



PUHINUI SCHOOL



Newsletter

4 February 2022

Newsletter No. 2/2022

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Families,

Welcome back to Puhinui School for the 2022 school year. It was really exciting to see high levels of attendance on our first day. We know we are in for an unpredictable time and at least we have made a good start to the school year.

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.

- Monday 7th school is closed for Waitangi Day
- Tuesday 8th school is open at our normal time, 8.50 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. (Gates open from 8 a.m.)

OMICRON AND SCHOOLS: It was exciting to see large numbers of students back at school for the first week of school. As you are aware, and as the Prime Minister has indicated, we are at the stage where we are probably going to have to think about living with Covid 19 and life does need to move on. It is important that students are now back at school. Under the traffic light system "Schools are open for on site learning for all students". All preparations have been made and our school has a managed plan established for students and staff.

CONFIRMED CASES IN OUR COMMUNITY: We know there are confirmed cases of Omicron across the Papatoetoe district, and yes we have also been informed of a small number of students who have returned positive Covid 19 results. Fortunately for us, the students have been isolating at home and they have not returned to school for the beginning of the school year. The school has not had any close contact cases so far. If at any time we are notified of a close contact, and, or a confirmed Covid 19 case, we will follow the guidelines provided by the MoH. We will notify parents of identified close contacts as quickly as possible. Please think about your care plan for any students that may be required to self isolate. For any close contact students who do need to self isolate we will provide them with remote learning. This may be through a hard pack, or through digital learning organised on our school website. Please remember, we are not likely to lockdown, and when students self isolate it will be for a period of 10-14 days.

PUNCTUALITY: It is pleasing to see the majority of students arriving at school on time. Please keep in mind the importance of punctuality. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their children are at school on time. By establishing good routines at home, children learn how to manage their time well. 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.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: It is great to see tamariki in school uniform and looking nice and sharp. Please be mindful to label items of uniform so we can return them to your child if they accidentally leave it somewhere. Please be careful labelling school hats. Names should not be written on the brims where they can be seen. Names to please be written on the inside of the hat.

I am aware that Angel Fashions our uniform suppliers have temporarily run out of size 4-6 polo shirts. I have been in contact with them and have agreed that, although not ideal, they will provide parents with a yellow polo for free until they can exchange for the correct size and official uniform. Uniform stocks should be arriving by next Friday. Please also register for the uniform VIP card, this gives you better cost rates, especially for the polo shirts which are a lot dearer if you do not register. Ensure you have your card with you when you purchase uniforms.

LIBRARY BOOKS: Due to lockdown last year we had a significant number of library books not returned to school. Please could parents check and if you have any library books at home, please get your children to return these to school. Thank you Whānau.

DROP AND PICK-UP AT THE GATES: The restrictions under the red light level asks for **NO non-essential visitors on site**. 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. From next week (Tuesday 8th) we will be a lot more vigilant with who is able to come through the gates. We will be mindful of new students and especially our youngest, but for all other students the gate is the drop off and pick point. Thank you parents for supporting us in following the red light rules.

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	\$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.

LUNCH ORDERS: Every Monday and Friday students are able to order their lunch. From next Friday (11th February) we will begin lunch orders for students. Orders are taken in the Auditorium before school and delivered to your child's room at lunchtime. Items available for purchase are:

Regular mince and cheese pie	\$2.00	Potato top pie	\$2.00
Chicken and gravy pie	\$2.00	Apple pie	\$2.00
Sausage roll	\$2.00	Juice drink	\$2.00

SWIMMING: Class swimming has begun and it is really pleasing to see the tamariki loving being back in the water. 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.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES: At this stage we have parent conferences scheduled for Wednesday the 23rd of February (Week 4). There is provision for this in red light as part of regular school business. 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. Please note if we do end up having to postpone parent conferences we will let you know through a letter home.

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

COVID 19 GOLDEN RULES: 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.

SKIIDS: 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. Get started by enrolling on AIMY PLUS <http://skids.aimy.co.nz> . Term 1 costs will be the same as they currently are.

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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 _____