



Kaeo School



Learn, Love, Contribute, Grow
Aim High—Stand Tall - Taraia nga taumata E tu teitei
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Term 3

Week 6

Hello,

We have had a couple of challenging weeks at school and behaviours that we wouldn't expect or accept at Kaeo School have been evident.

When this occurs our job at school is to think about why this is the case and to work to return us to the calm, respectful, and settled place that we are known for.

I think that some of the problems can be associated with Covid 19. Like most things schools have a cycle and a rhythm to them that when interrupted can have an affect on the natural order of things.

The stress and uncertainty of the situation around Covid 19 affects us all whether we are aware of it or not and so for us teachers and staff we maybe a little less patient or a little more stressed than usual, in the same way the children may be less certain and safe about their situation and the situation of their friends and families and this results in perfectly lovely children behaving in a less than perfectly lovely way.

I have asked for everyone at school, myself included, to be mindful of the stresses and strains that envelope us all right now and to be aware that the children need support and kindness first and foremost right now as they navigate this current situation. That said, some things that have occurred cannot be ignored and we have, as always, no tolerance for things such as fighting, meanness, or uncaring or disrespectful behaviour at our school.

It would be appreciated if you could please assist us in two ways, at least to begin with. Firstly, reassure your children that they are safe from Covid 19. Look for positive Covid news and share it over the dinner table or when you have the chance. Things like the fact that we have no Covid 19 in our community, or that New Zealand is managing Covid in a way that is the envy of most of the rest of the world are messages that will reassure children.

Secondly, remind children of the expectations at not only our school but in our wider community. Respectful, caring behaviour is expected at all times. Kindness is valued and that treating others with tolerance and is important.

Our school is very well regarded and the reason it is, is that children are safe and secure, they relate well to each other and they care for one another. This is a precious thing that we all must work to maintain and build on, your support to do so is very important. A quiet discussion with your children about the importance of kindness and looking after each other would be appreciated and go a long way to helping us get back on track and in beating the challenges that Covid 19 bring to communities even if we stay virus free.

One last thing about phones at school and indeed phones in general. Phones are rarely needed at school by primary school children and they are too often a distraction and the cause of problems. It would be appreciated if phones could please be kept at home.

Everyone should clearly understand that smart phones are basically computers and that they open up children to the world and sometimes to things that are inappropriate for children of this age – our advice is that children should not have free access to the internet and that phone use should be closely and carefully monitored by caregivers especially if the phone is used by older siblings who might access things that you would not wish your younger children (or them) to see.

Thanks for your help and support.

Kind regards,

Paul Barker.

School Photos

Please don't forget that school photo orders and payment must be returned to school, in the envelope provided, by no later than the 28th of August which is this Friday. We regret that we are unable to order photos without payment.

Dates for your diary:

7 Sept Rooms 1 & 2 Floating Classroom Visit
8 Sept Rooms 1 & 2 Floating Classroom Trip 1
9 Sept Wig Wednesday
14 Sept BOT Meeting
22 Sept Winter Sports
25 Sept Last Day of Term 3