

St Leo's Catholic School

Kindness | Confidence | Integrity | Excellence

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14 May 2020

Tena koutou whanau,

We are very excited about our return to school again on Monday now that we have reached Alert Level 2. School will be a little different from normal for a while as we maintain some distance between each other and are vigilant with our hygiene procedures. We will be working to make sure our school family is feeling safe and secure and will spend time in the first couple of weeks working on our wellbeing.



The children are very excited about seeing their friends and teachers again and being able to do their learning at school instead of home. I have been very impressed with the way the families have worked with their children to keep up the learning as well as working themselves. Thank you so much for your support. It has been a trying time for everyone.

I am extremely proud of my teachers who had a steep learning curve at short notice to provide our whanau with distance learning. It has amazed me how quickly everyone has adapted to using google classrooms, hangouts and zoom. I have really enjoyed the interaction with the children through these platforms. It was also great to be able to have our community zoom meeting.

So for the first newsletter of Term 2, I will start with a reflection.

Adapted from Tui Motu Magazine. Issue 160 May 2012: 8-9

Beloved God, love us into wholeness

When we're tempted to downplay the past weeks, remind us of the virus's toll

When we're gung-ho to celebrate our new freedom, keep us conscientiously careful

When we're focused narrowly on our country, open us to the suffering and healing in the world

When we lose heart at Covid's rampage, prompt us to gratitude for all the essential workers

When we're overcome by the rebuilding ahead, infuse us with imagination and resilience

When we think we did it all on our own, forgive us our ignorance

When we're rushing to make everything as it was before, slow us to weigh up the best for the new future

When we're feeling isolated, gather us into communion

For it is for love that we made the sacrifices

And by loving that we pave the way for healing

And by being in love that the future is possible.



Some important information for Monday's return to school:

- No children to come to school before 8.30am
- Children to be dropped off and picked up at the gate (I will be outside in the morning to meet and greet)
- After school, teachers will escort groups of children to the various exits of the school or after school care - please ensure your child/children know which gate they are being picked up from
- Any children not picked up by 3.10 will be taken back to the office area to be collected
- The playground will **not** be open for children to play in after school - they must go straight home or to after school care
- Parents or caregivers should not come on to the school grounds but if there is a need to come onto the school grounds, then you will need to sign in at the office first
- Parents or caregivers to maintain social distancing at the drop off points of our school
- Email or ring the school if you need information rather than coming to the office
- Children must be kept at home if there is any sign of illness, even a sniffle. We will be very strict at sending children home who are not well (these are Ministry guidelines)
- If your child has their own device, it would be a good idea to send them to school with it so we minimise the sharing of school devices

School News

A special thanks

I'd like to mention a special thanks to Tima for doing a fabulous job of cleaning the school premises. He worked very hard cleaning every surface of the school in readiness for our return. I really appreciate his huge effort.

I'd also like to thank Renee who worked right through the lockdown from her little flat. She helped me keep everything ticking along nicely and I really appreciate her help and calm willingness to go the extra mile.

Artwork

It is wonderful to have the opportunity to finally get some of the children's artwork up around the school and once again I have to thank Tima for doing this for me. Our school looks so bright and cheerful for our return next week. I'm hoping no-one will have any excuse any more for saying "Where is St Leo's?" as it definitely looks like a school now with the art on the fence line. The St Patrick and St Catherine classes have done some lovely art on the pickets and fence palings to allow this to happen.

Thanks also to Greg for working with the art extension group last year on the values artwork. They are very impressive. We still have one to go up and some more art to follow.

New signage

You may have noticed some new signage around the school too. Thanks to Carl Howcroft from the Board for organising this. There is a large sign over the gate by the hall entrance which makes us stand out along with recruitment signs with our school name displayed. Finally both school signs now have our new motto on them which looks great.



Shade Sails

The poles for the shade sails went in last week. The sails should be arriving soon and we'll be ready for keeping ourselves sunsmart in Term 4.



PTFA fundraiser

Another huge thanks goes out to Jane Weekes, Natalie Perks, Anna Rumble and the team for organising the amazing mothers day high tea fundraiser. They raised over \$4000 for the school and it was a fabulous idea for everyone during the lockdown blues. The food boxes were delightful and I know my family were very impressed. It was delicious.

Uniform

Children will be in winter uniform from Monday.

Breakfast Club Survey

The Board will be looking at the before school care idea again but because of the lockdown, we will not be able to provide it this term. I will be in touch later about what plans we have for this.

Music

The Lewis Eady music lessons will begin again when school is back.

May God's Blessings be with you all
Ma te atua manaaki

Maureen Harris



Important Notices

Attendance Dues

Term 2 accounts were emailed out during lockdown. A reminder that Attendance Dues are compulsory however if you are having problems paying these due to a changed work situation please refer to the information that was sent out by the Catholic Schools Office during lockdown or contact Renee or Maureen.

Lunch orders

Both ezlunch and sushi will be available from Monday 18th. Ezlunch is ordered online through Ezlunch (<https://www.ezlunch.co.nz>) on a Monday (Five Loaves provide this) and Friday (Pita Pit) and sushi is ordered through the office (correct cash/cheque only) before morning tea Tuesday. If you had a term order last term you still have 3 weeks of sushi orders left. These will run out on 3 June so you will need to order another 4 weeks if you wish to continue for the rest of the term.



Road Patrol

There will be no road patrollers on duty on Albert Rd in the first part of this term at least so if children need to be crossed in the afternoon they will be safely escorted across the Albert Rd crossing by a teacher.



Scholastic Book orders

Scholastic had advised that if you had recently placed an order these would not be despatched until people returned to work so hopefully they will be here soon.

Winter uniforms

If you have not yet picked up your winter uniform it is now available in the office for you to collect on Monday.



PTFA News and Events

There will be a PTFA zoom meeting at **7.30pm next Thursday 21st of May**. A link for the meeting will be sent out on the PTFA Facebook page. We encourage as many as possible to attend.

The PTFA would like to thank all those who helped with and bought the Mother's Day afternoon tea boxes. It was a great success! We sold 135 boxes and raised over \$4200 for our school.

Kid Friendly walk books

If you or your friends purchased one of these books and haven't yet paid for it please can you transfer the money to the PTFA account:

12-3057-0067576-00 ref name & book. If you have paid and haven't received your book yet it is in the office for you to collect.

We still have books available if you would like to place an order.

Watch this space for our next fundraiser.

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