



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

22nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Whānau,

I hope you have enjoyed the start of the new school year as much as the staff and children. We totally believe that happy children learn more effectively and the smiles in the classrooms and playgrounds show us that they are most definitely enjoying their time at the school. We certainly do appreciate parents supporting us by having their children at school, on time, well rested and ready to learn.

Congratulations to our Year 5 & 6 T-Ball teams who represented us in our first inter school event yesterday. As always, your behaviour and performances were a credit to you and the school. A big thank you to the parents who came along and looked after the teams.

Tomorrow morning, we are holding our Whānau Aroha Day and details about this have been posted on Hero. The event is one of many that we run whereby we celebrate our diverse cultures, what is special about us and provides context for us to learn more about the each other.

The parade for the children is at 10.00am and this will be followed by the sharing of special food. Everyone is very welcome to come and watch and be part of this event.

Please see your child's Hero post for more information.

Have a great week everyone.

Neil Robinson - Principal



TERM ONE 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Fri 23rd Feb	<i>Whānau Aroha Day</i>
Mon 26th Feb	<i>Kōwhai Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
Tues 27th Feb	<i>Rimu Assembly – 2.25pm</i>
Fri 8th Mar	<i>Kauri Assembly – 2.15pm</i>
Mon 11th Mar	<i>Kōwhai Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
Tues 12th Mar	<i>Pohutukawa Assembly – 2.30pm</i>
Wed 13th Mar	<i>Tōtara Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
Wed 13th Mar	<i>Y5/6 Cricket (Postponement Day)</i>
Mon 18th-Thurs 21st Mar	<i>Y5/6 Bikes in schools</i>
Tues 19th Mar	<i>Rimu Assembly -2.25pm</i>
Mon 25th Mar	<i>Kōwhai Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
Mon 25th March	<i>Holi – more details to follow</i>
Fri 29th March	<i>Good Friday (No school this day)</i>
Mon 1st April	<i>Easter Monday (No School this day)</i>
Tues 2nd April	<i>Easter Tuesday (No School this day)</i>
Wed 3rd April	<i>Tōtara Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
Fri 5th April	<i>Kauri Assembly -2.15pm</i>
Tues 9th April	<i>Rimu Assembly – 2.25pm</i>
Fri 12th April	<i>Term One Ends.</i>



Y5/6 Students enjoyed the Interschool T Ball held on Wednesday.

BARFOOT & THOMPSON
LICENSED REAA 2008
Blockhouse Bay

TOO SICK TO COME TO SCHOOL?

Whilst we do want the children to attend school, we also want parents to continue to keep their children home if they are sick or displaying symptoms of Covid. There is a spike of Covid in the country and we currently have at least three children away from Blockhouse Bay School because they have tested positive, so please continue to be vigilant with regards to any illnesses that can be transmitted to others.

A reminder to report the absence on HERO or phone the school office 627-9940 and leave a message on the absence line. You can also email us on office@blockhousebay.school.nz.

Principals Update: Government Educational Initiatives

In January, the Government informed schools of two initiatives that they wanted them to implement this year and I want to let everyone know what we are doing about these. In summary, very little of what we do at Blockhouse Bay School needs to change to fulfil our obligations regarding cell phones or teaching time allocations.

Use of Cell phones

The new Minister of Education, Erica Stanford commented that

“New Zealand schools and overseas jurisdictions that have already imposed restrictions on cell phones in the classroom have reported better concentration and engagement in class, and an improvement in student achievement and wellbeing”.

For more than 10 years, Blockhouse Bay School has had a policy whereby if children have a cell phone, they must hand them into the school office at the start of the day and then collect them at 3.00pm. This means that there is no need to change our current school policy.

Time Spent on Reading, Writing and Maths

During one of our teacher-only days in January, the teachers reviewed the ‘One of hour of teaching reading, writing and maths’ mandate that was sent to us during the summer break and considered this in regards to our 2024 timetables. We can confirm that our planned programmes provide regular daily focussed instruction in the core areas of reading, writing and maths both separately and across other learning areas.

The directive from the government was that *“from the beginning of Term 1 2024, schools and kura with students in years 0-8 will spend an average of one hour a day teaching each reading, writing, and maths. This could be in dedicated lessons and in other learning areas as students read, write, and engage with maths in a variety of purposes and contexts.*

Teachers will deliberately and purposefully dedicate time to teaching these core skills. Teaching techniques like investigations, collaborative learning, and games will continue to be used so students stay engaged with their learning.

This change sets a clear expectation that all year 0-8 students should receive regular, focussed instruction in these core areas. Many schools and kura are already teaching an hour of reading, writing, and maths each day.”

We agree that having dedicated time for the children to learn in these areas is very important and are very pleased that we will also have the flexibility to carry out this learning, within integrated areas of study where it is appropriate. Parents and whānau will have seen evidence of this with our 2023 Term 4 learning about ‘Papatūānuku is Breathing’ culminating in our Science Fair. For this, children had to carry out reading and writing tasks in the learning areas of science and mathematics. Throughout the time spent in these areas of study, the children are also experiencing focused and targeted teaching in reading, writing and maths. One example of this targeted teaching is the Better Start Literacy Approach which we have been implementing at Blockhouse Bay School over the last 3 years.

