



# SCHOOL NEWS

## THURSDAY 17TH FEBRUARY, 2022

Te Totara Primary School  
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[principal@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:principal@tetotara.school.nz)

Kia Ora (Maori/NZ), Hello (English), Bula (Fijian), Welkom (South African), Huān yíng (Chinese-Mandarin), Ayubowan, Vanakkam (Sri Lankan), Namaste (India), Bem-vindos (Brazil), Marhaba (Arabic), Hallo (Dutch), Choum Reap Sour (Cambodia), Geiá sou (Greek), Mbote, Jambo (Congolese), Konnichiwa (Japanese), Hola (Spanish), Annyeonghaseyo (South Korea) Israel Shalom (Hebrew)

## COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In light of recent cases around our community, this information is to support our families with any Covid-19 queries, and what you need to do.

In advance we know that this will end up in disruptions to your lives and work, and thank you for your understanding and support.

Please note that we are not the "health experts", but do know that the Ministry of Health may be delayed in providing advice/guidance to you.

Please also note that this information is subject to change, based on any updated guidelines from the Ministry of Education & Health.



### Who do we advise if my child tests positive for Covid-19?

Please contact Anne Fraser (Principal) as soon as possible after you have been informed of a positive test result. Email: [principal@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:principal@tetotara.school.nz) or mobile: 021 654781

### What actions does the school take when there is a positive case?

We follow a response plan based on guidance from the Ministry of Education.

This involves:

- Seeking confirmation of the positive case, and when the infectious period was
- If this was on a school day, we then work through contact tracing
- We will advise classes that are close contacts, via text/email initially, and then a follow up phone call.
- If this occurs during a school day, we will request that you come and collect your child as soon as you are able to. Arrive at the main office, and we will bring your child(ren) out to you safely.
- Rest of school advised of the case, and becomes casual contacts

### How do we work out who is a Close Contact?

There is detailed guidance around this and a range of criteria. Without going into detail, because our students spend a long time in the same classroom, this then fits the criteria for being a Close Contact.

### My child is a close contact. What does this mean?

This means your child has had contact with a positive case at our school.

They will need to isolate for 7 days and be tested on day 5 (Note - the 7 days start from the date that they were in contact with a positive case at school. Because of the time lag between the confirmed case/test results, this may mean that your child only needs to remain home for a smaller number of days). The day 5 test is likely when you would receive the notification of being a close contact. We will advise you further regarding testing and isolation dates.

### Do I need to provide anything before my child is able to return to school?

Yes please. For close contacts we would like to see the last negative test result please. Note: if your family chooses not to get the Covid test done, then the period of isolation will need to be extended.

### If my child is a close contact, does the rest of our household also need to isolate?

**No, not for our region.** We have received official direction from the Waikato District Health Board & Ministry of Education that this no longer applies to the Waikato region.

### **A member of our household is a close contact. Can my child still attend school?**

Yes, as above. Your child is able to attend school unless a member of the household subsequently tests positive for Covid, then they become a close contact themselves and must isolate.

### **We received information saying that my child is NOT a close contact. What do I need to do?**

Most importantly, your child is still able to attend school.

- You and your whānau should watch for symptoms
- If any develop, get tested immediately
- Then, stay at home until you receive the result
- Please keep an eye out for school communications
- If your whānau hasn't been vaccinated, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

### **My child has tested positive for Covid-19. What does this mean?**

This will mean that your child will need to isolate. All family members will be close contacts and also need to isolate. The Ministry of Health website under the tab "Covid 19" will provide more guidance.

### **A member of our household has tested positive. What does this mean?**

This will mean that your child will be a close contact and also needs to isolate. The Ministry of Health website under the tab "Covid 19" will provide more guidance.

### **My child is feeling unwell (e.g. cough, headache, sore throat etc). Can I still send them to school?**

Because these are all symptoms of Covid, please *do not* send your child to school. While these may be the normal bugs/sniffles that occur, we encourage you to get your child tested.



### **Is it safe to send my child to school?**

Our processes involve working through a detailed contact tracing assessment. If your child is not a close contact, then school is still open for them and we encourage you to send them to school as much as you can. As you know, our students have missed a lot of teaching and learning over the past 2 years, and we really want to see them at school as much as possible. Our school health and safety plan for Red does contain a large number of protections.

### **What are you doing to keep my child safe?**

All staff, volunteers, contractors on site are fully vaccinated

We have good ventilation/air flow in place

Staff and students in Years 3 and above are wearing masks

We have staggered break times and areas to assist with contact tracing and minimising contact between large groups of students

### **My child is anxious or scared. What advice do you have?**

Our onsite team are working hard to make school fun, safe and a place of learning. We encourage you to focus on the things that they can do to help - mask-wearing, washing hands, getting a test (if required). This website has some useful tips - <https://www.kidshealth.org.nz>

### **My child needs to isolate at home. What support will school provide around teaching and learning?**

Our support and response will also depend on whether class teachers are also isolating at home. If our teachers are also isolating, they will be in touch to offer our home learning support through Seesaw.

