



Newsletter – Thursday 4th February 2021



### **A GREAT START TO SCHOOL 2021**

It is wonderful to have everyone back at school for the 2021 year. It was a real pleasure walking around the school yesterday and seeing our kids of all ages playing together and feeling the amazing and welcoming atmosphere. Our kids are all starting to settle into their new classroom learning programmes and routines ready for the busy year ahead. Today they are heading off to the pools with big smiles on their faces and overall enjoying being back with their friends and ready for the fun challenges and opportunities that this year will offer.

### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES AND STAFF**

Welcome to all our new families. Yesterday we had 31 children across the school starting. I was incredibly impressed with how our kids used their initiative and caring attitude to make sure everyone had someone to help them in and out of the class and introduce themselves to others from different classes. We hope our new families settle in quickly and we look forward to getting to know you.

Welcome to Mrs Kim Hill in Room 11, Miss Annie Keir in Room 4 and Mrs Tika Dew in Room 10/Curriculum Release who are joining our teaching team this year.

### **WINGS OVER WAIRARAPA – PARENT/ADULT HELP NEEDED**

We have booked our whole school in to attend the Big School Day at Wings Over Wairarapa. On this day every child at school will be catching buses to head to Masterton to see all the planes, tanks, helicopters etc It is a fantastic day. We are awaiting confirmation of details etc, however, we need parent/adult help on the day.

**The date is Friday 26th February.**

If you are able to help please see your classroom teacher. It will involve taking a small group of students around the different attractions with their teacher (note: this involves a lot of walking so wear good shoes).



**Ngā mihi maioha Miss Patrice O'Connor**

**“DREAMS COME IN A SIZE TOO BIG, SO THAT YOU CAN GROW IN TO THEM!”**

## THANK YOU

At the end of last year we were given 40 classroom chairs by St Matthews in Masterton. These chairs have been put to good use in our senior classrooms and we would like to express our thanks.

Thank you to Sika for donating a patch kit for our school pool so that we could get it up and running for the school season, before its major upgrade. We really appreciate their support!

## BEGINNING OF THE YEAR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### KEEPING UP TO DATE

Communication and keeping everyone up to date is important to us and we try our best, however, it is a partnership between school and our community. It is important that everyone reads it and checks it.

To help you stay in touch here is a reminder of our major communication systems in our school.

- **Our School App**

- Our School App is a critical part of our communication system at school. You can download it for free (name: Kiwi Schools Connect) on your phone from the App Store or scan this QR code.
- All quick updates/alerts, (cancellations, postponements, important last-minute updates etc!) and access to the school calendar, website, newsletters etc are here.



- **Our School Newsletter** (Fortnightly on Thursday)

- **Our Greytown-Primary School Facebook page**

- **Emails and Phone** - Please ensure the school office has your correct email address and phone number.

Other communication systems in our school.

- **Our School Website** <https://www.greytown.school.nz>

- **Classroom correspondence**

- Seesaw/Google Classroom - Your classroom teacher will send out information about how to access these.
- Class notices for trips etc.

## ABSENCES

If your child/ren are going to be away for any reason or be late to school can you please advise the office eg: pop in, ring, email [office@greytown.school.nz](mailto:office@greytown.school.nz), use the absence button on the school app or website.

## COMMUNICATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Any urgent communication with your child during school hours must go through the School office as teachers may not necessarily check their emails while teaching.

## CONTACT DETAILS

If you have changed any of your contact details or emergency contacts over the holidays can you please let the school office know as soon as possible eg: email [office@greytown.school.nz](mailto:office@greytown.school.nz), ring or pop in. This means if there are any sicknesses, emergencies or reasons we need to contact you we can do that quickly.

## SAFETY REMINDERS

We have more construction happening around our school and with that comes an increase in traffic(especially on Reading Street). It is timely to remind everyone...

### Crossing the road safely:

Please take the time to reinforce these points with kids both at the school crossing and down the main street crossings:

- Use the crossing if you are within the area of the white diamonds.
- **Stop** at the crossing. Never assume cars and trucks can stop in time!
- Look both ways several times.
- If you see a car or truck wait until they stop before you go.
- Hop off your bike or scooter and walk across.
- Keep looking side to side as you cross.

### Helmets:

We need to not only encourage our children to wear helmets but reinforce it/model it as it may save your child's life one day when you least expect it.

- **The rule is simple for us though....riders of bikes either in our school uniform, at school events or on our grounds must have a helmet on at all times when riding it.**

## HATS

A reminder that all students need to have a school hat this term. This should be worn throughout the day when they are outside. There is also sunblock in classes available to students.

## HYGIENE REMINDERS

Please help us to keep reinforcing and teaching our children the importance of keeping themselves safe through good hygiene practices.

The skills of

- how to wash your hands correctly and frequently.
- coughing into your elbow area
- disposal of tissues after blowing your nose
- not sharing your food or drink bottles

- Tying up shoulder length or longer hair (for limiting nits)

Washing hands tips we teach are:

1. Wash your hands before you eat and after you go to the toilet.
2. Get your hands wet and soapy.
3. Rub, rub, rub, rub your soapy hands together long enough to sing “Happy Birthday” or another favourite short song in your head twice. ...
4. Rinse.
5. Shake and dry. Shake your hands a few times, then dry them with a clean towel or hand dryer.

All children **must stay home** if they are genuinely sick with any flu-like symptoms.

If your child is sick with the flu or another contagious condition (eg: Chicken Pox, School Sores etc) can you please notify the school office. This means we can monitor the health of the entire school and if needed pass information on to other parents or in the case of a large group showing similar symptoms we can contact local medical authorities to assist us with next steps.

As with all health issues please be assured that we are in regular contact with our District Nurse, local medical providers, Ministry of Education and/or the Ministry of Health and follow their guidelines and recommendations to keep everyone as safe as we can.

**Dates For Your Diary**

**February**

<b>8th</b>	Waitangi Day (observed)
<b>18th</b>	Whole school family picnic
<b>23rd</b>	Years 5 & 6 Riversdale Beach education
<b>24th</b>	First BOT meeting for 2021
<b>25th</b>	Years 5 & 6 Riversdale Beach education
<b>26th</b>	Wings over Wairarapa

**March**

<b>2nd</b>	Kawaka swimming sports & showcase
<b>3rd</b>	Year 5-8 & competitive Year 3 & 4 School swimming sports
<b>4/5th</b>	Year 7 camp
<b>9th</b>	Kowhai swimming showcase
<b>10/11th</b>	1/2 day on both these days for Learning conferences with school finishing at 12.30pm
<b>15th</b>	Interschool swimming sports
<b>19th</b>	Teacher only day (no school)

**Breadcraft Kids Tri Series 2021**

Monday 15th/22nd February and 1st March at Wairarapa College. Ages 3-17. Online registrations only. Register now at [www.wmsc.org.nz](http://www.wmsc.org.nz) \$10.00 for all 3 races. All details on the website. Any queries ring Judy Brown on 027 681 5800 Register now at [www.wmsc.org.nz](http://www.wmsc.org.nz) \$10.00 for all 3 races. All details on

the website. Any queries ring Judy Brown on 027 681 5800

**School Contact Information**

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