

26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This last week has been an absolute privilege to be in our school. After 3 very long months in home learning we have welcomed back our children. Although I have been unable to go into classroom bubbles, just seeing them all arrive at the gates has been fantastic. We have truly missed the face to face contact, the discussions, the jokes, the laughs and their enthusiasm. I'd like to especially acknowledge the year 4 to 6 children. Wearing the masks has been a challenge, especially this time of year. It has been great to see the compliance in the classrooms, and the children taking advantage of having some shaded spaces outside, when they can remove the mask, and they have done a fabulous job keeping their distance from each other, where they can.

I'd also like to welcome all the new children and their families. Seeing the children show such resilience, coming in with big smiles as new five year olds, leaving their parents at the gate and heading into school is lovely to see. I look forward to meeting all of our new families, please come and say hello at the gates!

Just a couple of reminders:

- If your child is sick, showing signs of a cold etc, please keep them home.
- There are no visitors on site during school hours (7.30 am-4pm). This is to protect the children. If you are picking up a child or having to drop something, please call the office.
- Please remind your child to bring a school hat and water bottle each day!
- If your child walks to or from school, please remind them about road safety and to be aware of driveways.

This week I received this information from the Ministry of Education: ***Those of you in Auckland will retain your current public health measures and other requirements that are in place at Alert Level 3, Step 2 for the remainder of the year.*** This is good news and gives us some certainty to plan the remainder of the year. We will be keeping the current organisation in place up until the last day. The last day on site is confirmed for those in the first half of the week Group A is **Wednesday 15th December at 11.30am**. For those classes in the second half of the week, Group B, the last day is **Thursday 16th December, when we will finish at 12pm**, as usual.

Devices

If you are still requiring the device we delivered in lockdown for your child during their offsite days, that is fine. We will collect these during the last few days of school. If you have no need for the device now, please either hand it to a staff member at the gates in the morning, or send your child in with it to hand it to their teacher.

Library Books

We are also now collecting library books. Please have a search at home and send any back in as soon as possible please. We are starting our stocktake of the library. Thank you.

Enrolments

Despite the school office having been closed for visitors for quite a while now, we are continuing to receive enquiries from families about enrolling at our school. Please contact Judi in the office (office@greenhithe.school.nz) if you or someone you know is wanting to enrol at our school for 2022. We are finalising our staffing for 2022, so having all our enrolments is very helpful at this time of year.

2022 Dates

Key Dates

Wednesday 15th December 2021 - School Year Finishes for Group A

Thursday 16th December 2021 - School Year Finishes for Group B

Tuesday 1st February 2022 - Parent, Student Conferences

Thursday 3rd February 2022 - Start of Term 1 2022

Thursday 5th March 2022 - Golf Day (2021 Postponed Date)

Thursday 14th April - NZEI TOD School Closed (from 2021)

Thursday 14th April - End of Term 1 2022

Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady
Principal
Greenhithe School

