



Waimate Centennial School

Pandemic Newsletter 7 May 8th

Nga Mihi Nui Waimate Centennial School

Alert Level 2

The Prime Minister has said that the Level 3 Alert level will be reviewed on Monday 11th May. At that time she will inform us of the date we can open the school to the whole community.

There will be particular public health requirements for level 2 but it looks like it will be manageable to have almost all children back at Centennial school in level 2.

- Health and safety remain our primary objective
- If children are ill, they must stay at home
- Children will wash their hands regularly
- Surfaces and handles will be cleaned regularly
- We must try and stay at a safe distance where we can
- There will not be gatherings of more than one class
- Our playgrounds will be opening again sometime in Level 2 but possibly not at the beginning.
- Students must continue to learn from home if they are isolated because of contact with COVID 19

Schools will open on the Monday nearest to the announcement that we are moving to level

If the Prime Minister moves us to level two next week we will probably start school on the following Monday.

The current public health message to schools is:

- When kids are affected, the illness is almost always mild. Luckily, unlike flu or many other infectious diseases, children with Covid are not super-spreaders.
- Avoid contact with the highest-risk groups: the elderly, those in rest homes, and those in hospital - for your protection and theirs.
- Avoid being near anyone who has a fever or a cough.
- Don't touch your face.
- Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone.
- Ask kids to sanitise their hands upon entering and exiting your classroom. More importantly, model this behaviour yourself.
- Make hand hygiene a habit - more than being scared of runners passing by, touching groceries, or standing in queues at the supermarket, we should be afraid of our own hands.

Bubbles will no longer exist at level 2 so we don't have to worry about the right number of children or teachers to a bubble

Advice from the Ministry of Health is that personal protective equipment is not required in any educational facilities. The Ministry of Health is investigating the use of masks, but it is unlikely that these will be required in classrooms.

We will begin contacting families early next week to find out what you are thinking about for your children in level 2.

Response to the survey we sent out last week.

We have had about half the families in Centennial responding to the survey. Thank you very much for helping us to help your children to access their learning.

The activities students most enjoyed were outside, physical activities. Parents requested activities that can be done away from the computer with choices that we can select from.

The least enjoyed activities were classroom type activities and keyboard and screen activities. Parents also asked for a list of must do and can-do activities.

When parents were asked if their children were motivated, 60% of them said they were quite well motivated to start and complete learning tasks.

The most difficult things for parents were to motivate their children, to help them choose the activity and to find the time to help with their child's learning.

In the next week what activities would parents like for their children? Construction, art, physical challenges. Parents also want teachers to continue to provide some math, reading and writing activities also.

Thank you for responding to this survey. Teachers are thinking about what they provide for your children and they are thinking about the requests you have made in the survey.

The comments you have made are reassuring for us. It is a new and unusual world that we are living in and teachers are wanting to do the best they possibly can for their students. I believe they are doing a wonderful job. Thankyou teachers.

Walking challenge

I think this has been a very successful community activity. We are all impressed with the number of KM that people have chosen to walk. There are several positive outcomes. We set a goal for the school, we got lots of people involved, it didn't cost very much, We were able to work together at our own pace and altogether achieve a very positive outcome. Our bubble at school has spent time looking at the results of their own walking and prepared graphs to explain this. Thank you for getting involved and participating as a community.

Kia Kaha Be strong

Kia Maia Be brave

Kia manawanui Be patient/resilient

Jonathan



Kea News

Ruma Kea held its first zoom meeting earlier in the week and it was great to see more than half the class there. We had another one this morning with a wacky hair theme which most children were keen on doing.

This last week the children have continued to choose from a wide variety of activities, on screen and off screen. Some children obviously enjoy the seated activities, whether they are art based activities or reading, writing or maths, while others steer towards the bingo board activities such as baking, helping around the house or music, dance and physical activities. It is just great to see them getting involved and sharing with the rest of the class.

We hope you have a lovely weekend (hopefully the last in Level 3) and that all the mums are spoilt on Mother's Day - they deserve it!

