

04 December 2020



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I would like to share with you information regarding the end of the year programme and our changes for the beginning of 2021 to support our goal of community engagement and to continue to develop strong relationships between teachers, ākonga and whānau to enable learning to flourish.

Next week, beginning the 7th of December, your child will be meeting their new teachers and the teams they will be in. As our learning spaces are now completed, we have been able to review what spaces will meet the needs for our teaching and learning in 2021. Our numbers in our year groups vary considerably which has resulted in us reconfiguring what buildings and spaces our year levels will be in.

Staff have spent a considerable amount of time discussing and reviewing what went well during the lockdown. One of the areas that was recognised was the strengths of relationships and how we could continue to build these within our school structure and our learning spaces. During the last 5 years our Year 7-8 students have worked together in the same space as one group working at Level 4 of the curriculum. This has enabled the students, parents and staff to build strong relationships and minimise the changes for the students over a two year period.

As this model has been so successful in building connections, we are extending it across the school in 2021. This will enable the students to have some teachers who know them from previous years and have already built relationships with them.

Each team will relate to the New Zealand curriculum level for their ages. This is a common model used in innovative learning environments across schools in Canterbury. The innovative learning environment is the basis of our rebuild. Working in an innovative learning environment enables teaching and learning to be collaborative, reflective and where inquiries are shared. This leads to students and teachers having more flexibility in their learning, increased student voice and connectedness.

Our new structure across the school will be 4 teams. They will use the new names gifted to our building by our local Rūnunga. The names of the building relate to our Cultural Narrative and are not year level specific.

Our teams will be:

Year 7/8	Team Pātere	Level 4 of the NZ curriculum
Year 5/6	Team Kōmingo	Level 3 of the NZ curriculum
Year 3/4	Team Huatau	Level 2 of the NZ curriculum
Year 1/2	Team Rurutu	Level 1 of the NZ curriculum
Reception	Taiheke	Beginning Level 1 of the NZ curriculum

We would like to invite our families to a shared breakfast on **Wednesday 9th of December 8.30 - 9.30am** to enable you to visit your child's new space and meet the teachers.

There are no walls in our spaces and children will be working with all students and will be grouped according to their learning needs. There will be flexibility in the learning programmes and students will have opportunities to learn in groups and

individually. Students will have the benefit of learning with different teachers and will have opportunities to choose who they work with and where, to best suit their learning needs.

On the **22nd of January** the Year 4-8 students will have their school GSuite accounts suspended temporarily, as their previous Cyber-Safety agreements will have expired. They will be learning about our Cyber Safety procedures and keeping themselves safe online as a focus of their learning during the first two weeks of term. At the end of the two weeks a new Cyber-Safety Agreement will be sent home to be read through, discussed, signed, and sent back to school. Once the agreement is returned your child's account will be reactivated. The teams will then send home information on BYOD devices to anyone who is planning to bring a BYOD device in 2021. This means no Year 4-8 student will need to bring their devices for the first two weeks of the new school year.

As part of our connection with our community we will be organising a parent and student meeting at the beginning of the year. This will be the first two days of our school year on the **Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd of February**. You will be invited next week to make an appointment time. A sheet will be sent home for you to share information about your child to bring to the interview at the beginning of 2021. This session will also enable you to meet all the team members and learn about the learning programmes in place.

Classes for all students will begin **Thursday 4th of February 2021 at 8.55am**.

Ngā mihi nui, warmest regards, and best wishes for the new year,



Margaret Trotter
Principal

