest focus on seeing all their friends again. Many thanks to the Mackisacks for their Hutt Experiments link this week and to all who've taken part in what different members of the class have invited others to do. We've scored new ePals from England and Denmark, so we'll be including them in the programme once back also. Thanks to all parents who've supported all that you've partnered with, alongside school life with your child in these past few weeks. It was a big ask, but hugely appreciated!

Cheers! Jo and Barb

Putara (Room 6)



School is cool, and so is Pūtara!! I can't wait to see you all on Monday. Please, remember three things:

Firstly, your own drink bottle

Secondly, bring your school books, school journals and any other school material you may have

Lastly, x-country training starts on Monday. You will all be running! Bring shoes,

shorts etc...

Parents, thank you for doing such a wonderful job during the past five weeks.

He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka - A choppy sea can be navigated

Take care and have a wonderful weekend!

Dean





Thursday 14th May, 2020

Dear Eketahuna School Community

I know this period of lockdown has been embraced by some of us but has been difficult for many. Whatever way you have viewed it, I hope you all have been able to enjoy some extended time with family.

On Monday we welcomed the news from the Government that we move to Alert Level 2 this Thursday 14th May. As a community this means a return to school for our children on Monday 18th May.

Our staff are looking forward to having our children back in school. They will ensure social distancing is happening to the best of their ability - classroom environment seating plans will be in place, but being children they may fall over, need medical attention, brush up against another student, bump into each other in the toilet block/playground etc – it will be hard to maintain consistent social distancing.

The government advises that schools and early learning services are safe environments for children, young people and staff. This is due to the very low risk children pose for contracting and passing on the virus. Additional public health control measures will be in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

In schools, physical distancing means children, young people and staff maintaining enough distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other.

We need to bear in mind that our best defence for the future is by practicing good hygiene standards with regular hand washing and to keep your children at home if they are unwell.

Despite this, if you have any concerns about the well being of your children at school then you should continue to keep them at home and there will be distance learning available for those unable to attend school.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact the school office, thank you.

Maree Redington

BOT Chairperson Eketahuna School

EKETAHUNA SCHOOL



When we come back to school . . .

1. We have all been staying at home to stop the spread of the Covid-19 Virus and keep ourselves safe.



We were safe in our bubble!

2. All children have been staying safe in their own home bubble. We have been doing our school work in our bubble. We have had some exercise outside with our bubble.



We have had fun in our bubble.

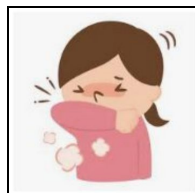
3. We have all done the right things to help reduce the Covid-19 virus and now we can start to come back to school on Monday!



4. You can prepare by making sure you have all your things ready!



5. School might be a little different when you come back. You will need to stay safe by regularly washing your hands and sneezing and coughing into your elbow.

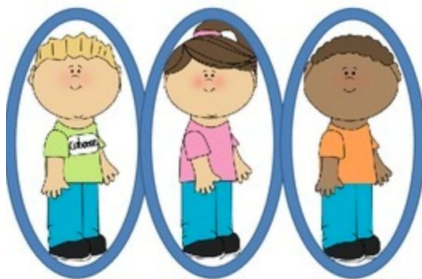


6. You should try and say goodbye to your family at the gate and go straight to class by yourself. You can be brave and say goodbye with a big smile.

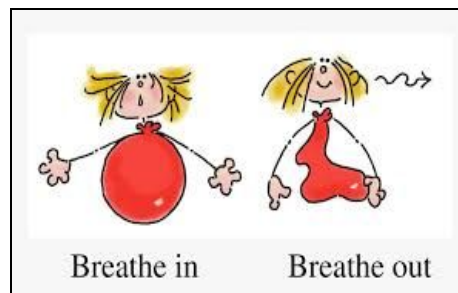


But if you really want someone to bring you in to school or collect you from class then you must make sure they sign the 'VISITOR REGISTER' every time.

7. We can play outside, use the playground and some sports equipment again, but we still need to stay out of people's personal bubbles and 'moist breath zone'. We will share 1 iPad between the same 2 students and you shouldn't hug others or get too close.

