



21/05/20

Dear Parents/caregivers,

It is wonderful to be back with our children at school. The sounds of the children at morning tea and lunchtime, playing together and reconnecting with their friends and teachers has been lovely to see and hear. I have really enjoyed seeing the children coming in through the new entry routine. So many smiles!

At these times of change our children need to develop and show our school values. This week Emerson De Ridder, Tyler Faafoi, Ellie Overington, Ira Thakur, Jackson Muller, Ela Domaradzka and Miller Oram have received PRIDE certificates and the deputy principals and myself look forward to seeing more of our values on display.

We have worked hard this week to instill new routines of hand hygiene, distancing where we can and contact tracing. For all of us, this has been a learning curve. I visited a year one space and saw for myself how adaptable to new routines the children are. I watched as one of our very new children finished a maths activity, went to the sanitizer and then made sure her friend did the same. I was very impressed! We are ensuring our cleaning of the site is rigorous, which includes my senior leadership team and myself cleaning toilets through the day and teachers cleaning surfaces and some equipment too, ensuring all high contact areas are cleaned regularly!

The entry and exit routines seem to be working very well. I thank you for your support and cooperation with this. It does show the adaptability and resilience of our children who have switched to this very quickly. Again, watching our very newest children opting not even to wait for a teacher and walking themselves to class is lovely to see. The children are settling into the classroom quickly and it is leading to a very calm start to the day, meaning they are getting into the learning quickly. It has been really nice to be welcoming our children and reconnecting with them myself.

We are waiting to hear about how our school sport calendar has been affected by Covid-19. I know sporting bodies are working hard to see what may be able to start later in the year. I know Sharon is in regular contact with those who run the different codes and with our local schools and she will keep you updated as we get information.

We usually run a yearly conference for the teachers in our local Community of Learning cluster. This year the principals of our schools have made the collective decision to cancel the conference. This means the **teacher-only day scheduled for Tuesday 2nd June has been**

cancelled. As a group we thought that as our communities try to return to work, a teacher only day would not be appropriate as we come out of lockdown and people restart their jobs.

Finally we have some lovely news to share. We have two staff members expecting babies. First to leave us is Adele Chichester, who has been teaching part time in Room 13. Gabe Marris will be replacing her. Gabe is a former full time teacher and recently has been working back with us. Also Samantha Wijnstok is expecting a baby. She will be leaving us in the middle of term 3. Jess Parks, a New Zealand trained, experienced teacher will take over in the class until the end of the year. I am sure you will join us in wishing them both well!

We will be continuing with our current routines, including drop off and pick up arrangements, while we embed the hygiene and contact tracing that we are using to ensure the health and wellbeing of our children, staff and community. I will keep you fully informed of any changes as they occur.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of our school.

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady
Principal
Greenhithe School