



# PUHINUI SCHOOL

## **Alert Level 1 Newsletter**



11 June 2020,

Newsletter No. 12/2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

As a nation we continue to show positive signs and results relating to zero Covid-19 cases and this has meant we are glad to be back at Level 1 learning. It is pleasing to see how well the students are back into learning and are a good example to us all in terms of resilience and getting on with life. Well done parents and whānau, let's keep the positivity going.

**WRITING AT PUHINUI:** Although we still have some important Covid-19 messages, I wanted to start this newsletter with some positive learning focused news. Currently our teaching staff are working with a very well known teacher of writing, Murray Gadd. Murray was in sharing ideas and working with teachers for three days a few weeks back. He will be back throughout this year and will continue to help us improve our ability to teach writing to students. One of the ways we are improving student writing at Puhinui is through thinking carefully about the types of things we ask students to write about. For example one of our topical themes at the moment is heroes. Here are some thinking questions from our Years 5 and 6 students:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Are all heroes good people?</i>  | <i>I wonder if you have to be brave and strong to be a superhero?</i>             |
| <i>Do superheroes ever get sad?</i> | <i>Do heroes need to do something big to be a hero?</i>                           |
| <i>Who is your hero?</i>            | <i>If you were a superhero what powers would you have?</i>                        |
| <i>Do heroes need help?</i>         | <i>Jacinda, is she a hero, or just doing a good job?</i>                          |
| <i>Can heroes be bad sometimes?</i> | <i>If you save a person once does that make you a hero?</i>                       |
| <i>Are heroes weird?</i>            | <i>How many heroes does it take to change a lightbulb?</i>                        |
| <i>Who is my hero?</i>              | <i>If a hero did something bad and then saved someone, are they still a hero?</i> |

Some very thoughtful and interesting questions for our Year 5 and 6 students to write about. Here are 2 examples of children's writing about heroes, this time from junior students in Room 13:

*When I was wonder woman. I helped people from the villains because they chopped a tree and it was going to fall on the people.*  
By Gabby

*When I was spiderman at school. I wore a striped suit on my strong body. It was so sticky I climbed a tree with it. I shot webs from my yellow arms. I tried to use my cape to block the arrow but it didn't work so I made a shield with my web and it worked.*  
By Faaris

**UNIFORM:** A special uniform letter went home to all parents last week. Please support us in ensuring all students are in correct uniform at school. There should be no wearing of incorrect items underneath shirts and shorts. Please ensure your child is in the correct school uniform. If there are genuine reasons why a child is wearing something non regulation we ask you write a note to inform the classroom teacher. Please let your child's classroom teacher know if there are hardship reasons that we may not be aware of and we will do our best to work with you for alternative solutions. A reminder, we also have a small amount of second hand items available at school. School uniforms can be purchased from Angel's Fashions in Papatoetoe. Please see our website for current uniform prices and Angel's Fashion contact details.

**TERM DATES:** A reminder that this term is a 12 week term. We are currently in week 9. The school term dates remain the same.

- Term 2:** Finishes Friday 3 July at 3 p.m.
- Term 3:** Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September
- Term 4:** Monday 12 October to Thursday 10 December.

**SCHOOL TRACING REGISTERS:** Thank you to parents and visitors who ensured they signed in during Level 2. We no longer need to use the tracing registers at Level 1. We do have QR code posters displayed for all parents who are helping the MoH trace and monitor people through their phones. We would like to encourage you to download the app and utilise this service. Our QR codes are on the gates and in the office window.

**ALERT LEVEL 1:** School is now operating business as usual. In Alert Level 1 we will continue to focus on learning as well as maintaining the golden rules set out by the Ministry of Health (MoH):

**The Golden Rules for everyone at Alert Level 1**

1. If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise.
2. If you have cold or flu symptoms call your doctor or Healthline and make sure you get tested.
3. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
4. Sneeze and cough into your elbow, and regularly disinfect shared surfaces.
5. If you are told by health authorities to self-isolate you must do so immediately.
6. If you're concerned about your wellbeing, or have underlying health conditions, work with your GP to understand how best to stay healthy.
7. Keep track of where you've been and who you've seen to help contact tracing if needed. Use the NZ COVID Tracer app as a handy way of doing this.
8. Businesses should help people keep track of their movements by displaying the Ministry of Health QR Code for contact tracing.
9. Stay vigilant. There is still a global pandemic going on. People and businesses should be prepared to act fast to step up Alert Levels if we have to.

**SPORTS EXCHANGES:** The difficult call to postpone Term 2 interschool sports events was made prior to Level 3 Lockdown. So although we have begun training for sporting events again, unfortunately, playing other teams will have to wait for Term 3 before they commence. The Papatoetoe school sports committee will meet in a few weeks to confirm the revised schedules for zone days in Term 3.

**REQUEST FROM COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICE:** During Covid-19 Alert Level 2, the Children's Community Dental Service reopened some of its clinics for children with urgent dental care needs. We will be in contact with you if your child requires an urgent appointment. Alternatively, if your child is in pain, or you have immediate concerns about their teeth, please phone 0800 TALK TEETH to speak with one of our therapists. We are not able to offer routine appointments just yet, but we will let you know as soon as this changes. Although we are now in Level 1 our delays may mean that your child's routine appointment has been changed. For more information, search for 'ARDS' on the Waitemata DHB website. Thank you for your understanding and support during this time. The Children's Community Dental Service.

**SKiDS OPEN:** SKiDs are now open for before and after school care. Please contact SKiDS if you would like to make arrangements for care and you are not one of their regular families. To contact SKiDS, ring Becca at 0800 754 377. Text 022 473 0281 or email SKiDs at [puhinui@skids.co.nz](mailto:puhinui@skids.co.nz). Please see our website for more information.

**LUCKY LUNCH WINNER:** Well done to Saanya Singh from Room 12 who was the lucky lunch winner from the newsletter in March. On Mondays or Fridays, the lucky lunch winner is able to order their free lunch from the auditorium.

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Please sign and return this slip to school tomorrow so your child's name can be entered in a draw for a free school lunch.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_