

Thursday 27 August 2020

Dear Whānau

There is quite a lot of information to go out to you at the moment so I have decided to create a newsletter. It will cover the following:



- [Covid Level 2 information](#)
  - [Gate Changes](#)
  - [Masks](#)
  - [Netball](#)
  - [School trips and sporting events](#)
  - [Assemblies](#)
- [Kapa Haka - we are looking for a videographer](#)
- [Swimming in T4](#)
- [A questionnaire regarding our 2020 - 2023 Strategic Plan](#)

### **Covid Level 2:**

As you will all know we are remaining at Level 2 until Sunday 6th September. We will maintain all protocols regarding hygiene, handwashing and coughing and sneezing etiquette. We ask that you continue to keep children at home if they are unwell and please notify the school by 9am if your tamariki are not going to be at school. Fingers crossed we might drop back to Level 1 in a week's time but until then we will continue to follow government guidelines to ensure the safety of all of our Birchville GEMS.



#### **Gate Changes:**

So that teachers and TAs can be in classes in the mornings we are going to revert to all children only using the front gate **from Monday**. One of our road patrol children will be there to dispense hand sanitiser and handwashing stickers and myself or a teacher will be on road patrol as usual. We will have a clip board for recording any messages, but as always you are welcome to enter the school grounds if you would like to talk to any of the kaiako in their blocks. Please note all adults that enter the school grounds must sign in at the office before heading off to learning spaces.

Afternoons will remain the same with teachers bringing out their tamariki to the gates for collection

Sapphire - Bike gate near the hall

Moonstone - Gate near the boiler room

Emerald - Front school gate

#### **Masks**

There is no requirement for children to wear a mask whilst at school, but we are happy to accommodate this should you wish to have your child wear a mask. As of Monday masks will be compulsory on all public transport, this does exclude school buses, however, the wearing of masks is recommended.

#### **Netball**

We will start up netball practices after school again, however we ask that only coaches and those supporting the coaches attend. Robyn Thayer will have a contact tracing register that all adults will need to complete and the children will be released from the large gate in front of the hall after practice.

### ***Trips and Sporting Events***

Until we move out of Level 2 we will take advice from organisers and make what we feel are the best choices for our tamariki. If we are not able to assure you that groups will be less than 100 or that we will not come into contact with or be able to maintain social distancing from people we don't know, we will either postpone or cancel trips or sporting events until we lower to Level 1.

### ***Assemblies***

Assemblies will remain postponed until we are out of Level 2.

### **Kapa Haka**

We are continuing to work on our bracket for the Upper Hutt cluster Kapa Haka Festival, although we are still not sure if this, even with the reduced numbers, will take place. However, as the festival is taking place as a recorded event this year our Kapa Haka rōpū are practicing hard so they are ready to be recorded in Week 8. **We are looking for someone that might be able to support us to video record our bracket.** The recordings from each school are going to be uploaded onto a YouTube channel and shared with the community.

If we get the go ahead 5 of our performers will attend Orongomai Marae where they will join with 5 other tamariki from all of the Upper Hutt schools to perform together.

### **Swimming**

We are very excited to announce that we will be swimming every **Monday in Term 4**. The children will be bussed to Maoribank School (Te Hau Kāretu) where they will be involved in water safety swimming sessions. Our teachers will also be attending a course this term to upskill us further on teaching water safety to children. More information will come out before the end of this term, but please can you ensure that your child has closed water shoes and a swimming bag to house all their belongings (our lost property quadruples during swimming season :)

### **Important Questionnaire**

Please can you take the time to complete this questionnaire which is the beginning of our parental review of our 3 year strategic plan. The Board of Trustees and staff have worked hard to create a strategic direction for Birchville School that will ensure we continue to provide holistic learning for our tamariki which prepares them for this ever changing world they are growing up in. This will also be posted on Facebook :)

<https://forms.gle/NNSe3uvNERjHg2qt8>

Our 3 strategic areas for development are:

#### **Valuing every individual**

*Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia ō tātou mahi - Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work*

#### **Valuing localised curriculum**

*Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata, Haere whakamua - Care for the land, care for the people, go forward*

#### **Valuing Te reo me ōnā Tikanga Māori**

*Ko tōku reo tōku ohooho, ko tōku reo tōku māpihi maurea - My language is my awakening, my language is the window to my soul*

Aroha nui koutou

*Robyn Brown*