



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH, 2022

Te Totara Primary School
PO Box 28134
Rototuna, Hamilton 3256

31 Hector Drive
Rototuna North, Hamilton, 3210
Ph: (07) 853-0039
www.tetotara.school.nz
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 (Congoese), Konnichiwa (Japanese), Hola (Spanish), Annyeonghaseyo (South Korea) Israel Shalom (Hebrew)

Kia ora te whanau

I hope you and your families are all doing well as we deal with this challenging time. There is a real sense of wanting to 'hunker down, stay safe and take care' in remaining close to our own homes and loved ones, so we don't expose ourselves to unnecessary risks through the next few weeks. I certainly understand that feeling, a need to live more quietly in order to just get through. Each day is a step closer to that 'more normal time' that the experts tell us is ahead.



In terms of what is happening in our school at the moment. We are in a similar position to most other schools in New Zealand where the outbreak is still on the rise. With the change to the contact tracing rules now it is only confirmed positive cases and household contacts who are required to self isolate. Currently we have a few positive cases who are self-isolating at home, most of these were not at school when they were infectious as they were already isolating as close contacts in a household.

All classes are now back at school with staff and families monitoring the children for symptoms. If we are concerned about any child's health we contact families to take them home. We have some way to go before the peak of this outbreak so we do expect to be informed by many more families about positive cases. From what we have seen the outbreak in our children is either asymptomatic or similar to a cold or sore throat with some high temperatures. Children seem to recover from symptoms quite quickly.

We have been advised by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to be very aware of privacy considerations with the information we share. This is why the information shared will be of a general nature through our newsletters and Facebook page.

We do have a few staff away with family members isolating so we are using our bank of Guest Teachers to work with the classes. We have wonderful Guest Teachers who we call on at regular intervals. They are well known to our students who are very comfortable with them. I am proud of the resilience of our learners through this time.

I am so heartened by the trust you have put in the school by continuing to have your children learning and being with their friends onsite. This week our attendance has been between 88% and 91% everyday which is fantastic compared with many schools around us. Also a big 'thank you' to the way you continue to monitor your children for symptoms and respond so quickly if they are unwell. We very much appreciate the proactive way you are informing us.

Anne Fraser

TE TOTARA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The school Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge and thank Terry Singh for his amazing contribution to the school for the past 5½ years. He was a dedicated board member, working hard for this school and the community. He served as Board Chair for his final three years. He has now taken up a job as District Court Judge in Waitakere and we wish him and his family a smooth transition and much success in their new journey.

Melissa Guyan has now taken the role of Board Chair. If you would like to find out more about the Board of Trustees and its members, follow this link: [Current Board of Trustee Members](#).



In September 2022, the next Board of Trustees elections will take place. If you are interested in being a Board of Trustees member and would like to find out more, please call the School Office or email: melissapearlguyan@gmail.com We'd love to have you attend a meeting so you can see how things work and can then make an informed decision about whether you'd like to join this team of people who support the running of this amazing school.

Melissa Guyan
Board of Trustees Chair

2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Board of Trustees elections are coming up in September 2022 and we wanted to give everyone plenty of opportunity to think about standing for the Board. The below links provide a brief guide as to what it entails: [Community Member Guide to the Role of the School Board of Trustees](#)



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.

