

Monday 11 February 2019

Dear whanau

Today has been "one of those days". We have had 12 different incidents of children hurting other children. In each incident the children were retaliating for what they perceived was something verbal or nonverbal that had been done or said to them.

In each case the child that did the hitting felt justified. As a school we are working constantly on showing our **GEMS of Kindness**. The children know that if they are having problems they should walk away and find a teacher. There are teachers on duty in bright orange vests - so the children can find them quickly and easily, but they are not choosing to do so. All the children are spoken to until the entire situation has been investigated and resolved.

My priority at Birchville is to ensure that every child feels safe and protected whilst at school. We do immediately inform all parents of these incidents and are very grateful for the support we do receive.

Please can you have a discussion at home about our GEMS of Kindness and how everyone should inform a teacher if someone is upsetting them before they lash out. We are unable to help children if we do not know what is happening to make them angry.

At Birchville school no incidents of physical violence will be tolerated. Children that have hurt another child whether physically or verbally will be warned and their families will be contacted. Repeating of this behaviour will lead to a stand down where the child will not be allowed to return to school for a certain number of days. Continued stand downs will result in a full school suspension.

I do understand that this is a harsh line to take but I know that everyone of you as whanau want your children to feel safe and cared for at school. If you would like to discuss this with me further please feel free to contact me via the office for an appointment.

Kind regards & Nga mihi nui

Robyn Brown

Principal

**Our GEMS of Kindness**



**Step One: Give**

Give yourself some space.  
Give yourself some time to think.



*Aroha mai, aroha atu*  
*Love received demands love returned*

**Can you solve the problem?**



**Step Two: Express**

How are you feeling?  
How are others feeling?  
Try to look at the problem from all sides.



**EMBASSY**



**Can you solve the problem?**



**Step Three: Mend**

What could **you** do to make things better?  
How can this problem be solved?

*He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata*  
*Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure*



**MANA**



**Can you solve the problem?**



**Step Four: Share**

If the problem is not solved  
please *ask for help*.



**SELF BELIEF**



Use your fingers to help remember the 4 steps to solving a problem.

**Can you use your "Helping Hands?"**

