



10/12/21

Dear parents and caregivers,

### **Hopes for the Future**

As we begin to draw 2021 to a close at Greenhithe School, we are already looking forward with optimism to 2022. We look forward to the children coming back to a fully open school. We want to see the children playing together, learning together and participating in sports and Kapa Haka.

Please be assured that we will continue to make Greenhithe School a fun place for the children. A place where they can learn and grow, while keeping them as safe as we can by mitigating the risks we are presented with.

### **The Last Few Weeks**

In these last weeks we have focused on welcoming the children back. We have been rebuilding learning relationships between the children and their teacher. Some children have found it more difficult than others to come back. We have provided support for these children, such as one on one teacher time, support walking into the class or allowing extra time to resettle.

Whether your child took a bit more encouragement or flew back through the gates on the reopening, we are enjoying having them back with us.

### **February Parent Conferences**

We will begin next year with a new innovation. We will hold a parent conference, with your child there with you. The idea is to meet the teacher, discuss the learning styles and the passions of your child which will help us to hit the ground running and get straight into engaging learning experiences for them.

The link to book these meetings will be sent out on the 24th January. This opportunity will allow the teacher to understand your child's needs, passions and strengths. These meetings will help you to make an early connection with their new teacher. They will also give you a chance to ask any questions about the class or the learning your child will experience. We hope this will help us to launch into a successful 2022.

### **2022 Class Transitions**

2022 Classes have also provided a unique challenge for us this year. We are unable to mix our class bubbles and therefore the opportunities for children from multiple classes to meet the new teacher are unable to occur.

The children have only had two terms in a classroom together this year. This huge disruption, coupled with our current restrictions means we will not be mixing the classes in years 3-6 next year. They will move through to the next year group as a whole class. The information regarding which classroom and the name of the teacher is sent home in the report envelope.

The year 1 children, who came in during the year, will be placed into the year 2 classes, to ensure a great class dynamic. The New Entrant children, many of whom have started during lockdown, will be placed in year 1 classes.

Each class will have a new teacher, who you will meet alongside your child at the interview I spoke about above, prior to starting in 2022. But the class will move through together.

This is only for next year. The children can be confident in the learning relationships they have already established within the class. This will also reduce anxiety for the children regarding who is in their new room and whether they will know anyone.

An in-depth conversation has taken place between the current and new teacher, allowing key information to be passed on regarding the strengths, needs and areas to work on for each child.

### **Reporting**

This transition conversation between teachers is especially important this year, with the lack of reliable testing and class based data we have to use. Data from terms 3 and 4 has been impossible to collect this year for several reasons which include:

- The very limited onsite time available for testing, with priority given to reengagement with classmates and teachers, and reintegrating into onsite learning practices.
- the variation in support at home for online learning tasks
- the variation in online engagement
- not all children have returned to school under these current conditions

We do not want to be reporting or using unreliable data to inform where and how your child is taught.

The teachers will be reassessing the children very early in 2022, to give us the best data to inform our teaching, which is after all, the main reason for collecting data anyway.

On the end of year report we will be commenting on progress with the children's goals from the mid year report. We won't be reporting a numerical curriculum level, as this would only be based on unreliable or out of date data at this stage. The last formal testing was completed prior to the lockdown and was reported at the mid year point, so you have the most up to date testing assessment.

Next year, when we can test and assess the children with certainty, fairness and reliability, we will continue to report as usual.

**Reports will come home on Wednesday 15th December.** If your child is not at school we are organising a pick up time between 12.45pm and 2.30pm on Wednesday 15th December. Please come to the gate, call the office and we will bring your child's report out to you. After this time, any remaining reports will be posted.

### **Refunds of Activity Fees**

Just a quick reminder that we are offering you a refund of the term 4 activity fee of \$35 for those who have paid a full year of activity fees. If you would like to have this refunded, please email [accounts@greenhithe.school.nz](mailto:accounts@greenhithe.school.nz) by 14th December, so we can provide the requested refund. No refunds can be provided after this time.

However, if you are in a position to donate this to the school, in light of the cancellation of 'Christmas on the Green', our major fundraiser, we would welcome that too! If we do not receive a request for a refund, we will assume you have donated it to the school.

Kia Kaha,  
Ngā mihi

Stephen Grady  
Principal/Tumuaki  
Greenhithe School