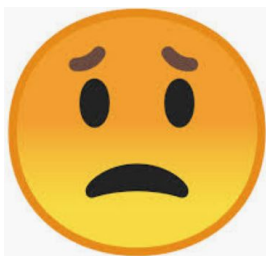


8. Sometimes you might feel a bit anxious. You can use slow, calm breathing to help you feel better.



Doing some exercise can also help you feel better.

9. If you do feel upset or worried, you can tell an adult that you need some time out to chat or to calm down.



They will be able to help you and keep you calm.

10. When you return to school we will keep you safe. You will be able to see your teachers and friends again.

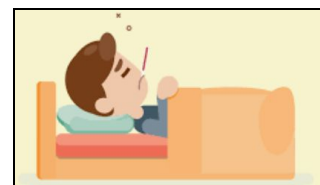


11. You should be looking forward to being back at school. You can see all your friends, play games and be back in your classroom for your learning.



12. To be safe at school you will need to remember:

Stay at home if you are sick.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow.

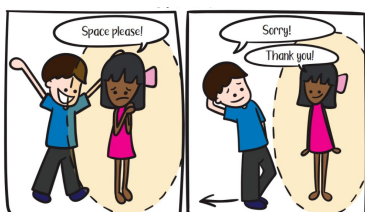


13. And remember to:

Wash your hands.



Stay out of others' personal bubbles.



14. When school starts again, you will have a great time. When you go home you can share the cool things you have done with my family!



ALERT LEVEL 2 @ EKETAHUNA SCHOOL - UPDATED

Under Alert Level 2, it is safe for all schools to open. Safe and sensible practices for hygiene and contact tracing will be the norm, and all students can return, so long as they remain well.

Under Alert Level 2, there are still likely to be new cases which may be the result of household transmission or associated with cluster outbreaks that are contained. The disease remains in New Zealand, so we need to remain vigilant and take appropriate steps to avoid transmission. People are able to leave home but are asked to do so in a safe and conscientious way.

The key principles for Alert Level 2 are to:

- reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
- ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected
- **understand that Level 2 is not business as usual.**

Supporting learning
<p>We know that teachers, and parents, have done their very best to support learning over the time students have been learning at home. Some children will have maintained their learning, while others may need additional support in some areas of learning.</p> <p>As students return back into the learning environments we will be providing a range of learning activities that will help students connect with teachers and their peers in the first instance and provide an opportunity for teachers to observe individual readiness for learning and next learning steps.</p>
Hygiene Practises
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitiser at entry to class rooms and in shared spaces. • Soap, water and the ability to dry hands is provided in bathrooms. • Where practicable ensure that children and young people cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching their face. • All surfaces cleaned regularly each day
Social Distancing & 'Bubbles'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an Alert Level 2 school environment, this means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. • There are situations where physical distancing is not possible, such as some sporting activities. In these situations extra emphasis on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after activities and regular cleaning of equipment is very important. • There is no 'bubble' concept at Level 2 so there are no restrictions on groups of children and students mixing with others on site. Where practicable where groups/classes do mix – attendance should be recorded as it should if the composition of groups and classes change during the day. • Teachers/staff are not restricted to one group and can move freely between groups of students.
Keeping Children Home When Unwell
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF UNWELL! • School staff are to observe students on arrival into the classroom checking for symptoms and ask those presenting as unwell to go home (or arrange for parents and caregivers to come and pick up). Please note, this does not mean that temperatures are to be taken. • A reminder that Principals at state and state-integrated schools have authority to preclude a student from attending if they believe on reasonable grounds may have a communicable disease under section 19 of the Education Act . If we believe your child to be unwell you will be rung and asked to collect them immediately.
<p>Symptoms to monitor for are any respiratory symptoms such as a cold, a head cold, blocked ears, cough, sneezing, chills and a fever. Anyone with those symptoms should stay home and contact Healthline for advice, which may include getting tested for COVID-19 as a precaution. Anyone with these respiratory symptoms are not to enter the school.</p>

