

22nd November 2021

Kia Ora Ramarama School whanau,

It was so lovely to be able to welcome over 90% of our school back last week even if it was in small groups. The playground and classrooms were filled with laughter, smiles and excited chatter as staff and students reconnected and spent the day enjoying being together after 91 or 92 days of lockdown. We know that it is not ideal to have the school split into two groups and attending on different days, but after just one small taste of this last week we can already see that the benefits are going to outweigh the negatives.



The teachers have between 10-15 students in their classes each day, so they are able to give individual attention to each child whilst also maintaining the online learning for those at home. Smaller groups means we can spread out and be socially distanced both inside and outside. Unlike many bigger schools we do not have to offer part time days, staggered drop offs and pick ups or stagger our break times, as we can manage the numbers each day.

The focus at school is well-being, reconnecting, exploring our feelings about lockdown and lots of hands-on activities. The sudden and often inconsistent changes we have all experienced throughout the last year has led to many children and young people feeling uncertain. Many pupils worry that things which used to feel safe and predictable, such as school, have also changed. So we are doing everything we can within the guidelines to ensure school is fun and safe.

On the days that the students are not at school the teachers will be providing either some worksheet packs and readers or a range of learning tasks on Seesaw. There may also be a mix of both options. If you have any questions about what the students should be doing on the days they are at home with you please don't hesitate to reach out and email your child's teacher.

Reminder:

Group 1 attends on Monday & Tuesday.

Group 2 attends Wednesday & Thursday.

Friday is full time Bubble Students on-site and all other students complete distance learning tasks.



As we head towards the end of the year we will be thinking about how we can manage the end of year celebrations within the current guidelines. This week the staff will be working out plans for how we can safely run these events and we will let you know how the end of the year will look once these decisions have been finalised.

School Pool:

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health have now indicated that the school pool can be used for the students who are on-site, with safety protocols in place around numbers in the pool. We will get a timetable drawn up and start this as soon as we can. We had some paint touch ups completed on Friday last week, so we just need to get this completely dry and signed off and then we can start scheduling use. Swimming this term is completely optional and fun.

Staffing for 2022:

It is with great pleasure that I can announce we are now fully staffed for the 2022 school year. Last week we finalised our appointment to the Year 2/3 class and are delighted to be welcoming Renee Leckner to our staff. Renee is a very experienced classroom teacher who has taught most recently at Maraetai Beach School and Pukekohe Hill School.

We look forward to welcoming Renee and introducing her to you all at the start of next year.

Learning Space	Class Level	Staff
Weka Learning Space	Year 0/1	Kath Blakie & Lynne Penney
Toutouwai Learning Space	Year 1/2	Rachelle Baker
Pukeko Learning Space	Year 2/3	Verna Cameron
Piwakawaka Learning Space	Year 2/3	Renee Leckner
Kiwi Learning Space	Year 4	Kelly Steward
Ruru Learning Space	Year 5/6	Regan Baxter
Kakapo Learning Space	Year 5/6	Megan Paton
Tui Learning Space	Year 7/8	Marquerite Way
Takahe Learning Space	Year 7/8	Cheree Cowsill

Thank you all for your on-going support-

Kia kaha Ramarama School whanau!

Ngā mihi,
Tania Campbell
Tumuaki/Principal

