



4 February 2020

Kia ora koutou and welcome back to Mt Cook School for 2020

Welcome to our new families – it is great to have you join our school community.

Coronavirus: Your child's safety at school is our primary concern. Anyone who has travelled to China in the holidays has to be back in New Zealand for 14 days - which is the incubation period - before they can come to school.

Please ensure that if your child has any cold/flu like symptoms that they stay home. If they display any at school they will be sent home.

New Staff: Welcome to our new staff. Eden is teaching year 3's in Manaia. Jenny is our new resource teacher of literacy. Robyn is teaching in Kereru with our new entrants. Delia (Mum of Dontay and Layton) is our new Kaitiaki, she will be working to make our physical environment a more beautiful, safe and sustainable place.

School Donation: Mt Cook School has opted into the governments subsidised donation scheme for the year. We will not be asking for a donation or for any money from families to go towards activities that are curriculum related. Travel expenses sit outside this scheme so we will at times ask for assistance towards paying for buses.

Swimming: Year 1-5 students will be swimming at Kilbirnie pool this term. It starts in week 2. Peka Peka & Kereru, Kiwi, Wetapunga and Manaia will swim on Thursday afternoons. Tuatara, Katipo and the year 5's in Takahe will swim on Wednesday afternoons. We are asking for \$20 per child to go towards the bus to and from the pool.

Reminder about **SUNHATS** – children who are not wearing these will need to sit on the verandah in the shade at lunchtime.

Below are some important dates coming up for your calendars.

Waitangi Day – Thursday 6 February – there is no school!

Powhiri - Monday 10 February at 9:15am

This will be followed by a morning tea to welcome new families and staff. The powhiri is always a significant occasion to start the year for all of us. If you are able to attend that would be fantastic.

Community Sausage Sizzle/Meet The Teachers – Thursday 20 February 5:15 – 7pm. Have the chance to meet our teachers and eat some delicious sausages.

School Picnic – Friday 21 February (postponement day Monday 24 February). Every year we go as a school to Khandallah Park for the day. We play, swim, the older children climb Mt Kaukau and we have a real community day to start the year. Families are welcome to come up and join us for some or all of the day. We arrive at about 9:45am by bus and return by 2:45pm.

Parent/Teacher meetings – Tuesday 25 & Thursday 27 February

This is an opportunity to talk about your young people, share information and set goals for the year.

Electives – Monday afternoons, Week 7-10, starting Monday 16 March.

Teachers and parents run high interest activities for small groups of children. Some examples have been Bee Keeping, Zoetropes, Puppet Making, Zines, World Cup Football, Introduction to Hogwarts and many more. **We need parents to run electives and also be helpers.** If you can help please speak to Liam.

Book Week – Week 8 starting Monday 23 March. Dress as a book character on Tuesday 24 March. Come and celebrate reading with us. Read your favourite children's book to your child's class. Join our book week assembly.

Dates for 2020

Term 1 2020 (10 weeks) Tuesday 4 February – Wednesday 8 April Tuesday

Waitangi Day - 6 February

Teacher Only Day - Thursday 9 April

Term 2 2020 (10 weeks) Tuesday 28 April – Friday 5 July

Queen's Birthday - Monday 1 June

Term 3 2020 (10 weeks) Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Term 4 2020 (10 weeks) Monday 12 October - Tuesday 15 December

Teacher Only Day - Friday 23 October

Labour day Monday 26 October

**WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AT
MT COOK SCHOOL.**