In summary, the Government has every right to instruct schools on how its education policies will be implemented and Blockhouse Bay School will continue to follow these directives.

SUNHATS

Great to see almost all of our students wearing their school sunhat.
Just a few students who still need one.
Hats are available from www.argyleonline.co.nz and must be worn in Terms One and Four.
Thank you.



PARENTS OF YEAR 3- 6 CHILDREN

A reminder to parents that we would like all of the Year 5 and 6's to have their own Chromebook at school. **Please note that this is a Chromebook not just any Laptop computer.**
Year 3 and 4 children are very welcome to bring Chromebooks (only) to school as well.
If you have any questions about this, please contact the office and we will organise someone to give you a call.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

At Blockhouse Bay School we want every child to leave our school soaring and ready for their next stage of learning. To help our children soar in their learning it is very important that they come to school every day unless they are sick. We want to partner with you to help all your children attend school happily and successfully.

As you are aware all students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school. As we enter 2024, we want to highlight that **every day of school matters**.

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks throughout their schooling, this adds up to missing a whole year of school by the time they are 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

Absences from school

We ask you to let the school know via the Hero app, school absence line or via email if your child is going to be absent for a day or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, such as a funeral, tangi or medical procedure.

We also need to let you know that the Ministry of Education has advised that family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not considered acceptable reasons for being absent. Whilst we as a school accept that there can be strong reasons to take these times away, if they happen often, especially in the early years, they can have a significant impact on children's learning and engagement with their peers.

What to do if your child does not want to come to school

If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, please speak to or email your child's teacher or our Associate Principal, Elizabeth Crisp at elizabethc@blockhousebay.school.nz

Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school and building a culture that fosters excellent attendance. To help achieve this:

- Our school staff aims to develop warm, respectful relationships with students and whānau.
- We aim to have an accepting school culture where your child's unique identity is valued and celebrated.
- We are a school community that does everything to make sure students are at school, and are participating, progressing and soaring in their education.



Kids 4 Drama: Thursday 3.30-4.30pm – BLOCKHOUSE BAY PRIMARY

Here on site at Blockhouse Bay Primary Kids 4 Drama has been operating for over 20 years. With an annual production the students learn wonderful skills that build confidence in performance, speaking and team work. Come and experience the magic of a weekly drama class. Find out more information at www.kids4drama.com and feel free to pop along for a free trial.

STATIONERY FOR SCHOOL - CLOSING SOON

If you have not already purchased your child's stationery for school you can still purchase it online until the end of February by going to www.myschool.co.nz/blockhousebayprimary enter your child's name and choose the pack that you require.

From the Ministry of Education - Be protected against meningococcal disease

Meningococcal disease is a dangerous illness that can kill or cause serious disability. The best way to protect against the disease is to be vaccinated with both the MenB and the MenACWY vaccines. **Until 28 February**, these are available **free** for those aged 13 to 25 in close living situations such as a boarding school or hostel.

Please pass this to providers.

For more information visit:

[Meningococcal vaccines – Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-services/immunisation/meningococcal-vaccines)

FAB LUNCHES

FAB Lunch fundraisers for Term 1 are all available via the website www.kindo.co.nz for pre ordering now. We will still remind you each Monday of what is on the menu that week. Reminder: Orders can not be placed after closing time.

Wednesday 28th February	- Xi'an Food Bar (Ordering closes Tues 27th 12pm)
Wednesday 6th March	- BakeAholiC by Preeti (Ordering closes Tues 5th 12pm)
Wednesday 13th March	- Pita Pit (Ordering closes Wed 13th 9am)
Wednesday 20th March	- Mai Sushii (Ordering closes Tues 19th 12pm)
Wednesday 27th March	- Xi'an Food Bar (Ordering closes Tues 26th 12pm)
Wednesday 3rd April	- BakeAholiC by Preeti (Ordering closes Tues 2nd 12pm)

Operation

SAFER PLATES

will take place
9th March 2024
Carpark at Junk & Disorderly
176 Balmoral Rd
10 am - 1 pm

Reduce the risk of Number Plate Theft

NZ Police, assisted by Community Patrols are providing a crime prevention initiative called "Operation Safer Plates"

The purpose of this initiative is to make it harder and less likely for offenders to target your vehicle for the purpose of acquiring your registration plates.

Stolen number plates are currently being used for evading detection when offenders are committing offences, such as:

- Petrol drive offs
- Speeding tickets
- Road user charges
- Robberies and thefts
- Or worse, a more serious crime.

This system is designed to replace existing number plates Screws with inexpensive but effective **tamper resistant number plate fixing screws.**

A small \$5 Cash Fee for this service.



MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE **YOUR SMARTEST MOVE!**

If you need a salesperson
with **local knowledge,**
energy and **drive,**
give me a call or say hi to
me at the school crossing
on Tuesday mornings.



Call **Roma Kaur**
021 263 9947

r.kaur2@barfoot.co.nz

A Smart Move

BARFOOT & THOMPSON



AUCKLAND ORTHODONTICS

Specialist orthodontics for all ages



 **Dr Nitin Raniga**

BDS (Otago) DClinDent (Otago) MOrth RCSEd MRACDS (Orth)

ORTHODONTIST

6 Exminster St
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland 0600

Phone 09 627 3555
nitin@aucklandortho.co.nz
www.aucklandortho.co.nz

