



15/12/21

Dear parents and caregivers

It has been a tough year for everyone. When I find a moment of quiet, once the kids have gone to enjoy their summer, I will take some time to reflect on what we have achieved this year, what learnings there are for us as a school going forward and some of the things I am proud of.

The main two things I am always proud of are our children and our staff. Our children are amazing. They have shown resilience and developed new skills. What I did see in the children who returned, is no matter how good the online learning is, we can't replace the face to face relationships with their friends and teachers.

We are already planning for 2022! We are planning exciting learning opportunities, community events and curriculum information evenings for you. We will hit the ground running in 2022 with our parent conferences helping us to be ready to dive straight into learning! I am excited about what we can achieve in partnership with you and your children in 2022.

I take my hat off to every member of our team at Greenhithe School. In adversity they have pulled together for the good of your children. The teachers missed face to face teaching and the relationships with the children as much as the children did themselves. Our teachers pride themselves on forming relationships that enhance learning. Those little teachable moments and the specific work with an individual when they are challenged by learning, is why we are all teachers. Seeing the look in a child's face when they achieve, or understand a new concept is why the staff put many hours into planning learning experiences. When this was taken away, they did a great job in a very unusual situation. I am proud of how they adapted to this. We will review and continue to enhance that online learning plan if (and I desperately hope we don't) we have to go online again.

I would like to wish our departing Year Six children the best of luck in 2022 at their new schools. They have been deprived of many of the year 6 experiences, but looking back we were very fortunate to be able to have a great camp experience and we managed a modified graduation. I look forward to hearing about their future successes.

We also have to say goodbye to many members of our amazing PTA. I thank them for their hard work. Driving past our school you will always see the shades that we managed to install through their hard work. I want to give a special thank you to Adele Lusher, who as the chair has been instrumental in supporting our school. Adele and her team have worked tirelessly to help support us. Our PTA is gearing up for 2022, and early in the new year you will hear much more about their plans.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for the support you have given our school in 2021. I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing summer.

Ngā mihi
Stephen Grady
Principal/Tumuaki

SPORTS CORNER

Korero hākinakina

THANK YOU

As we are not able to have our final sports assembly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a lot of parents who perhaps have their youngest child leaving our school this year or have been an outstanding support in various sports this year.

Firstly thank you to ALL the parents who this year put their hand up to either coach or manage a team sport. Your enthusiasm and dedication to our children is so appreciated, our children are so lucky to have such wonderful parents.

I also want to thank our parents who have helped transport our children to a variety of Inter School or Northern Bays events. Most schools need to get a bus but at Greenhithe we have so many parents who take time out of their days to support our children, thank you.

Finally some individual thank yous.

Thank you to Adele Lusher who has been an amazing netball coach/manager/uniform custodian and administrator. Adele has helped me for a number of years, a job which has got busier and busier yet it was never too much for her. We are going to miss your dedication to sport at this school Adele. Thank you.

Ephraim Smith's dedication and passion for Miniball over the past few years has been outstanding. We now have several teams - and this is greatly due to Ephraim's drive and enthusiasm. Ephraim has given up so much of his time taking practices and attending games. Luckily for us he still has a child at this school so hopefully we may see Ephraim out on the miniball courts again.

And finally I would like to thank Terry and Rachel Houkamau who have contributed tremendously to our hockey programme. Terry has coached several hockey teams with Rachel working behind the scenes managing. Their fourth child is leaving this year and we are going to miss everything that they have done for our school. Thank you Terry and Rachel.

CONGRATULATIONS

At the Year 6 Graduation ceremony held last week, the following sport trophies were presented. Congratulations to all of the recipients.

2021 HOCKEY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

GIRLS RUBY



BOYS CONNOR



NETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR ELEANOR



TOUCH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

GIRLS ISABELLE



BOYS RYDER



SPORTS WOMAN OF THE YEAR



SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sharon Hilton-Jones
Sports Co-ordinator