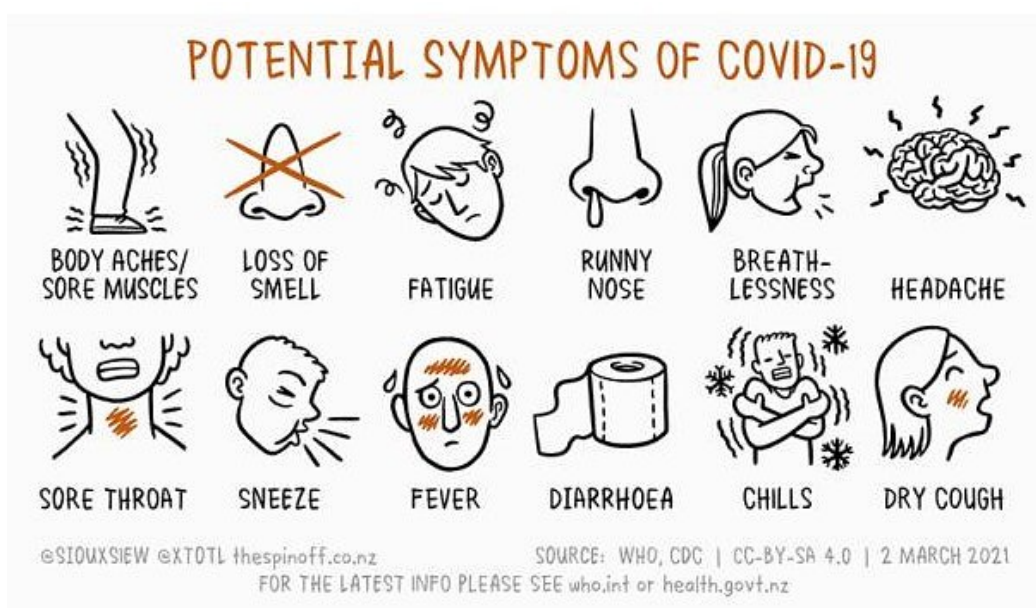
We understand many of our families have work commitments however, if you are phoned by the school to collect your child from school due to illness, it would be appreciated if you could arrange for their collection as soon as possible. **For the privacy of other students, the School Office staff will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



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

Cole Moller
Aaryan Jasti, Josh Verma

DATES COMING UP

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 www.facebook.com/TTPTA

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



END OF YEAR FINANCIALS

Should you wish to view the End of Year Financial report of the PTA, this is now available in the PTA section of our school's website.

MANY THANKS

The PTA committee would like to extend **a huge thank you to Fiona Hurst, former Chairperson and Moshe Malal, former Deputy Chairperson of the PTA.** Both members stepped down from their positions in 2020 but have remained committed to helping the current PTA. With their children finishing at Te Totara at the end of 2021 they will now step aside and let new members bring in new ideas.

NEW PTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED 2022

Both Shelley Bishop, Chairperson and Rilesh Patel, Treasurer informed the PTA at our last meeting (via Zoom) on the 16th March that they will be stepping down from their positions. This means the PTA is on the lookout for a new Chairperson and Treasurer.

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:

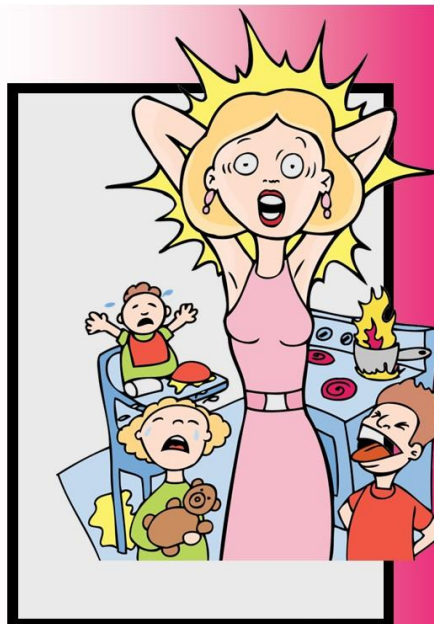
We are often asked to put Community Notices in our newsletter. Due to the large number of requests, we now have a "Community Notices" section on the notice board in the School Office, where you will find more information on the notices below. **Please note that this does not necessarily imply School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

NEXT CHAPTER PARENTING

Offering

The **PARENT SURVIVAL KIT**

PARENTING COURSE



- *Do you find yourself yelling at your child more often than laughing with your child*
- *Do you feel you have lost touch with your child*
- *Do you feel frustrated and find yourself saying the same things over and over again with no result*

TOPICS COVERED

COMMUNICATION	CHOICES/CONSEQUENCES	COMPLIANCE	
EMPATHY	SIBLING RIVALRY	TEENAGERS AND BOUNDARIES	
SETTING LIMITS	PAUSE	TIME IN	ARE YOU DOING TOO MUCH
PERSONALITY TYPES	PRAISE VS ENCOURAGEMENT	QUALITY TIME	

IDEAL FOR
GROUPS
INDIVIDUALS OR
A BUNCH OF
FRIENDS



Via



f: NEXT CHAPTER PARENTING

www.nextchapterparenting.co.nz

E: brigid@nextchapterparenting.co.nz

M: 0221087214

WINZ ASSISTANCE WHERE APPLICABLE