



NEWSLETTER - week 1, term 1, 2020

From the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

We hope you will all enjoy the last day of the school holidays. School starts on Wednesday 5th February at 8.55am. We are looking forward to having our students and whanāu back and getting the school year underway. We are really looking forward to everyone returning to school this week.

A special welcome to our 31 new students! And welcome also to our 6 new teaching staff - Kate Nicholson (Assistant Principal, Kōwhai team leader, and teacher new entrants), Yvette Pierce (new entrants, Room 5); Steve Deluxe (year 5/6 teacher, room 23); Natasha Culevski (year 2 teacher, Room 10); Larissa Cooney-Toogood (year 5/6 teacher, room 20) and Katherine O'Neil (year 7/8 teacher, Room 18).

We're excited that you'll notice some changes in our playground. The fences for the library rebuild are coming down, and a new turf caught has been laid! We'll let you know soon about our new library opening.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Our school is closely monitoring information being provided in regard to the Coronavirus. The latest advice from the Ministry of Health is that the risk of an ongoing outbreak in New Zealand remains low and there is no specific action to be taken at this time. The Ministry will advise if any public health measures are needed for this virus.

Should the situation change, as we do with other infectious diseases such as measles, mumps and influenza, we will follow our pandemic plan for managing the illness. As always, anyone who is unwell should not be at school. For any student who may be at high risk of exposure because they have recently been to China or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, it is required that the parent/caregiver of the student delays their return to school until 14 days since the likely contact with the virus.

For those of you concerned about possible infection, the Ministry of Health has provided practical information on their website which we encourage you to read - [Novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) guidance – Ministry of Health website](#) Included is some advice (for travellers) to help reduce the general risk of infection:

- avoiding very close contact with people showing symptoms
- frequently washing hands
- avoiding close contact with sick live farm animals or wild animals
- practicing cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).

Travellers who become sick within a month of their arrival are encouraged to seek medical advice and contact Healthline (for free) 0800 611 116 or a doctor.

MEET THE TEACHER MEETINGS

These are being held on **Thursday 13th February between 3.10pm and 8.00pm**. Our teachers are looking forward to meeting you. The purpose of the meeting is for parents to meet their child's teacher and to bring to the teacher's attention information that will help the student's learning, such as their interests and strengths. To book appointment times use this [link](#) or go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the Code 'gqxex' and proceed to book your interview(s). If you are unable to do this online please contact the office for assistance.

PŌWHIRI

Our first pōwhiri for the year will be held in week 3 on **Tuesday 18 February at 9.15am**. New staff, students and their whānau will be formally welcomed to the school. Invitations to attend have been sent home to the whānau of newcomers (manuhiri). If you or your child have missed being welcomed at a previous pōwhiri, then you are most welcome to come and join the pōwhiri with the group being welcomed into the school. Also any parents or family members who have been previously welcomed (tangata whenua) are most welcome to attend to help us welcome our new families. The Pōwhiri will be followed by morning tea for the manuhiri.

SCHOOL NOW FINISHES AT 2:55pm:

A reminder that school now finishes 5 minutes earlier, at 2.55pm, so we no longer need an early bus bell. The lunch hour has been shortened by 5 minutes to accommodate this. The bell times for the day are on our [website](#).

2020 STATIONERY ON SALE NOW!

Stationery is on sale from the school office. Stationery lists are available on the school's website. Payment can be made via your parent account or eftpos. Stationery packs can be purchased tomorrow - Tuesday 4 February.

TAUPO PACKS: these have been corrected after an earlier error. Please confirm either via the updated list on our website or with Lisa in the office that you have the correct contents.

MOBILE PHONES and SMART WATCHES

We suspect that some students may have been glued to their mobile phones or smart watches over the holidays, and may take some adjusting when back at school. At Plimmerton School, we strongly recommend that, where possible, students who have mobile phones or smart watches leave them at home. Students are not permitted to use their phones from arrival at school until the end of the school day (including intervals). Also, students should not be using a smart watch for network or internet apps during the school day. Thank you in advance for your assistance - especially if it is a bit of a battle to prise that device away from your child!

If children need to contact parents (or vice versa) during the day, this must be done through the school office.

