



Tauhoa School Tattler 2022

Issue # 1 22nd February

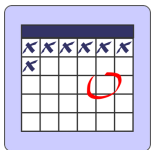
Learning to Live, Living to Learn

School Whakatauki:

Kia totika tou mana, Hei painga mo te katoa, Me te taia.

In this Tattler:

School opening in Red
Start of School Information



For Your Diary

February

- 1st School office open for Enrolments and Stationery 11-30 to 2pm
- 2nd School opens
- 8th Teacher Only Day
- 24th Board Meeting at 6:30

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.

Welcome back after what we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau.

Our team is feeling refreshed and ready to go for the 2022 year and can't wait to welcome everyone back onsite.

Our new teaching staff, Jo Hendren and Paul Heslin have been getting their classrooms looking wonderful.

We have a new office manager. Welcome to [Jody Otway](#) to the team here at Tauhoa. She has a lot to learn so be patient as we kick off the new year.

We are still looking for a new cook. Hopefully we will have some cover for the first week at school.

In regard to COVID-19, we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for all our school and kura activities and events this year. You will be familiar with all the health measures we will have in place and it is good to know that at Red setting, we are able to support everyone learning onsite.

Events and activities

Large hui and gatherings especially when indoors continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for the upcoming term to ensure we meet the health guidance for Red. Due to this our school beach day and the RRS cluster swimming event is postponed

Ventilation

We have used the Ministry of Education self-assessment tool to review all our ventilation in readiness for the start of the year. Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for ākonga and kaiako (and the same goes for you at home). We will also be receiving a CO₂ monitor in the coming weeks to further support our ventilation plan.

Omicron and testing

We have all seen the very large numbers of cases overseas and we will very likely see much larger numbers of cases in Aotearoa than we have previously experienced in the last two years. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover in their own home.

However, some of our community who are immune compromised, are ill or have other vulnerabilities, even when they are fully vaccinated, could be more affected by Omicron. So, we all need to continue to play our part to minimise the spread of the virus.

Please remember if your child is feeling unwell keep them home get them tested!

While they are awaiting test results, please get them to do some reading, some basic facts. If you have access to a computer they can always use Mathletics and Reading Eggs.

If at any stage your child will need to be isolated, we will provide a home pack and their computer. As you can imagine, trying to teach a full class and have online learning just will not work in this setting.

However, we may find teachers at home isolated. This could mean your class is taught at home, or a child's class is merged with another and their teacher teaches base from their home. Teachers will have isolation packs prepared for students to take home for long periods away from school. These are not for any other purpose except for when isolating due to possible covid infection.

Face coverings

Staff and children in Years 4 – 13 must wear face coverings when inside at school when we are at Red.

Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and reusable fabric masks with **three** layers.

In recent developments Children now must also use masks on Bus Transport

Don't worry if you don't have these specific types of face coverings, as public health experts also say that any face covering is better than no face covering.

The Unite Against COVID-19 website also has information on [how to make a face covering](#).

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some [helpful advice from Michigan Health](#), including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play such as drawing face coverings on characters in colouring books, or letting them choose/make the mask.

Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds

Vaccination including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free five- to 11-year-old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) including [How to book a vaccine for your five – 11 year old](#) and [some great videos](#) on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the COVID-19 vaccine.

I have added at the end of this newsletter some information from Dr Fe.
The information is useful if you're making a decision about vaccinating your children.

Managing cases in our school

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whānau and community can help each other if needed. Find out more here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist \[PDF, 121 KB\]](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)

Self-isolating at home because of COVID-19

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help available if you need it – both with health support and access to food and other essentials.

- [What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](#)

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of [supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19.](#)

Work and Income support

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

[Check what you might get here](#)

- [School costs](#)
- [Out of School Care and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Subsidy](#)
- [Other Childcare Assistance](#)
- [School and Year Start-up Payment \(for people getting Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit\)](#)
- [Help with living costs \(including food and rent/mortgage\)](#)

Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with [free budgeting and debt help](#)

You can also contact your local community provider. [Please find more information here.](#)

Getting ready to return to school

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whānau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).

While this might all feel a little overwhelming at times, we know that all these measures will help our children return to school, reconnect with whānau and friends and do what they enjoy. One such measure is the continuation of limiting who is on site. Please continue to drop off and pick up at the front doors. We ask the parents settling our new entrants to come masked.

We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way principal@tauhoa.school.nz

School Buses

The runs are back to normal. which means students at the Wellsford Community Centre need to be there for pick up by 7-40am.

Vetting and Vaccines

If you think you will want to be able to take part in trips, help around school, or be a camp parent we need to both have you Police Vetted(can take up to 2 months), and see your vaccine passport to be on site.

All this information is confidential.

Please see me if you wish to discuss this further

Surveys

They are still open please complete both if you haven't yet.

Contact numbers

Have these changed for you?

Please ensure we have up-to-date details on file. A confirmation sheet of the details we hold will be sent home shortly. If you do know these have changed please contact the office.



High Fives to:

- To all the staff Especially Jason and Vanessa for the great job on getting the school ready for 2022!

