



POKENO SCHOOL PANUI

*Ma Te huruhuru, Ka rere Te manu
Adorn the bird with feathers so it can fly*



**Wednesday 11 March
Term 1 Week 6**

A note from Mr J.....

Approximately 20 of our staff were at school until 7:30pm last night attending a first aid course. This is something we do with the staff every two years.

We made an early decision today to postpone Ruru Whanau Swimming sports. While we realise the day could improve and warm up we are also conscience of giving people plenty of warning. The water in the pool is very cold and any chance of rain would make it very uncomfortable for the children. We will try again next Wednesday.

I hope everyone has a great week,

Mr J

Teacher Only Day - Monday 16 March

A reminder that school is closed next Monday 16 March for a teacher only day. All families will need to make alternative arrangements for your children. School will be open again on Tuesday 17 March.

Bikes and Scooters

We currently have an increasing number of children riding bikes and scooters to school. The NZ Transport Agency website suggests that children at the age of 11 should be able to ride independently to school. However, families should still be confident that their child has a good understanding of the road rules. The same should be applied to children riding scooters. Even if children are riding on the footpath they need to be very aware of vehicles coming in and out of driveways and should be walking when crossing roads. While we do not currently have a school policy related to bikes and scooters we strongly recommend that children under the age of 10 only ride their bike or scooter to school if accompanied by an adult. All children riding bikes a required to wear a helmet by law, and it is strongly recommended that all children on a scooter also wear a helmet.

New Entrant Information Evening - Tuesday 7th April 7pm

Wondering what to do to get your child ready for school? Have questions about how school works? Then come along to our information evening. Mrs Laura Turton (Junior School Team Leader and New Entrant Teacher) and Mr Blair Johnston (Principal) will host an information evening in the school staffroom where we aim to answer your questions in preparation for your five year old starting school.

Allergy Notice

We have new students to our school with allergies to nuts, bananas and shellfish. We ask parents are mindful of this when they are packing lunches. The classes of students with allergies will get a separate notice home also. Any questions about this please contact Mrs Houghton - k.houghton@pokeno.school.nz

Upcoming Events

12 March - Group 2 Tech

13 March - Tui Whanau
Swimming Sports 11:30am

**MONDAY 16 MARCH -
Teacher Only Day, School is
closed**

18 March - Ruru Whanau
Swimming Sports

19 March - Pokeno 1 Tech,
Whanau Evening 5:30pm
onwards

24 March - GRIP Leadership
Conference for school leaders

26 March - Group 2 Tech

27 March - East Group Year 1
& 2 tabloids

30 March - School Assembly
2:00pm

2 April - Group 1 Tech

3 April - East Group Year 3 &
4 tabloids

6 April - PTA Meeting 7pm in
the staffroom

7 April - New Entrant Parent
Information Evening 7pm

Wednesday 8 April - Last
Day of Term for the children

**THURSDAY 9 APRIL -
Teacher Only Day, School is
closed**

Monday 27 April - ANZAC
Day

28 April - First Day Term Two

4 May - PTA AGM 7pm

1 June - Queens Birthday

3 July - Last day Term Three

Community Notices

COVID-19 Update

Many of you will be aware that three of the four cases of COVID-19 confirmed in New Zealand have had links to four school communities (Not Pokeno). I appreciate this could be unsettling for some of you so wanted to provide you with an update.

It was very reassuring to read the information from the Auckland Regional Public Health Service that the children in these families are not showing any symptoms of COVID-19 and are doing well. Because the children continue to not show any symptoms, they were not infectious when they were at school and the Ministry of Health is confident there is no risk for the students and staff in those schools.

The Ministry of Health's current advice is that with continued vigilance, the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low. So we all have a role here to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

You will also be interested to know that research published by the World Health Organisation notes that children and young people under 18 account for only 2.4% of all reported cases of COVID-19. This means we are unlikely to see widespread cases in schools and early learning services in New Zealand.

Our school staff and leadership remain well prepared for the possibility there might be a case in our community. If that were to occur we are confident we can put our plans in place and know we will be supported by regional health authorities and the Ministry of Education.

I am sure you are all keen to do what you can to prevent risk of infection. The best preventative steps are:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva, whether in your living or social environments
- stay home when you are sick and seek medical attention
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the rubbish
- get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.

It is so important we continue to care for and support all members of our wonderful school community, especially those who may be impacted by COVID-19 in some way.

If you want to know more about COVID-19 please make sure that any reading you are doing is from a reliable source. The Ministry of Health is the best source of information for New Zealand and they update this information regularly -

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

A reminder that anyone who is ill should not be attending school.

The COVID-19 symptoms are a fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. If anyone has these symptoms and has recently been to a [country or area of concern](#), or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19, please encourage them to contact Healthline (for free) on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) (or [+64 9 358 5453](tel:+6493585453) for international SIMs) or their doctor immediately.