

Kia Ora Tātou Katoa

Welcome back to school for 2022. We're so happy to be back, even if we have a few more regulations to follow around COVID safety.

This year, we welcome to our kura Lea-anne George, teaching in Koru classroom, Hayley Foster teaching in Rito, and Nyah Toia as Teacher Aide in Koru. We're really fortunate to have these talented, enthusiastic people join our staff.

Stationery for Blenheim School has once again been provided free of charge by the Marlborough Community Development Trust. These are the same amazing people that run our Breakfast Club on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Breakfast Club

A free breakfast for all students is served in the hall on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:15am. Come along for some fun and games and a hearty breakfast of cereal, milk, toast and milo. No sign-up required; just turn up and have fun.

Red COVID Alert Level

Thank you so much to all the whānau who are wearing a mask when entering the school grounds. Awesome effort! The tamariki have also done an amazing job and shown tenacity in mask wearing. A couple of expectations to make clear, as we want to keep everyone safe and the school open: When collecting students after school, whānau must collect tamariki and leave the school grounds immediately; nobody is allowed to play on the playground or linger on the school grounds. Once we have active cases in Marlborough, you will be required to drop tamariki at the gates and pick up from the front office. These expectations are in accordance with Education and Health ministry guidelines and we will strictly uphold them; we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Important Dates & Events

Feb 16: Senior Camp Parent Meeting

Parents and caregivers of Harakeke students are invited to attend a hui to learn more about this year's senior camp. Meet at the school hall 6pm-7pm on Wednesday, Feb 16.

Feb 22-25: Harakeke Senior Camp

Our senior (Year 5 and 6) students head away to camp at Mistletoe Bay from Tues, Feb 22 - Fri, Feb 25.

School Swimming

Please remember to send togs and a towel to school each day that your child's class is scheduled to swim (see the schedule below). And please name shorts and shirts as it is easy for tamariki to get them mixed up in the changing rooms.

School Swim Schedule

Please make sure your child has his/her swimsuit and towel along on the right days:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Class(es)	Rito Harakeke	Kākano/Koru Rito Harakeke	Kākano/Koru Rito Harakeke	Kākano/Koru Rito Harakeke	Harakeke

Updating Personal Information

Attached is an envelope that has the personal contact details we have about your mokopuna. It is very important that we can contact you in any emergency, so please check phone numbers and email addresses. If any information is incorrect, please correct it on the form and return it to the office; no need to return it if everything is correct.

Term Topic

This term's topic is around Te Tiriti o Waitangi and about partnerships. We have a few activities planned for the start of the term to introduce our students to understanding the local history and stories.

Roll Growth

We are starting the year with 107 tamariki at Blenheim School — the highest number of students we've had in six years. It's amazing how far we've come even since 2018, when there were just 39 students. Kaha ake tahi — we are stronger together.

Te Reo Māori Lessons

We currently have 18 tamariki who have indicated interest in participating in a full immersion te reo Māori class one day a week. The class would be held here within the school. We are postponing the start of this programme, as the priority at the moment is to ensure continuity and stability with classes and make sure good routines are established at the same time as we collectively grapple with the many COVID-driven changes. We now aim to look at this for Term 2.

Board of Trustees Election

Did you know that the school is governed by the Board of Trustees — a group of six or seven people elected by whānau, parents and caregivers? Some Board positions are opening up in the next election (February, 2022). I would ask you to think about whether you can lend your time and talents to the Board. Being on the board requires some decision-making and a wish to actively participate in moving the school forward. Meetings are held monthly, and it is important to attend if you are an elected trustee. If you can't see yourself being part of the Board of Trustees, please consider supporting (with your vote) the capable people from school whānau and from the wider community who sit on the Board and give their time to make things happen in our kura.

Adding Year 7-8 Classes at Blenheim School

Last year, we undertook a survey and 87% of our whānau expressed strong support for Blenheim School expanding to include Year 7 and 8 classes. We're now actively pursuing this, and we need your help. The Ministry of Education requires letters (or emails) of support from whānau. Please submit an email or letter, please send it to the school principal@blenheim.school.nz and state that you support the initiative and explain how and why adding Year 7 and 8 classes at Blenheim School will benefit your child, your family and the community. Please don't feel that your message needs to be long or formal — just a few words will be fine. We can provide a pre-written letter if you prefer to simply add your name — just see Mary in the office.

Facebook/Photos

It is also time to update our social media permission forms. We like to keep parents/whānau updated and informed about the learning that goes on in our school by posting group photos and action shots to Facebook or the school newsletter. We don't use any names or identify students. Please return the form below to help us update your preferences.

Ngā mihi, Denyse

Blenheim School Facebook/Newsletter Preferences Form

Student name:

(circle one) I give permission / I do not give permission

for my child's image to appear on the Blenheim School Facebook page or in the school newsletter.

Parent name:

(Signature)

(Date)