If our teachers are still at school, they will look to connect with you, and we will also arrange for hard packs & some other learning ideas.

### **NO SWIMMING (AQUATICS PROGRAMME) - AWAITING A NEW POOL**

In early December it was noticed that the pool seemed to be slumped on one upper side. Upon investigation it was found that the metal frame had rusted through in a number of areas. So the frame was completely compromised. We explored whether it was possible to fix one part of it, however the bottom part of the frame was also severely compromised and the frame was certainly beyond its life cycle.

Enquiries were made regarding the new community pool facility which had been planned to open mid 2023. The Hamilton City Council contact advised us that they had not secured investors yet. Whilst we may use this facility in the future we would look to use it for our senior school advanced swimmers. With approx. 5000 school students in the Rototuna area the availability would be compromised by numbers of users and also that it is not only a 'school pool' but for the wider community as well.

We made the decision to look to purchase a replacement pool. Time was spent late last year to secure instructors through Kelly Sports. We sought advice from 'Pools In Schools' who are very experienced with this type of pool. They recommended the ones that are manufactured in Italy like the one we have. We have placed an order for one the same size as what we have. Due to supply chain issues it may be a few months before we receive it. Our order has been acknowledged and the pool is currently being manufactured.

We are very committed to a swimming programme to teach the students water safety skills and the basic stroke work. With another summer of record drownings we feel it is an essential part of our local curriculum.

### **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR LIBRARY**

Our school requires volunteers to assist when classes are visiting the library. Their job is to issue and return books for our students, freeing up classroom teachers to help students with book selection. As this is a school position we will need to complete a police check and you need to be fully vaccinated and boosted. We will also require a CV and two referees.

The days/times we have available are as follows (you only need to work one of these days):

Monday	9.40am - 11.55am
Tuesday	9.05am - 11.55am
Friday	9.05am - 11.55am

Working in the library is a lovely way to get to know our school community better. It comes with free coffee, plenty of books to read, and air-conditioning! If you are interested in finding out more, please email Michelle Simms, our Library Manager: [michelles@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:michelles@tetotara.school.nz)

## LOST PROPERTY

Over the past year we have accumulated a lot of bits and pieces in our office lost property drawer that students have handed in to us. We have quite a few combination bike locks, watches, earbuds, a small umbrella and even prescription reading glasses (see pic below). If anything looks familiar, please send your child to the office to collect, otherwise we will donate the remaining items if left unclaimed.



## SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

This week your child was given a Scholastic Book Club catalogue. These orders close **tomorrow, Friday 18th February**. Please return the completed order form with the money into the office. Please make sure your children's name and room number is written clearly on the form. Alternatively you can order online via the Loop app.

### **SIBLING OUT-OF-ZONE ENROLMENTS FOR 2022** **Enrolment Period of 1st July, 2022 - 15th December, 2022**

The Board of Trustees are looking to accommodate, if possible, younger siblings and children of staff in the 2022 school year. To help determine this, we urgently need to have Out-of-zone Enrolment Forms into the School Office to help with this process. Please complete an OUTZ Enrolment Form for each child, which is available online from our school website by clicking the following link: [www.tetotara.school.nz](http://www.tetotara.school.nz) or by visiting the School Office.

The Board will look at the number of enrolments, the level of projected student growth and determine how many spaces for out-of-zone students are available for the upcoming enrolment period of **1st July, 2022 to 15th December, 2022**. This will be completed in late May, allowing for lots of time for families to know what is happening. Further information around the number of out-of-zone spaces to be released will be communicated via the school newsletter over the next few weeks.

**Please return the completed OUTZ Enrolment Form, including the relevant documentation, to the School Office by 3.00pm Friday 18th March, 2022** (tomorrow)

## TE TOTARA BUCKET SUN HATS - COMPULSORY TERM 1, 2022

From the beginning of Term 1, 2022 **ALL** children will need to wear their Te Totara Primary School Red Bucket Hat when outside. These can be purchased through Direct Group, 6 Latham Court, Hamilton (off Kahikatea Drive) Phone (07) 847-6664.



## **2022 FEES & DONATIONS PAID VIA KINDO**

Fees have now been loaded onto KINDO. This online system allows you to pay for our school's fees (**Mathletics/Mathseeds, Voluntary School Donation, Lost Library Book Costs etc**) and is also the **ONLY** way to register/pay for your child for sports teams.