Piwakawaka News

Piwakawaka and Kakapo classes had a Pet Day zoom meeting today. It was lovely to see children with their pets and it is well known that pets are great for our wellbeing as we get outside and exercise with them and lots of cuddles help to lower stress levels. Children are still participating well in their Seesaw activities. We have reduced the number of activities each day and archive the previous day's activities so the choices are not so overwhelming. Piwakawaka children are getting out and about and adding to our community walking total. It has been great to hear of so many families out exercising. I must admit even I am biking thanks to my family and I do feel so much better for it. Let's hope we can continue this going forward and not fall back into old habits. Be kind, be patient and to all the Mum's out there have a lovely Mother's Day on Sunday.



Tui News

It has been great to connect with families through Seesaw messages this week and find out how things are going for them all. The Tui families and children continue to choose from a wide variety of activities both on and off screen. We have been using our maths eyes to look at images, using all sorts of equipment from home to solve maths problems and doing some amazing writing about space. Our families are getting out and about and contributing to the school walking challenge which has been amazing. Don't forget that this Sunday is Mother's Day - remember to make the day special for Mum - lots of hugs and helping.

Stay safe, stay connected, stay strong.

Kakapo News

It has been great to celebrate belated birthdays last Friday in a Zoom party with cake, party hats and lots of best wishes from everyone. Let's hope that we will be able to celebrate our next round of birthdays at school. Today we had a "Meet our pets" Zoom meeting with many dogs, cats, some fish, goats and a guinea pig.

Learning at home has continued in many ways. Many families are doing a lot more or different things to what is on Seesaw. As your child's teacher, I like Seesaw because I can see that they are 'there'. Through their videos, photos and writing I feel connected to them. If you got a message from me this week to encourage your child to log into Seesaw, it was because I felt disconnected from them - not because I don't trust you doing what's best for your family or your child. As a consequence, I've been able to touch base with lots of children again. Thank you for your support.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy Mother's Day.

Tui School Bubble

I have thoroughly enjoyed my week in the Tui school bubble. It has been an opportunity to get to know a group of students from beyond the normal Tui community. I believe there are friendship bonds being made that the children are completely unaware of, but which will help to support them in the coming weeks and months. The children have gotten completely onboard the walking challenge and have requested to participate

multiple times a day (although we were so busy today we forgot!). This has provided us with a fantastic maths context to base statistics and number learning around. We have also found new and creative ways of playing while social distancing, as well as embracing our inner artist with our paper mache elephants and construction activities.

Pukeko News

It has been great to see the Pukeko children continuing to engage in the wide variety of activities on Seesaw. As always it really brightens our day to see photos and videos of the children participating at home, often with siblings as well. A favourite activity has been to video ourselves saying good morning and sharing something about ourselves with our classmates. I know we have learnt a lot about the children's favourite pizza toppings, cartoons and have also met some special cuddly friends too! It has also been amazing to see families working together to contribute to our school walking challenge. Keep up the super effort everyone! We hope you have a great weekend and enjoy Mother's Day on Sunday!
Mrs B and Mrs Matheson

Ruma Takahe

Hi everyone! I hope you've been able to get outside and enjoy these beautiful autumn days! Going by the distances everyone has been walking, you will have seen most of the Waimate countryside lately I imagine! We have a growing number of 'experts' in Ruma Takahe who are going to be able to teach us lots of new things when we get back to school! I have seen amazing bird feeders, stick people, moon buggies, space shuttles, dancing... The list goes on and that doesn't include all of the wonderful reading, writing and maths that is being done as well. Parents and grandparents, you are doing an amazing job with your children and their distance learning! Thank you so much! Happy Mum's Day to all of those special Mums, Nanas, Grandmas and Aunties. Make sure you are well looked after on Sunday, breakfast in bed is always a good start! Enjoy your weekend and take care!
Mrs Macmillan



Ruma Weka

Another busy and very successful week, with a huge variety of experiences and challenges taking place as part of Ruma Weka's home learning programme. It has been great seeing all the posts and completed activities that the children have carried out. Keep them coming! It is wonderful to see how active so many children have been throughout the week. Recent highlights have to be all the videos and photos of the huge range of science experiments and art creations the children have been involved with. It has been such fun watching children and their families (and even the odd pet) carrying out their science experiments! Don't panic guys, the pets have only been watching. :) If you haven't tried any of the science experiments yet, you really should. You will have a

blast! ... Bad choice of word maybe? :) One thing is for sure, we certainly have lots of super scientists and artists in Ruma Weka.

Keep looking after each other out there and be safe. :)

Mr Burt and Mrs Waller