



**PORT AHURIRI  
SCHOOL**

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## No 02: 10 February 2022

Dear Parents & Caregivers

**Tēnā koutou te hunga pānui o tō tātou hāpori.**

**Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa**

Welcome back to a new year that still holds a lot of promise. We'll be doing our very best to keep things on an even keel and provide as much normality in our programme as we possibly can within the restrictions that we have to work. At this stage there have been no new settings for us to work within which is great and it is quite amazing how we all manage to adapt to whatever we have to do.

The children have been masters of adaptation and are an example to us all. One of the areas that they have had to adapt to if they are in year 4 and up, has been the wearing of masks inside. They have taken to it well and the majority seem comfortable in them and have been proactive in wearing them. We have a small number of children across Piki and Aoraki hubs who have an exemption and the other children have accepted this. Naturally, there have been questions by other children as to 'why' but that is a part of children's normal curiosity. At this age, children are in the stage of 'reasoning'. Children become group oriented and like to work collaboratively. The question of "why" replaces the question of "what" of the earlier years as they become interested in moral questions. Children at this age begin to use their imaginations more, and to wonder what part they will play in the bigger scheme of life. Exemptions to mask wearing of course are available and I am more than willing to sit down and explain the process if you believe your child would require an exemption.

Thank you, to everyone who has embraced our request to wear masks while on site. We really appreciate how your efforts reduces the chances of us being the next Te Mata School and all the issues they have had to deal with and continue to do so. One of the general fears in the community for this year, was the thought of further disruption to children's learning and while we have a hybrid system in the wings ready to go should we need it, having to isolate at home for whatever reason is going to be incredibly disruptive both to the children's school lives and the adults as well. So "thank you" for your support. We do acknowledge that there is a small number of parents who have an exemption to wearing mask and I'm sure that we would all be accepting of this.

Earlier I spoke of trying to keep a sense of normality to our programmes. Unfortunately, the first casualty of the red level requirements are our swimming demonstrations that we would normally hold. It's beyond our capability around social distancing, numbers on site and trying to get everyone through a construction zone to hold these this year. I know many of you look forward to these and will be as disappointed as we are.

However, on a brighter note we are able to hold a parent/teacher meet and greet session for you. This is an informal chance for you to

catch up with your child's teacher, have a chat about your child, your aspirations and dreams for them this year. It is not a formal interview or anything like that. Weather permitting, they will be outside, no notes, no pack drill. Book yourself a slot over Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of next week (15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February) from 3.15 – 5.15. Book through <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/> the same as Parent/Teacher interviews and the **code for this event is e7xup**. The Montessori class is not a part of this event as we are still in process of appointing a teacher. We will hold a separate event, once we have a teacher in place.

We have started our professional learning programme for this year. We have a contract with Digital Circus to assist staff and children learning through a STEM programme. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and covers an enormous range of the curriculum. We are really looking forward to this and another place-based STEM programme which we have accessed through our Kahui Ako group. This year we are focussing on the estuary in term two, trying to learn more about its history and significance for Maori in pre-European times and its future for our children. We plan to build a school resource as it is part of our backdoor step, and we will also be holding a display of children's work to show the learning that occurred. We will have our hall back by then 😊. As part of STEM learning, the children in Poipoi read the book "The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch" and then made baskets with lids on to stop the seagulls eating the food. A very real problem for anyone who has tried to picnic anywhere close to the sea this summer.



Fingers crossed for a break in the weather. Have a lovely weekend.

**Koia ngā kōrero mo tēnei wā**

**Kia pai ō koutou wiki**

**Nāku nā**

*Glenn*

## Art Deco Dress Up Day

Friday 18th February dress up in Art Deco clothes. We will have a day of Art Deco fun at school. Sorry we are unable to invite whanau to join us this year due to Covid restrictions.