2020 BEGINNING OF YEAR DATES & TERM DATES

School will commence at 9:00am on Wednesday 5 February (Thursday 6 February is Waitangi Day). 2020 term dates are below.

	START DATE	END DATE	HOLIDAYS
Term 1 - 10 weeks	Wednesday 5 February	Thursday 9 April	Public holidays: Waitangi Day. Holidays: Friday 10 April - Sunday 26 April (includes Easter, ANZAC).
Term 2 - 10 weeks	Tuesday 28 April	Friday 3 July	Public holiday: Queen's Birthday Holidays: Sat 4 July – Sun 19 July
Term 3 - 10 weeks	Monday 20 July	Friday 25 September	Holidays: Saturday 26 September – Sunday 11 October
Term 4 - 10 weeks	Monday 12 October	Thursday 17 December	Public holidays: Labour Day Holidays: Fri 18 December -

TEACHER ONLY DAYS IN 2020

The Ministry of Education has provided all schools with the opportunity to take 8 teacher only days over the next 3 years. We will be taking 3 of the teacher only days next year on the following dates:

- Friday 29 May (day before Queen's Birthday weekend) Term 2 Week 5
- Friday 23 October (day before Labour Day weekend) Term 4 Week 2
- Friday 13th November (the week before the PTA gala) Term 4 Week 5

Ngā mihi, *Mike Forrest, Principal*

PTA News

Why not try the PTA? Our first meeting this year will be on Tuesday, 12th February, 7.30pm in the staffroom.

Sports News

Super Summer Sports - TERM 1 2020 - (Yrs 1-4) - Friday's 3:05-4:05pm

Kelly Sports will be back in Term 1 with their fun and exciting classes. Come and try *Cricket, Dodgeball, Touch Rugby and Kick Boxing*. With 2 weeks of each sport. It's a great way to try new sports, learn new skills and improve ability.

We use games & drills to teach game sense and team play. Your child will learn the fundamental skills for all sports - throwing, running, jumping, striking, balance and many more - all while having a great time!

For full details and to enrol into our programmes visit www.kellysports.co.nz email adminwgn@kellysports.co.nz or call 04 972 7201

PLIMMERTON SCHOOL PTA TRIATHLON 2020

Registrations closing soon!

Please follow this link for individual and team entries: <https://forms.gle/vsiAnZzqxZQvLgTy5>

Registration close 12.00pm on Saturday 15 Feb with event day from 8.00am on Sunday 16 Feb.

The Plimmerton School Triathlon is a fun, have a go event for all children in the area. Children from other schools are welcome to enter. The focus is on fun, having a go and trying your best.

DATE: Sunday 16 February 2020 from 8.00 a.m.

LOCATION: Plimmerton School

ENTRY AGE: Entry is open for 5-13 year olds with both individual and team options available

EVENT DISTANCES

5 to 6 Years: Run 1 lap (400m); Bike 1 lap (300m); Swim 2 lengths

7 to 8 Years: Run 2 laps (800m); Bike 2 laps (600m); Swim 4 lengths

9 to 10 years: Run 3 laps (1.2km); Bike 3 laps (900m); Swim 6 lengths

11-13 Years: Run 4 laps (1.6km); Bike 4 laps (1.2km); Swim 12 lengths

Many thanks to our major sponsor [Easyswim Swim School](#)

For further information and a course map please contact Pete Barton on 0220670357 or plimmertonschooltriathlon@gmail.com

Community News

These are provided as a service to the community & may not reflect the policies and practices of the school.

Want to play Football??



Registration for **PUKERUA BAY SOCCER CLUB** for grades 5 (turning 5 in 2020) to 14 is now open:

- Registration closes 1st March 2020.
- Low Registration Fees: \$50 for grades 5&6, \$90 for grades 7-12 and \$100 for grades 13&14 (mixed competition), \$100 for Sunday girls' competition. Includes Nike shirt and shorts. Family discounts available!
- Practices potentially in Pukerua Bay and/or Plimmerton (or wherever most suitable for team).

To register or for more information visit www.pukeruabaysoccer.org.nz/ or call **Iain Maclean** (0274203056) or **Neil Snowling** (0212291739) or email pkb@pukeruabaysoccer.org.nz.