



PUHINUI SCHOOL



# Newsletter

28 January 2022

Newsletter No. 1/2022

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Families,

Welcome back to Puhinui School for the 2022 school year. We hope your children are well rested and ready to be back at school. To our new students and their families, nau mai haere mai ki te kura o Puhinui. Welcome to Puhinui School. At Puhinui School we aim to educate and nurture the whole child, providing learning opportunities that grow each child in their own unique way. We hope along the way to establish positive encouraging partnerships with each family. Together we are able to ensure students build confidence and become well rounded young people.

**OMICRON AND SCHOOLS:** YES SCHOOL IS READY AND OPEN FOR ALL STUDENTS. Under the traffic light system "Schools are open for on site learning for all students". We expect and are excited to have all students back on Wednesday 2nd February for the first day of the school year. All preparations have been made and our school has a managed plan established for students and staff. It is important to have students back at school now so that if we end up having disruptions later on, the disruption to their learning will be minimised as much as possible.

**SCHOOL HOURS AND TIMETABLE:** Our school hours will return to our normal times. Students arrive no earlier than 8 a.m. (preferably from 8.20 a.m.). Our school bell rings at 8.50 a.m. for the start of instruction. The school day finishes at 3 p.m. for all students. Pick-up and drop off at the gates please parents.

**PUNCTUALITY:** Please keep in mind the importance of punctuality. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their children are at school on time. Lateness is learned behaviour, as is being punctual. By establishing good routines at home, children learn how to manage their time well. Parents please work with us in relation to improving student's punctuality. The school bell rings in the morning at 8.50 a.m., please ensure your child is at school between 8 a.m. and 8.40 a.m.

**DROP AND PICK-UP AT THE GATES:** Apart from new students and new entrant students we ask that all parents please drop off and pick-up their children at the school gates. The restrictions under the red light level ask for **NO non-essential visitors on site**. If you are needing to purchase stationery please go directly to the Music Room. Staff are ready to receive your orders there. We encourage you to think about purchasing stationery throughout the day, rather than at the peak time in the morning if possible.

**SCHOOL STATIONERY:** Every year the school organises stationery packs for purchase. The packs are competitively priced and have everything that your child will need for the year. The school does not charge or mark up stationery packs. We aim to keep them as cost effective as possible. Please note that we do have a goods and services charge. This includes digital apps that students are able to access from home for learning. If you purchase stationery elsewhere the goods and services charge will still require payment.

Stationery Prices:

Year 1	\$40+ \$15 goods and services charge	Year 3&4	\$30+ \$15 goods and services charge
Year 2	\$40+ \$15 goods and services charge	Year 5&6	\$35+ \$15 goods and services charge
New Entrant	\$45+ \$15 goods and services charge		

Book Bags are \$5 each.

**TERM ONE CALENDAR:** For information relating to special events and dates this term please go to the Puhinui School website (<http://www.puhinui.school.nz/>). Up-coming events are shown on the bottom right hand-side of the home page. Underneath there is a link to the school parent calendar. Not all events will be applicable to your child or children but you will be able to note those that are. When there are events which involve your child, you will be informed by a notice or letter.

**HATS COMPULSORY IN TERM 1 AND TERM 4:** Please ensure your child is wearing their school hat this term. Hats can be purchased from the school uniform provider, Angels Fashion, 98 St George Street, Papatoetoe. Hats are brimmed, gold in colour and have our school emblem on them. Students must wear their hats when outside, if they have not got a hat they will be expected to be sitting in the designated shady areas of the school. Please write your child's name on the inside of their hat and not on the rim. Only our gold school hat is to be worn.

**WAITANGI DAY:** Please remember that Waitangi Day is on Sunday 6th of February. This means Monday will be a public holiday and school will be closed.

Reminder: Monday 7th school is closed for Waitangi Day  
Tuesday 8th school is open as usual, 8.50 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

**WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS:** A special welcome to our new teachers to Puhinui School for 2022. Miss Natalyha Surgison Room 6, Miss Ria Doppenberg Room 16, Miss Rebecca Hu Room 20, Miss Anna Robinson Room 12 and Miss Sonja Kotze Room 24. We also welcome Miss Claudene Strickland who will join the support staff team and Mrs Louise Skipper who will work in the office administration team. We look forward to working with you all and we hope you quickly settle into our school.

**2022 Term Dates:**

Term 1 Wednesday 2 February to Thursday 14 April  
Term 2 Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July  
Term 3 Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September  
Term 4 Monday 17 October to Wednesday 14 December

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES:** At this stage we do plan on going ahead with parent conferences. There is provision for this in red light as part of regular school business. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday the 23rd of February (Week 4). These are our beginning of the year conferences to discuss how your child has settled back to school and any insights or issues the teachers may wish to discuss with you. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

**SWIMMING:** Swimming will commence from Week 1. Our aim is to ensure all students have the water confidence they may one day need to keep them safe from harm in and around water. We do have a revised timetable to ensure red light restrictions are maintained. Swimming is a compulsory part of the New Zealand Curriculum. If your child has a medical condition preventing him or her from swimming, a signed note from you is required. Please ensure your child has their togs and towel on their swimming days.

