

Term 3, Week 5 2023

Dear Parents/Caregivers - Greetings, Kia Ora, Talofa

We are nearly halfway through the term and as you may be aware we are struggling to get any relieving teachers when our teachers are away sick. The relieving teacher shortage is not unique to Wainuiomata Primary School – many schools are struggling to find cover for classes with the nationwide teacher shortage.



I wanted to let you know what we are doing as a school when teachers are away sick.

High number of staff absences	
1 teacher absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class split as per school document (<i>Children go to the same class so they can build a relationship with the teacher</i>)</li> <li>Senior management to go into class, take roll and arrange split</li> <li>Class is expected to stay in their classroom until 9:30am to check absences across the school</li> </ul>
2 teachers absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above</li> <li>If high number of student absences, we will split classes to ensure consistent numbers across the school.</li> <li>Release teachers are used to cover class/es.</li> <li>Senior management will cover classes if available</li> </ul>
3 teachers absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above</li> <li>Senior management will cover class if available</li> </ul>
4 - 5 teachers absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All non-covered classes will be asked to work from home.</li> <li>Where possible whānau will be contacted by phone</li> <li>Letter advising whānau that their child is working from home will be emailed out and posted on the class/es SeeSaw page.</li> <li>Learning will be emailed to whānau and posted on the class SeeSaw account.</li> <li>Activities to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning Grid</li> <li>NZ Math activities</li> <li>Daily Google meet (Learning coaches asked to take these)</li> <li>Other online Learning specific to their class programme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6+ teachers absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School is closed.</li> <li>All available teachers and learning coaches come to work.</li> <li>Children who must attend are split amongst staff.</li> <li>Surplus staff to host Google Meets / prepare additional Learning Grids</li> </ul>

Fortunately, we have had no more than three teachers away to date and have been able to cover those classes. I just wanted to give whānau the heads up as to what we will need to do if we have 4+ teacher away for Health and Safety reasons.

I am including information that was sent from Te Whatu Ora re Winter Illnesses later in the newsletter.

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

### School CARE Assemblies

We hold a whole school CARE assembly every fortnight at 10:30am in the hall. Parents are very welcome to come to the assembly. At each assembly selected children are presented with a CARE certificate for demonstrating one of our CARE values. Our next assembly is Friday 25 August.

Congratulations to the following children who were presented with certificates the last Friday.

Michael Rm 7, Jayden Rm 14, Kyza Rm 14  
Lennon Rm 8, Kayden Rm 15, Ruby Rm 1  
Tamati Rm 2, Brailee Rm 2, Tobias Rm 13

Children who are spotted demonstrating our CARE values at playtimes and lunchtimes are given a 'CARE coupon'. These coupons are put into our letterbox outside the staffroom and at each assembly six names are drawn out. We then draw again to find out who will get to choose a prize pack. The other students receive a Juicie.

Congratulations to these students who won CARE coupon Juicies.

Leilani Rm 16, Logan Rm 13, Dallas Rm 15, Sophie Rm 1, Cassie Rm 6, Eleathia Rm 1

Major prize winner: Eleathia



I am sharing an email we received from the Dancesplash organisers that we received late Friday night – I appreciate the situation was very frustrating for whānau.

**ARTSPASH - URGENT TICKET UPDATE - NEW TICKET DATE - TICKETS ON SALE NEXT FRIDAY THE 18th OF AUGUST**

*We have a delay in our tickets going live with Ticketmaster. They will NOW be on sale next FRIDAY THE 18th OF AUGUST. Please communicate this to your whānau and friends keen to purchase tickets.*

*A number of factors have led to this; delayed confirmation of seating numbers and also the unique format of Dancesplash with our students seated **IN** the auditorium for Dance shows.*

*Huge apologies for those who were desperate to purchase today (Friday 11 August) - we were inundated with phone calls and emails which shows that whānau are keen to see the wonderful performances you have been rehearsing so hard for.*

The Dancesplash team have ensured that each concert has two tickets per student available. There is a two-ticket limit per student performer for Dance concerts.

With the digital system and Ticketmaster we hope to avoid what has happened in previous years; schools returning unsold tickets on the night of a 'sold out' show- this should ensure more tickets available generally.

Change can be hard - new things can be hard. Thank you for your understanding with this delay.



### Happy Birthday

Best wishes to these students whose birthday was last week or is this week: Legion, Makahuri, Caeden, Leilani, Penny and Toby.

### Important Dates

- Book Week week 6 – 21-25 August
- Friday 25 August – Assembly

Hei konei ra - Kind regards

*Allison Burdon*

Allison Burdon

## Preparing your School / ECE for winter wellbeing – Advice from Te Whatu Ora



We are seeing surges of Covid, flu, and gastroenteritis and other respiratory virus around the region.

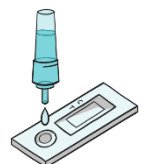
If you are worried your tamariki has symptoms or they have long-term health problems (e.g., asthma, diabetes kidney, heart, or immunity problems), then you should phone your usual doctor or Healthline 0800 611 116 for further advice.

Most people recover at home and only see their GP if their illness gets worse or is not improving.

Remember - the FREE minor health conditions service is running at a number of local pharmacies until the end of September. Pharmacies can provide free treatments for skin conditions like scabies, head lice, eczema and other skin infections, as well as pain and fever, dehydration, eye inflammation, and acute diarrhoea. The free service applies if you are Māori, Pacific, a community services card holder or aged under 14 years old.

Things you can do to help control illness in your education community.

- Tell a staff member if your tamariki has an illness like the one described above.
- Stay home until they're feeling well again, and for at least 48 hours from last symptoms (usually 3-4 days but up to 7 days)
- If you test positive for Covid-19 it is still recommended, you isolate for at least 5 days and report your rapid antigen test (RAT). You can do this through My Covid Record [mycovidrecord.health.nz](https://mycovidrecord.health.nz) or call the helpline on 0800 222 478.





- Sick tamariki should not be at school, sports matches, school productions, or camps. This is so they can rest and recover and don't spread illness to others.
  - Encourage tamariki to use tissues to cover coughs and sneezes or use their elbow and to be very good about washing and drying hands thoroughly.
  - [www.kidshealth.org.nz/flu-influenza](http://www.kidshealth.org.nz/flu-influenza) has some good tips for looking after people with flu like illness and stopping it spreading to other people at home.
  - [www.kidshealth.org.nz/gastroenteritis-children](http://www.kidshealth.org.nz/gastroenteritis-children) has information for looking after tamariki with gastroenteritis.
- If you are sick, we ask that do not visit hospitals or community care homes or see people who may be at high risk of serious illness, such as pregnant women, young babies, or anyone who has cancer, lung, and heart or kidney conditions.

Please ensure your school/ECE has your correct contact details in case they need to contact you.

It is important to stay up to date with your all your vaccinations; COVID-19, flu, measles, mumps (MMR vaccine) and whooping cough as this will help protect you from serious illness and reduce spread to others. Vaccines are now available at your local GP practice or pharmacy.

Kia ora Everyone