FOTS

Our support team or PTA is called FOTS; Friends of Tauhoa School. It is made up of parents and other supporters of our school community. Being part of this group helps you create amazing friendships. They help run the events to raise the image of Tauhoa School and extra funds for our school. Many hands make the mahi easy! Look out for our first meeting coming up shortly!

Summer is here

Students will be issued with a school hat. No other hat will be used at school. We do have sunblock here for students to use; they just may need a reminder.

Let us hope we now can settle into some great learning with our topic Discovery. I'm certainly looking forward to getting back into teaching and learning with my class.

Tae noa ki muri. (Until later)

Vivienne Goldsmith

Principal

Staff and Board Contact Details 2022

Principal and Teacher Atiu Room:

Vivienne Goldsmith; principal@tauhoa.school.nz

Deputy Principal and Teacher Cleasby Room:

Ms. Annette Bryant; annetteb@tauhoa.school.nz

Teacher Atiu Room, Reading Recovery Teacher:

Ms. Jo Hendren; Jo@tauhoa.school.nz

Teacher Hoteo Room

Mr Paul Heslin Paul@tauhoa.school.nz

Property Manager:

Jason Morse; office@tauhoa.school.nz

Presiding Member of BOT: Elected first meeting

Some thoughts from me on Paediatric vaccination for Covid-19

By Dr Fiona Langridge

PhD (Pacific child health), MSc (International Child Health), BHSc (Physiotherapy)

1. Safety and efficacy

In regards to safety and efficacy of the Pfizer vaccine in children 5-12 years. All data so far has shown that it ticks these boxes, both clinical trial data

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2116298>, and real world data from 8.7 million doses given in the USA have shown so far no deaths and 11 cases of verified myocarditis, with the CDC reporting at time of analysis seven had recovered and four were recovering.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm705152a1.htm>

2. Risks of Covid-19 in children

We do need to acknowledge that the discussion around vaccinating children is much more complex than in adults for a number of reasons including the fact that children are at lower risk than older adults for developing severe Covid-19. This study though does show just over 3.3% of children experiencing severe outcomes:

<https://jamanetwork.com/.../jamane.../fullarticle/2787931...>

And, in the USA the number of deaths still put it within the top 10 causes of death for children from March 2020 to February 2021 <https://www.cdc.gov/.../slides.../03-COVID-Jefferson-508.pdf> (slide 20). Remember children are not supposed to die.

3. Risks for low-income settings and more communities with inequitable access to healthcare.

We also can't ignore the higher burden of death from covid-19 in children in low income countries <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33513204/>. The stakes are much higher for these countries, and the resource for health response much, much lower. Just look at the tsunami and eruption in Tonga for example, this now puts the country back into a state of clean up and recovery. Covid-19 right now would be devastating. We must do everything we can to protect these countries.

And also in Aotearoa NZ we have higher risk in our Māori and Pacific tamariki for death and disease, with historical failure for many years in the health system to improve this. Two people I know very well and work very closely with have helped write up this excellent editorial about considerations for prioritising tamariki Māori in the vaccine roll out (it also is a good general summary of the discussion and considerations for covid-19 vaccination in Children).

<https://journal.nzma.org.nz/.../the-urgent-need-for-an...>

4. Indirect impacts of Covid-19 on Children

It is in the interests of Children to do all we can to end this pandemic with all the means we have at our disposal. Covid-19 has impacted on children's education, access to routine Health care such as dental nurses and other immunisations, and mental wellbeing

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/.../10.1111/jpc.15791...>

5. Community Immunity is important for Children

Another point our individualized western culture struggles to get their head around is that vaccination as an intervention has never been just about each individual. All vaccinations given in childhood are firstly about protecting the person being vaccinated, but also just as importantly about protecting the entire community against very serious diseases. For Covid-19 there are secondary impacts on children such as trauma associated with illness and death in their whānau so the added barrier of them not being able to transmit is still an important consideration for their ongoing wellbeing in this pandemic. Between 1 March 2020 and 30 April 2021, an estimated 1.1 million tamariki worldwide lost a primary parent or grandparent

caregiver to COVID-19 and this loss is up to 4.5-times more likely to be suffered by Indigenous and ethnic minority children. [https://www.thelancet.com/.../PIIS0140-6736\(21.../fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/.../PIIS0140-6736(21.../fulltext)

6. Children's Agency

A final consideration is children's agency themselves in regards to their desire to be part of protecting their community. I love this quote in the recent editorial in NZ medical journal (link above). "We believe that if children were asked whether they want to receive the same immunisation as their parents, protect their whānau and communities, stop the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the chance of isolation, quarantine and lockdown, their response would be an overwhelmingly positive "Yes!"

A biblical example for me is the boy who showed no hesitation in sharing his lunch to feed the 5000. This was a sacrifice but he did so willingly.

If you are still concerned this spinoff article does a great job of answering questions on covid-19 vaccination in children:

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/.../all-your-questions-about...>

Final thought. We must be very careful with our messaging around Covid-19 vaccinations. Vaccination is an essential intervention for prevention of child death and morbidity globally. The way we discuss and present this can potentially impact on all vaccinations, with serious consequences on child survival globally.

Ngā mihi

Dr Fe

PhD (Pacific child health), MSc (International Child Health), BHSc (Physiotherapy)