**COVID 19:** We hope that we continue to be fortunate in how Covid 19 is being managed across the city and country. We continue to work within the Ministry of Education guidelines and our school pandemic policy. Please continue to use the tracing app and the Covid 19 golden rules:

The golden rules set out by the Ministry of Health (MoH):

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. Please use this when visiting the school.
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.

**SKiDS:** Our before and after school care providers have started well this term. The feedback from parents has been positive and the children have enjoyed the variety of activities being offered in the daily programme. To contact SKiDS, ring Becca at 0800 754 377. Text 022 473 0281 or email them at [puhinui@skids.co.nz](mailto:puhinui@skids.co.nz). Get started by enrolling on AIMY PLUS <http://skids.aimy.co.nz> . Term 1 costs will be the same as they currently are.

## Staff for 2022 Beginning of the Year

Senior School:	Mr H. Seth	Room 1	Yrs 5 & 6
	Mr R. Tuli	Room 2	Yrs 5 & 6
	Mrs B. Wright (TL)	Room 3	Yrs 5 & 6
	Ms T. Grant	Room 4	Yrs 5 & 6
	Miss J. Posthumus	Room 5	Yrs 5 & 6
	Miss N. Surgison	Room 6	Yrs 5 & 6
	Miss A. Garvie	Room 7	Yrs 5 & 6
	Mr M. Khan	Room 8	Yrs 5 & 6
Middle School:	Miss N. McCoskrie	Room 15	Yrs 3 & 4
	Miss R. Doppenberg	Room 16	Yrs 3 & 4
	Mr S. Jolly (TL)	Room 17	Yrs 3 & 4
	Miss J. Revilla Royo	Room 18	Yrs 3 & 4
	Mrs N. Lameko	Room 19	Yrs 3 & 4
	Miss R. Hu	Room 20	Yrs 3 & 4
	Mrs D. Job	Room 21	Yrs 3 & 4
	Miss M. Ansin	Room 22	Yrs 3 & 4
Junior School:	Miss A. Dreadon	Room 10	Yr 2
	Mrs J. P. van Niekerk	Room 11	Yr 2
	Miss A. Robinson	Room 12	Yr 2
	Mrs J. Virk	Room 13	Yr 2
	Miss N. Findlay	Room 14	Yr 2
	Miss S. Ashley	Room 9	Yr 1
	Ms P. Kirkwood	Room 23	Yr 1
	Miss S. Kotze	Room 24	NE/Yr 1
	Miss Y. Lee	Room 25	NE/Yr 1
	Mrs G. Say	Room 26	Yr 1
	Miss A. Cave (TL)		

(TL – Team Leader)

# COVID-19 Information from the MOE

## Events and activities

Large hui and gatherings are not recommended.

## Omicron and testing

We have all seen the very large numbers of cases overseas and we will very likely see much larger numbers of cases in Aotearoa than we have previously experienced in the last two years. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover in their own home. For some of our community who are immune compromised, are ill or have other vulnerabilities, even when they are fully vaccinated, could be more affected by Omicron. So, we all need to continue to play our part to minimise the spread of the virus.

In regard to testing, the health system currently has capacity to process 40,000 PCR tests a day. PCR testing is the most accurate test for COVID-19 and will continue to be used while New Zealand is in the stamp-it-out phase.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) will begin to be used more widely over time. They are not as accurate as PCR tests and this means that some people who do have COVID-19 will get a negative test result back. There are currently 4.6 million RATs in the country and 10s of millions ordered. If you are symptomatic or need to be tested to access a workplace or service, you will be guided at the time on which test is best for you.

## Face coverings

Staff and children in Years 4–13 must wear face coverings when inside at school when we are at Red. As Year 3's share the same teaching space, they are encouraged to wear face coverings too.

Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and reusable fabric masks with three layers. Don't worry if you don't have these specific types of face coverings, as public health experts also say that any face covering is better than no face covering. The Unite Against COVID-19 website also has information on [how to make a face covering](#).

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some [helpful advice from Michigan Health](#), including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play such as drawing face coverings on characters in colouring books, or letting them choose/make the mask.

## Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds

Vaccination, including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free five to 11-year-old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose. There is some helpful information available to support you on the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) including [How to book a vaccine for your five – 11 year old](#) and [some great videos](#) on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Managing cases in our schools

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do. Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can. Please make sure schools have contact details that are correct and on file, so they can get in touch with you if needed.

## Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whānau and community can help each other if needed. Find out more here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist \[PDF, 121 KB\]](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)

## Self-isolating at home because of COVID-19

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help available if you need it – both with health support and access to food and other essentials.

- [What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](#)

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of [supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19](#).

## Work and Income support

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

### [Check what you might get here](#)

- [School costs](#)
- [Out of School Care and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Subsidy](#)
- [Other Childcare Assistance](#)
- [School and Year Start-up Payment \(for people getting Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit\)](#)
- [Help with living costs \(including food and rent/mortgage\)](#)

Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with [free budgeting and debt help](#)

You can also contact your local community provider. [Please find more information here](#).

## Getting ready to return to school

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whānau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).