**Please Note: Aquatics will be charged after your child's class has had their lessons.**

**Kindo Questions? Kindo Helpdesk on 0508 454636 (toll free)**

**If access is denied, it is most likely that our school does not have your current email address recorded on your child's file. Please do not hesitate to contact the School Office on (07) 853-0039 to amend.**

**kindo.**  
The online one stop school shop



## **DATES COMING UP**

Thurs 17 Feb	BOT Meeting @ 6.30pm
Mon 21 Feb	Routine N/E Vision & Hearing Testing
14 Mar - 4 Apr	Life Education Van on site
Tues 12 April	Art Exhibition Parents Evening 3pm - 6.30pm (to be confirmed)
Thurs 14 April	END OF TERM 1, 2022 @ 3.00pm
Mon 2 May	TERM 2, BEGINS

Ngā mihi,

**Anne Fraser**

Principal

# TE TOTARA PTA NEWS

EMAIL: [pta@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:pta@tetotara.school.nz) [www.facebook.com/TTPTA](http://www.facebook.com/TTPTA)

Please 'like' our Facebook page to ensure you keep in the news loop: [www.facebook.com/TTPTA](http://www.facebook.com/TTPTA)

## WELCOME BACK

The PTA would like to welcome you back to another year at school. Unfortunately, due to the current Red Light Covid Setting that we are now in, this means that the PTA have had to put on hold our planned Ice-Block days in Term 1. We are forever hopeful that we will be able to run events later in the year.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PTA?

Are you interested in joining the PTA? If so, keep an eye on this newsletter to find out when the Annual General Meeting will be held, (usually mid-year). All parents/caregivers are invited along to find out about the PTA and what it does for our children at Te Totara. The PTA is in need of some new members this coming year, so please have a think about how you can help our school and how the PTA contributes to our school community.

## What is the PTA?

PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association. It's a group of parents and families associated with Te Totara whose aim it is to bring the school children and school community together, to fundraise and coordinate fun activities for the children and community.

## What kind of skills are required to be part of the PTA?

The PTA requires a diverse range of skills. Some examples include:

Organisation and planning skills

Communication or written skills

Physical lifting or transporting purchases for events to the school.

All kinds of skills are welcome and needed to make the PTA successful. This helps share responsibilities and load across more people.

## What are the perks of being part of the PTA?

Meet other parents and make new connections and friends

Gain a great insight into the workings of the School

Seeing the smiling faces of the children at Events

## What happens at the AGM?

The AGM is where the Committee decides who will be on the executive team for the following year (Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Communications Officer). These people liaise with the school around how the money will be spent e.g. new playground, tennis court roof etc and also that the school community are kept informed about PTA events, like Discos and Fun Runs.

## What can I do to help?

You can take on an executive role, attend meetings as a committee member or help out at events, such as selling drinks at Disco's, Ice-block Days or to help plan other fun fundraising events.

The PTA would love to meet you, find out what you have to offer to help the school community come together and have some fun.

## How much time is involved?

As much or as little as you are able to give to the PTA. If you take on an executive position, you will be required to attend the majority of the meetings (approx 8 x one hour meetings per year). The PTA also needs plenty of people to help at events.

**Your PTA committee:** *Shelley, Julyan, Rilesh, Kerry & Kerri*

# COMMUNITY NOTICES:

We are often asked to put Community Notices in our newsletter. Due to the large number of requests, we now have a "Community Notices" section on the notice board in the School Office, where you will find more information on the notices below. **Please note that this does not necessarily imply School endorsement of these notices.**

## GIVE IT A GO PROGRAMME

**6 WEEKS**
**YEAR 1-4**



# SUPER SMASH HUB

NORTHERN DISTRICTS CRICKET

## CATCH! THROW! STRIKE!

LOCATION	DAY	START DATE	TIME
Discovery Park	Monday	21-Feb-22	4pm
Southwell School	Monday	21-Feb-22	3.30pm
Waikato University	Tuesday	22-Feb-22	4pm
Raglan Area School	Wednesday	23-Feb-22	4pm
Steele Park	Thursday	24-Feb-22	3.45pm

REGISTER VIA [NDCRICKET.CO.NZ/PLAY](http://NDCRICKET.CO.NZ/PLAY) - TURN OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Are they playing or studying?

THEY LEARN PROGRAMMING BY PLAYING



Register to our open days and courses:

[www.logiscool.com](http://www.logiscool.com)



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## NORTHERN UNITED SPORTS CLUB



ARE YOUR KIDS INTERESTED IN PLAYING SOCCER?

If YES, then get them involved!!

Registrations are NOW OPEN for the 2022 Season for Ages 5-14 years old

For more information visit our Website:

[www.northernunitedfootball.co.nz](http://www.northernunitedfootball.co.nz)

Or contact us at:

Email: [Football.northernunited@gmail.com](mailto:Football.northernunited@gmail.com)



