

Dear Parents and Whanau,

I would like to express our shock and utter sadness to the horrific events in Christchurch last week. Our thoughts and prayers go to those families who have been directly affected by these terrible events. Everyone from wherever their background or faith deserves to feel safe and welcomed in our wonderful country.

I have been approached by some of our students who want to contribute to the efforts to support those families by holding a mufti day to support the victims of this atrocity. We love that our children are showing this care and thought for others in their moments of need. All the money raised will go to the victims of these events.

Therefore on **Friday 22nd March we will hold a mufti day**, with the children contributing a gold coin. I have spoken to members of the local community who have suggested we dress in our national colours, either black or white, or blue from our flag to show that we are kiwis standing together at this time, an idea that I love! We have been advised that the wearing of red is the least culturally appropriate colour from the perspective of the community involved.

Our teachers are aware that children may not have the coping strategies to deal with the feelings that this type of event may bring up and our teachers will deal with any questions as simply and as honestly as possible.

The following link may be useful if you wish to engage in conversations with your child at home about the events or how they feel about them.

<https://www.theparentingplace.com/how-to-talk-about/world-trauma/>

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady
Principal
Greenhithe School