Mass gatherings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational facilities, and school transport are not considered mass gatherings. This means there are no restrictions on numbers of people indoors or outside at schools and early learning services other than what other public health or health and safety measures require. • Health & Safety requires no gatherings of more than 100 - therefore we will have not full school assemblies during Level 2.
Contract Tracing & LIMITED Access for Parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact tracing registers will be in place and identify which children are in each teaching space, record when and who they have contact with during the day if that changes. This includes recording who the adults are in contact with them through the day. This will be in place for up to 2 months. • We ask that parents refrain from entering the school grounds, as it is recommended that children are dropped at the school gates and enter by themselves. However, if your child needs reassurance as they return to school we ask that any parent that does enter the school site make their way to the office where clear instructions are displayed on how to complete the visitor registration on entry and exit. • Hand sanitiser will be at the registration area and must be used before entering classroom areas.
Buses
<p>When schools resume on Monday, school transport services will also return to normal schedules. The ongoing safety of drivers and students and the ability to contact trace is a priority under Alert Level 2, and will be managed in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitisers will be available for each student to use as they board the vehicle. • Vehicles and surfaces will be sanitised after each journey by the transport company. • Seats in close proximity to the driver will be left empty. <p>We will monitor Bus Behaviour rigorously and if any child's behaviour compromises the social distancing expectations they will no longer be able to use the school bus transport system - if this occurs it will be up to caregivers to transport their children to school.</p>
Supporting those Vulnerable to COVID-19, to Attend School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By implementing the public health measures required in schools, it will minimise risk for someone who may be at-risk of serious illness from COVID. • Children at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (e.g. those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. Parents, caregivers and students will need to work with the school to develop a plan to manage a safe return to school. Distance learning will continue to be available to those who choose to remain at home, but with specific weekly tasks at individual learning level. Work sent home will be collected and marked each week. It is expected all tasks will be completed.
Playgrounds & Sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School playgrounds will be open for our students to play on but remain closed to the public. • For the first 2 weeks of school there will be no contact sport. We will review this as the term goes forward.
Re-emergence of COVID-19
<p>If a COVID-19 case is identified at a school or kura during Alert Level 2, affected sites will be closed for cleaning and close contact tracing. Instruction should revert back to the distance learning model until the school or kura is cleared to open.</p>

2020 TERM DATES

Term:	Start Date:	End Date:	Holidays:
Term 1 (9 weeks)	Monday 3 February	Friday, 27 March	Waitangi Day: Thursday 6th February
Term 2 (12 weeks)	Wednesday 15 April	Friday 3 July	Queen's Birthday: Friday 1st June
Term 3 (10 weeks)	Monday 20 July	Friday 25 September	Mid Term Break: Monday 24th August
Term 4 (10 weeks)	Monday 12 October	Wednesday 16 December**	Labour Day: Monday 26th October

BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE

We are now beginning to hit the cold and flu season.
For this reason we are concerned about the spread of germs.

In light of this we are reminding every child to bring a named water bottle to school when they return on Monday.

The drinking fountains will remain closed.

Teachers will be able to organise the refilling of water bottles in classes when they are empty.

THANK YOU.

Agenda for the Board Of Trustee's Meeting

*The Agenda for the BOT meeting on the Thursday 21st May will close on
Monday 18th May at 9pm.*

*If you have any items you feel should be on the BOT agenda please contact Maree Redington (376 6843) before this time.
Any items for the BOT agenda will need to be accompanied by a written outline, so the BOT can prepare any information they need to
constructively discuss these items*

FLOORING INSTALLATION**TARARUA FLOORING**

CARPET, VINYL,
LAMINATE, WOOD,
REPAIRS AND
RE-STRETCHES

CONTACT MIKE
027 777 0337

tararuaflooring@xtra.co.nz

**HOME & SCHOOL PIE FUNDRAISER**

Orders to be in by Friday 29th May



NB Pies will be delivered to school on
Wednesday 10th after 11am.

Thanks for your support!

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