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Parents Email Newsletter 30/01/2022.

Greetings, parents/caregivers, and welcome to the 2022 school year. I hope you have all had a great Christmas/New Year break, and have been able to spend lots of time with friends and family.

My name is Chris Stevenson, and I will be the Acting Principal/Teacher for Term 1.

This email is just to let you all know of a few notes that I thought I would get out to you before school starts on Tuesday 1 February.

- The first week may be a bit mucky with the kids learning as I figure out where they are, so please don't panic if some are finding it too easy or too hard in Week 1.
- All staff, (apart from me), remain the same with no changes on that side of things. Jacqui will continue to be here every day, and Lou will continue to be the Release Teacher. At this stage, Lou will be working on Thursdays/Fridays one week, and Fridays the following week.
- Remember next Monday, 7th February, Waitangi Day is observed, so there will be no school on that day.
- School start and end times remain the same as last year.
- Any away trips at this stage, including Tainui Swimming, are yet to be confirmed, mainly due to Covid. However, as things change, I will keep you up to date if/when we end up looking at going away from school.
- There is no need to worry about any stationery requirements at this stage, so the kids do not need to bring any books, pencils etc on Tuesday.
- As normal, if your child is going to be away, please let Jacqui know in the office. As we have to code any absences, please also let her know the reason for your child's absence.
- Please remind the kids to bring their togs/towel as we plan to be swimming everyday as part of the PE curriculum.
- Hats during Term 1 are required to be worn when outside, especially with all this hot weather about. If they don't already have one at school, please remind them to bring one on Tuesday. As usual, sunscreen lotion is also available for the kids to use at school.
- Of course, it wouldn't be normal, not to mention Covid. We all know what's required, but here's just a reminder, including new requirements for the start of the year for children;
 - Please ensure you scan in or fill out the book when entering school.

- Please ensure you use the sanitiser on entry.
 - Do not come to school if feeling unwell, (both adults and children).
 - Try to keep distance between people.
- Masks must be worn inside buildings by all visitors, including parents at the current time, (they are optional outside).

- While we are currently in the red traffic light level, it is now a requirement that **ALL children from Year 4 and up, are to wear a mask while inside the classroom/buildings, and on school transport.** Although this is a pain, especially as us as teachers do a lot of our teaching by reading the kids facial expressions, it is a requirement under the red level. Don't panic if you don't have any masks, as we can supply your child with one at school, (just remind them to ask one of us when they get to school). For children in Years 1-3, although masks are recommended, it is not compulsory for them to wear masks while inside. Of course, all us older kids also have to wear them when inside. While we have this fine weather (fingers crossed it lasts a while), the plan is to be able to do a lot of our work outside in our 'Bush Class', (our makeshift outside classroom during red level), to give any of the older kids/us a break from mask wearing, while still being able to continue with normal class work.

-Don't panic too much, as we will try to keep the day as normal as possible in red level, and I'll speak to the kids about all of this on day 1.

-Home learning will be brought back in for those who require it as and when needed.

If you have any questions, or any concerns about your child attending during red level, please do not hesitate to get in touch. **Please note that even in red level, school is open for ALL children.**

Email is usually the best way to get me personally, and of course you can get in touch with Jacqui in the office (admin@whareorino.school.nz or phone 06-7529850). If there is anything you are unsure of, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If I need to speak to you about your child, I will do the same.

As a last note, just a little reminder generally, but especially in these times of covid, if you or someone you know, does need help with something, please, please, please, do get in contact. If we are able to help/assist, we will certainly do our best.

Well, unless I have forgotten anything, (no doubt I will have), I look forward to meeting you and working with your child/ren for the term.

Take care, enjoy this fantastic weather we are having, and roll on Tuesday.

Kind regards,

Chris Stevenson