

# Ruahine School Newsletter



Term 1 Week 1 2022

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Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to school for 2022. It was so good to see our children back again yesterday, and to welcome our new families. Our new students coped very well entering a new school under unusual circumstances. Tino pai! Our new teacher, Miss Appleton, has set up Room 6 to look beautiful and she and the children had a happy day yesterday!

Over the holidays our junior playground had a makeover. We had some of it moved away from the tree roots that pop up out of the ground to create a safer place to play. We are awaiting a couple of extras (including new bark) before it can open again. Hopefully by the end of next week or early Week 3 it will be back up and running.

The classes have been making the most of the hot weather. Classes are reading outside, swimming and spending time in the QEII. The teachers are loving their classes and have noted how well the children have settled back into school life.

In preparation for managing Covid infections with the Omicron variant coming, the Ministry of Education has instructed schools to group students and to avoid intermingling with other groups. To this end we have used our teams as our groups because this is the least disruptive to the children's learning. We realise that bus groups crossover, but we are unable to manage that beyond playing separately while waiting for the buses.

Masks are required on buses for children over 12 years of age and we are told that at some stage this will be amended to include children from Year 4. However, some younger children asked to wear their masks on the bus yesterday and we have let them do so. We do encourage you to provide masks for your child if they travel on buses, but we will only enforce the 12 years and up rule until instructed otherwise.

Masks are required for all students Year 4 and up and their teachers at school. While this is not ideal on hot days and when we are teaching, we were all surprised at how simple it was yesterday and how well everyone adapted. We have been very pleased with the respect children are showing each other around mask exemptions. They just carry on without any fuss.

I want to thank Ali for the many hours she has put into our bus routes. As you know the routes have changed slightly. This affects some families quite a bit and while we have fought this for many months we have been unable to reinstate the old routes.

We did gain a written agreement that all children on the country buses who are classed as 'ineligible' may continue to ride the buses while they are at Ruahine School. We were so relieved at this, so you can imagine our distress when we found the new bus for the Northern route was reduced in size! Ali continues to fight for our families and when she called the Ministry of Education yesterday she was assured this was being worked on. We will keep affected families updated as we work this through.

I acknowledge that we are living in difficult times. At Ruahine School we continue to follow the instructions and advice we are given from the Ministry of Education with the welfare of our students and staff as our main driver. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's teacher and they will be happy to help or advise you.

**Respect:**

We respect parents choice regarding vaccinations

We respect official mask exemptions

We request that parents respect the rules, requirements and responsibilities we have set out at school

Please talk to your child about respecting people's views and experiences

This Monday is the Waitangi Day holiday. We hope you enjoy the long weekend with your families. We may even get some much needed rain!

Ngā mihi,  
Sarah McCord  
Principal

## Welcome To Ruahine School Miss Appleton

We want to send a big warm welcome to Miss Angelica Appleton. Miss Appleton is teaching in Room 6 & she is already a star in the kids eyes!

