



**PORT AHURIRI
SCHOOL**

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Dear Parents & Caregivers

**Tēnā koutou te hunga pānui o tō tātou hāpori.
Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa**

A reminder of the education mandate that was announced by the Ministry of Education. It requires that all staff and workers who may have contact with children in schools throughout the country (regardless of COVID-19 Alert Level) will be required to have a **first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by 15 November and be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022**. This is mandatory and proof of vaccine status will be required. However, this doesn't just apply to teachers. It also applies to volunteers and parents who are spending time in forward facing positions with children. From 1 January 2022, education services can only allow those that are fully vaccinated to provide onsite services during opening hours. Vaccinations will be mandatory for all those working onsite including teachers, relief teachers, casual staff, administration staff, caretakers, cleaners, OSCAR providers and hostel staff – whether direct employees or employees of a contractor. It also applies to unpaid workers, such as volunteers (including parent volunteers) and any members of the community who are on site at the school, as they are likely to come into contact with students. This involves; parents on school camp, backstage parents at production, parents on trips and outings such as Optimist Yachting, sports coaching and parents at Ocean Spa, should all/some of these events occur this year.

The vaccination requirement does not apply to parents or whānau undertaking student pick-ups and drop-offs, but the requirement is that these should be conducted in an outdoor environment where face coverings must be worn, and physical distancing measures retained.

There has been quite some discussion in the wider community around the vaccine mandate for teachers and the number of teachers who will not be vaccinated and will not be allowed in schools from Tuesday. Whilst under the Privacy Act I cannot discuss any specifics, I can assure you that there will be education provision for all children here at Port School on Tuesday and beyond.

Mask Wearing

The Board discussed the issue of mask wearing at their recent meeting. The following is a statement from Anna Madarasz-Smith our Presiding Member.

We know that these are changing times for our school community. We ask that parents and caregivers please wear masks when on the school property as a way of reducing potential transmission pathways for the most vulnerable members of our community, our tamariki. This includes if you are dropping or picking your child up from Afcare. Please be aware that our teachers and staff are part of the school 'bubble'

and subject to requirements from the Ministry of Education, so do not need to wear masks as part of the day-to-day activities in the school. Please also be kind to those who may have exemptions. Please feel free to contact the Board of Trustees if you have any concerns about this."

Pool / Swimming

It was decided at the Board Meeting on Monday that for safety reasons due to the building works happening at the school, there will be no access to the pool for the community this summer as we cannot allow access to the pool through the contractors work site.

The children will still be able to continue with swimming at school. We can ensure you that they will enter a safe way and not through the building site.

Important Dates / School Events

15-19 Nov	Optimist Yachting for Year 5/6
22-26 Nov	School Camp Week for Aoraki Hub
14 December	Last school day of the year
31 January 2022	Term 1 begins

Koina ngā kōrero mo tēnei wā

Kia pai ō koutou wiki

Nāku nā

Glenn

New Enrolments

A warm welcome to: Grace Donoghue, Zara O'Connell, Greta Robertson and Felix Trousdell who have started school with us. We hope you enjoy your school days at Port Ahuriri.



School Photos

Your son or daughter will have brought home on Tuesday an Online slip with their unique Access Key detailed on it. This Access Key will display all the photographs of your child. It is then an easy process for you to shop on-line and purchase the photographs you want.

If you place your order within two weeks of receiving your Access Key you will receive free delivery for your photo orders. PhotoLife has agreed to despatch all the orders back to the school and your child will bring their photographs home. Any orders placed after this two-week period will be sent directly to your specified delivery address and will incur a \$6.00 Postage & Packing charge. You will see this message when you go online to view and order your photographs.

School Drop Off / Pick Up Zone

A friendly reminder to please be courteous of others when using the school drop off and pick up zone. There have been some incidents recently where Parents/Caregivers have become impatient of the car in front of them. Please keep in mind the school values we are teaching the children which include being kind and being respectful. Thank you.