

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)

Kia ora te whanau

On Tuesday afternoon I posted a message on our school Facebook page with an update of how we are going as a school, in managing Covid 19. At that time we had just a couple of positive cases that had impacted classroom life.

Since then we have been notified of two more positive cases in other learning areas. The following learning areas are now self-isolating for the rest of this week: Milky Way 21 and Orion 10.

I am very grateful for the way the families concerned have notified me promptly as soon as they have received a positive result and how the rest of the class have responded in an affirming manner to our requirements regarding isolation times. Thank you to our wonderful whānau who collected their children from school yesterday. We understand how difficult this is for many of you and appreciate your kindness and understanding. Although we now have had four classrooms isolate since the start of the school year, please know that our positive cases so far are minimal.

We are bound to follow public health guidelines at all times.

The management of cases within schools and the determination of 'close contacts' now rests with the schools as case numbers have grown too large for Ministry of Health close guidance. So we are at the forefront of this.

If there is a case that potentially impacts on your child's class then you will be phoned by Mrs Stewart or Mrs Brook-Watt, and a personal email will be sent to you by me. It will contain all the information you need regarding testing or not, self-isolation and the return to school dates. You can help us in this process by ensuring we have your correct phone numbers and email address. You are welcome to check with the School Office or via the Parent Portal to ensure we hold the correct information.

All we can do is act on the best advice with the knowledge we have gained around each situation. This advice does change as the public officials determine what stage we are in the pandemic. There may come a time when only the positive child and their family may have to isolate, just as happens with other illnesses. I will keep you informed of any changes as soon as I get the full information from the correct sources.

I want to reassure you that I certainly do not make any of these Covid 19 decisions lightly and I am acutely aware of the inconvenience and stress on families, however the safety and well-being of all those I am responsible for is my primary concern through this time.

The supportive messages I am receiving from many of you does help 'lift the load' for those at the forefront of the response, as I feel that the *maanaki* we are showing to each other strengthens the whole community.

'We are in this together, and we will prevail'

Anne



Keep a 2-metre
distance from others

Outside of your home or when you are sick, keep 2 metres away from all other people, where possible. Do not shake hands, kiss hello or hong.

Find out more at
[Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government

Unite
against
COVID-19

TUTU TUESDAY!

They say that good things come in twos and on February 22nd, 2022, it was a big day for the number two! When written out, 22.2.22, the date is considered a palindrome, which means it can be read both forward and backward. It also falls on a Tuesday, being deemed 'Twos-day'.



Staff celebrated this by dressing up in tutus, which definitely spread cheer around the school. What a great photo of Mrs Fraser and Ian our Caretaker, in their tutus!



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR LIBRARY

Our school NEEDS 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

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

If your child will be away from school then please let us know by either:

- **School App** - send an "Absentee" notification
Go to the App store on your Apple or Android device and search "School Apps NZ" to download the App to your phone or tablet and then add "Te Totara".
- **Phone** the school on **(07) 853-0039** (press 1)
- **Text** the School Office on 027 207-4466 with name, details and reason for absence. Please note that we do not send a reply to text messages.

We would appreciate any absence messages **before 9.00am.**



CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS OR FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

Just a little reminder that if your family circumstances have changed or your contact details i.e. phone, address, email etc; to please advise the School Office on 07 853-0039 or email receptionist@tetotara.school.nz so we can update your records accordingly.

We encourage our families to check your contact details are current through the [Parent Portal](#) at www.atschool.co.nz using the User ID and Passwords that were emailed to you at the end of last year.

If you have recently joined our school, you will be emailed your User ID and Passwords just prior to our Learning Plans going online on [Friday 17th June, 2022](#).

If you do not have access to a computer, you are welcome to check your details with the School Office on (07) 853-0039.

UNWELL CHILDREN WHO NEED TO GO HOME

Our Administration team and teaching staff act in the very best interests of your child and their well-being is paramount. When children arrive at the School Office, and depending on the situation, most of the children are offered a rest in our Wellness Room and re-assessed before a phone call home; often they return to their classroom.

We understand many of our families have work commitments however, if you are phoned by the school to collect your child from school due to illness, it would be appreciated if you could arrange for their collection as soon as possible. **For the privacy of other students, the School Office staff will collect your child from the Wellness Room when you arrive.**

If your child is sick, please keep them at home until they are well. If your child has diarrhoea or vomiting we ask that they do not return to school unless they are well and have had **no further diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours prior to returning – these bugs can be highly contagious.**

Thank you for your assistance.

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.

POTENTIAL SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



TE TOTARA SPORTS PLAYER OF THE DAY

If you are a Coach or Manager, please email the POD to stephy@tetotara.school.nz.

CRICKET

Superstars
Thunders

Manaia Grace-Fry
Zayne Sebastian, Avni Rathore

DATES COMING UP

14 Mar - 4 Apr
Tues 12 April
Thurs 14 April

Life Education Van on site
Art Exhibition Parents Evening 3pm - 6.30pm (to be confirmed)
END OF TERM 1, 2022 @ 3.00pm

Mon 2 May

TERM 2, BEGINS

Ngā mihi,

Anne Fraser

Principal

