

Term 1, Week 4 2024

Dear Parents/Caregivers - Greetings, Kia Ora, Talofa

## Movin' March Starts this week!!

### What is Movin' March?

Movin' March is a free month-long event run by Greater Wellington in partnership with local councils which encourages schools and whānau across the region to get active to/from school over March. Movin' March is ideally suited for Years 0-8.

Walking, biking, and scooting to school can help increase:

- Independence
- physical and mental health
- decision making



- road safety skills for tamariki

and our school benefits from less chaos at the school gate!!

All Year 0-8 primary schools in the Wellington region are eligible to register to take part in Movin' March

### How can parents take part?

Parents do not register to take part in Movin' March as it is schools that need to do this. Our school is registered, and we are looking forward to seeing our students actively come to school each day.

If you need to drive your child/ren to school, we encourage you to drop them off at one of our schools pou. These can be found on the corner of Homedale Road and Hine Road, at the beginning of Burdan Ave or outside 154 Main Road.

There are two competitions during Movin' March –

- the WOW Passport Challenge – the school will give out passports and will stamp your child's passport every time they actively walk, scooter and ride to and / or from school.
- **Whānau Photo competition** (open to whānau of *any* child under 14 yrs. walking or wheeling to school in the Greater Wellington region).  
Parents and whānau share their walk or wheel experiences and go in to WIN! The competition runs 26 February to 31 March 2024 and is about whānau sharing the joy of walking or wheeling to school in the Greater Wellington region.

How to post:

Post a photo and comment on the Movin' March Facebook page responding to the weekly theme (excludes posting "stories") OR post a photo and comment on your own Facebook or Instagram page and tag us @movinmarch.

Winners announced weekly and final announcements on or before Thursday 11 April - you will be in to win a Micro Scooter and helmet or a Family pass to Zealandia or Staglands - 15 prizes to be won!

Our Movin' March celebrations will culminate in a Fancy Feet and Wacky Wheels Day on Wednesday 27 March – more details in upcoming newsletters.





## School Attendance

In February 2023 ERO (Education Review Office) published a report on Attendance: Getting back to school: A guide for parents and whānau. I am including the summary they wrote in this newsletter.

### What is attendance?

Attendance is when children are at school and in the class, they are supposed to be in.

It all adds up. Children who miss a week each term will have missed out on a year of schooling by the time they are 16.

### Why do children miss school?

We know that children's and parents' attitudes, and how children experience school impacts on attendance. We have identified the **most important** things.

For **parents** the most important attitudes are:

- how comfortable they are with their child missing school
- how likely they are to keep their child home:
  - if their child is being bullied
  - if their child is unable to participate in school activities
  - for a family or special event
  - for mental health reasons.

For **your child** the most important attitudes are:

- if they think going to school every day is important
- if they see school as helpful for their future.

What happens in **school** matters as well. For your child the most important things are:

- how hard they find their schoolwork
- if they can participate in activities
- if they like or don't like the people in their class
- if they like or don't like their teacher(s)
- if they like or are interested in what they are being taught.

### What can you do to support attendance?

We found that what you do can have a big impact on your child's attendance. Parents who are comfortable with their child missing a week or more of school per term are more than twice as likely to have a child who doesn't regularly attend school. It is never too early to start. When children miss some school early on, it can lead to missing more later on too. When your child is at primary school, your input is even more important. You can help set up good habits that will last for the whole time they are at school.

Below are some things that you can do which help.

- It is your responsibility to get your child to school – if transport is hard for you, talk to your school. There may be support available in your area.
- Talk to your child about how school is important for their future, and how it is important to go every day. Be positive about school!
- Make sure your child knows that you care if they are going to school.
- Only take your child out of school when there is a really good reason, like if they are sick.
- Have a consistent morning routine, not too rushed.

- Help your child to be prepared for school, like making sure they have done their homework the night before.

### Questions to support attendance.

It is good for your child when school is a great place for them to be, and they are engaged with what they are learning. Check in with them often and listen to what they say.

- Ask them about what they have been learning
- Ask them to tell you about a conversation they had with a classmate or friend
- Ask them what was challenging or fun about their day
- Ask them what they are most looking forward to tomorrow



If your child doesn't want to go to school, there can be a lot of different reasons for this. It is important to be supportive, even if it is a bit difficult. You can help by understanding why they don't want to go.

- Is there something happening at school they want to avoid?
- Are they getting on with the other children?
- Are they having trouble with bullying?
- Are they feeling a lot of pressure in their learning?
- Are they interested in what they are learning?
- Do they have a problem with a teacher or other adult in the school?

Once you know what the problem is, you can work with your child's school to make it better. The chances are that the school has dealt with these issues before. It also helps your school to know early when there is a problem, so you can really help a lot by knowing what is going on for your child.

### Things you can talk to your child's school about

Get to know your child's teacher or teachers – this makes it easier to talk when anything comes up.

- Learn how to let the school know when your child won't be there and do this as soon as you know.
- Make sure you know how much school your child has missed – the school will know this and should share it with you, but you can always ask.
- The school wants your child to be happy and succeed too – help them to understand your child and your whānau so they can work with you to make school a great place for your child.



#### **Book Amnesty**

*School books lurking in corners, under beds, in drawers?*

*We would love them back.*

*We do not care how low you have had them.*

*They can be returned to your child's teacher or to the office.*

*1 book? 50 books? Library books? Class books? Not a problem, as long as we get them back so we can use them again - THANKS.*

### Reporting at the Office

Please sign in at the office if you are visiting the school. It is also a good idea to 'check in' at the office if you want to make an appointment with a staff member. Thank you for your help with this.



## Riding Your Bike to School

Here are some safety points to remember when riding your bike to school:

- All cyclists must by law wear an approved cycle helmet.
- If children are at school without a helmet the school will retain the bike until the child has a helmet or the parents come and pick the bike up
- Riding on the footpath is illegal – the Road Code applies to cyclists whatever their age, the same way it applies to motorists. Children riding to school therefore need to know the Road Code and have good 'road sense'
- Police recommend that children are supervised under the age of nine when riding on the road



**We ask that children do not ride their bikes when arriving or leaving the school grounds for Health and Safety reasons. This is particularly important with all the hoardings for the building work.**

Children are welcome to ride their bikes around our bike track / school grounds after 3:15pm. Thank you for your help with this.



### Happy Birthday

Best wishes to these students whose birthday was last week or is this week: Huntah-Ariki, Bentley, Adam and Tyler

### Important Dates

- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Football after school**
- **Senior Swimming this week – Monday to Friday**
- **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March Movin' March starts**
- **Friday Touch @ Hutt Rec.**

Hei konei ra - Kind regards

*Allison Burdon*

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