



Wainuiomata Primary School

Term 3, Week 2 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers - Greetings, Kia Ora, Talofa

Teachers are really looking forward to meeting with whānau at the learning conversations this Tuesday and Thursday.

A reminder that due to the Covid-19 Lockdown, learning conversations and mid-year reporting will look different from previous years.



At the learning conversations students, teachers and whānau will discuss successes and achievements that have been made with the child's learning, academically and/or socially. Progress graphs in reading, writing and math will be shared and discussed, and learning goals will be decided on.

After the learning conversations, teachers will record the discussions on a report format which will be sent home in week 4.

20-minute appointment times for learning conversations can be booked online at:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz> the password is **w3rj9**

If you are unable to book online, Marlene and/or Janet in the office will be happy to make one for you.

Please pop in and ask them or give them a ring (ph. 04 9398677). Our aim is to see all students and their whānau so please, please book in a time. While teachers would prefer 'face to face meetings' please let your child's teacher know if you would prefer a virtual meeting via Google meet and they will endeavour to organise one.

Please remember that school finishes at 12:30pm on Thursday 30 July due to the learning conversations.

I would like to welcome our new children and their whānau to Wainuiomata Primary School: Alfaaz and Harrison.



School Assembly

A reminder that our next school assembly is this Friday 31 July at 11:30am – parents, grandparents, caregivers and whānau are most welcome to attend.



Happy Birthday

Best wishes to these students whose birthday was last week or is this week: Jackson, Brooklyn, Maia, Manaia, Mili, Joshua and Diamond.

Picking up and Dropping off Children: Thanks to all the parents and caregivers who are conscientious and careful when picking up or dropping off their children by car.

This is a reminder about the importance of safe and legal driver behaviour around our school gates – Main Rd and Homedale Rd.

The following driver behaviours put all our children at risk:

- *Parking on yellow lines*
- *Parking on blue lines (Homedale Road)*
- *Double parking*
- *Doing U turns on Main Rd*
- *Calling children across the road to your car*

From time to time police officers and the Hutt City Council parking wardens will be patrolling around our school. Drivers who are parking illegally can be fined \$150.

Please remember everyone's safety before and after school!



Parents are also asked not to park in the staff car park before or after school as it makes it very difficult for the Road Patrollers to carry out their duties. Thank you for your help with this.

Parent-teacher meetings

From Ministry of Education website - <https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/learning-and-development-at-home/parent-teacher-meetings/>



Usually a couple of times a year you (and often your child as well) will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and talk about the progress your child is making. Here's what to expect from these meetings and some tips to get the most out of them.

What is a parent-teacher meeting?

This is a meeting between you and the teacher to talk about your child's learning and progress. They might be called parent-teacher interviews, parent-teacher conferences, learning conferences or learning conversations.

Many schools and kura organise them for early in the year and then after a mid-year school report has been sent home.

They might offer you a set time, invite you to contact them to arrange a time, or more and more schools are asking parents to book a time that suits online using a parent-teacher interview website. Some schools hold meetings before or after school, others run them in the evening.

More than one person can go to the meeting – you are welcome to take other members of your family or whānau. They are useful, positive meetings where as well as hearing from your child's teacher, you can ask

questions and share your thoughts so that you and your teachers can become partners in your child's education.

In more and more schools, students attend the meetings as well. These meetings are often called three-way conferences. If your school doesn't do this, and you want your child to be at the meeting with you, check that it's okay with the teachers.

Do I need to do anything before the meeting?

Meetings are usually short, so it's worthwhile for you and your child to do some preparation and make some notes to make the most of the time:

- think about what you have noticed about your child's work - parents often notice things when they are helping their child with homework
- talk to your child about how they feel about school and anything that they are really enjoying, finding too easy or too difficult
- ask them if there's anything they want you to talk about with the teacher. If it's a three-way conference they can ask these questions
- read any recent school reports and write down any questions you have about them.



What sort of questions might I ask?

- Does my child participate (take part) well in class?
- Is my child progressing as expected?
- What do they do well?
- What do they need help with?
- What can I do to help?
- Does my child seem settled at school? How do they get along with others?
- Are there any areas for concern?
- What's the best way to contact you if I want to follow up on anything we've talked about?

Should I talk to my child about what the teacher said?



Even if your child doesn't ask, they'll probably be keen to hear what you talked to the teacher about. Share the positive things that the teacher said and give them plenty of praise. Then talk about anything the teacher suggested you could do at home to help them.

If you didn't agree with something that the teacher said, it's better to stay positive about the teacher or the school in front of your child. If you have concerns about anything that was discussed, you should arrange a separate appointment with the

school to talk about this future.

Can I talk to the teacher outside of a parent-teacher meeting?

Yes, you can talk to the teacher anytime. In fact, you are in a partnership, and you both want your child to do well, so you are encouraged to talk regularly with the school. Ask the teacher what the best way to contact them is.

You can follow up on things that were talked about at the parent-teacher meeting, or discuss an issue or topic in more depth.

You can often talk to the teacher in person for brief discussions without needing to make an appointment – just make sure you approach the teacher well outside of class times.
If you want to have more time for a longer conversation, it's best to make an appointment so that you have plenty of time to talk.

Further information

The Education Review Office (ERO) has written some really useful booklets for parents, with suggestions about what to ask at school:

- [How is my child doing? Questions to ask at school - ERO website](#)
- [From education to employment: Questions to ask at school - ERO website](#)
- [Effective teaching - what's happening in my child's classroom? - ERO website](#)

Instead of having a Funky Friday to top up our Civil Defence supplies we are having a Wacky Wednesday on Wednesday 12 August – more details on next week's newsletter!!

Important Dates

- Tuesday 28th July – Learning Conversations
- Thursday 30th July – Learning Conversations – school finishes @ 12.30pm
- Week 3 School Photos
- Wednesday 12th August – Wacky Wednesday
- Friday 14th August – TOD Day School CLOSED!!

Hei konei ra - Kind regards



Allison Burdon