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### 2022 Term dates

Term 1: Tues, 1 Feb – Thurs, 14 Apr

Term 2: Mon, 2 May – Fri, 8 Jul

Term 3: Mon, 25 Jul – Fri, 30 Sept

Term 4: Mon, 17 Oct – Thurs, 15 Dec

#### To keep up with information:

Download the HERO app and join your child's Class Facebook Page

Also, you can view the newsletter on our Website at:

[www.waimataitai.school.nz](http://www.waimataitai.school.nz)



### 2<sup>ND</sup> HAND UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

WEDNESDAYS

2.50pm – 3.15pm

In Health Centre (by office)

OR

By agreed appointment

(Please book a time with Jo  
ph: 021 444 903 )

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### NEW UNIFORM & STATIONERY SHOP OPEN

EACH MORNING

8.30 – 9am

IN TEACHER AIDE ROOM

**PLEASE NAME ALL  
UNIFORM**

*Nga mihi mahana kia koutou. Kia Ora*

## Nau mai Haere mai ki tatau kura Waimataitai Greetings and Welcome to our Waimataitai School

At the beginning of the third week of this new school year we are getting well underway. We have experienced the usual rush of enrolments and sadly the loss of a few students to other schools and regions. We have begun the year with 469 students which is around the same number as last year. We have had plenty of new 5 years olds wanting to come to Waimataitai and we will be opening the extra classroom in the junior school sooner than we thought we would need to. Our classrooms range in size from 12 in the junior school to 29 in the senior school. We try to keep our junior school classes between 12 and 16 students so that these students have the best start they can. This is especially important in the new entrant classes. Enrolments across the school are strong as well. I would like to welcome all our new students and their families as well as those of you who have been at Waimataitai before this year.

Last week I was able to report that our students are coping really well with mask wearing. When I talk to them I can see the responsibility they are taking for their own actions in keeping others safe. I hope we will not require masks for the whole year. The actions we take now, like staying home if you are sick, keeping class groups socially distanced, ventilating classrooms, hand washing, and including mask wearing, will hasten the return to the non mask wearing time ahead.

### Managing the Morning Meet and Greet at the Gates

This term Nikki Vincent, Jess Howard and I are covering the gates and road patrol in the mornings. We believe this will have a series of positive outcomes. Greeting students and parents as they approach school is a great way to see how people are feeling when they arrive. There is also the opportunity for parents to have a chat with senior staff at the gate to provide information we might not otherwise have access to. If we are on the road patrol in the mornings, teachers can be in their classes greeting students as they arrive in the class room. Our understanding is that teachers will be available for their students from 8:30am when they arrive at school.

### 5-11 Year Old Vaccinations

I have had parents share their concerns with me that Waimataitai might be going to vaccinate students without parental consent. I would like to set everyone's mind to rest on this issue. There are no plans to have Waimataitai as a vaccination centre where students would have the opportunity to be vaccinated. There is no way that Waimataitai will vaccinate any child without parental consent. We have had parents say they don't want to take up other vaccination opportunities and these wishes have been adhered to strictly.

Parents who wish to have their children vaccinated can arrange for this to happen at other vaccination centers in South Canterbury.

### Events and Occasions During RED Traffic Light Settings

The South Canterbury Primary Principals Association have been negotiating how best to manage the events all schools will be involved with during these current COVID settings. At this stage and until the rules change, South Canterbury primary schools will not be involved in South Canterbury wide sports fixtures. This will help all schools to stick to the Ministry of Health Guidelines of **keeping school groups separate**.

Where schools can manage their own sports activities on site and within the guidelines, the Association encourages and supports schools to go ahead. Waimataitai is currently looking carefully at the term one sports events to make sure we can still have our students involved in as much physical activity and sport as possible.

## New Comers

Last Friday all our new students came together to meet. The discussion we had was how they were settling into school and what we could do to support them. The messages we got from them were, that they were impressed with their new school. It was bigger than where they had come from. Several were not used to wearing uniforms.. They were feeling happy that they had made some new friends and most said they were feeling looked after at Waimataitai. The new comers group will meet every two weeks throughout the year. As students become more comfortable with the change of school they will come off the group and other new students will be added as they arrive at Waimataitai.



## RED AND WHITE NO UNIFORM DAY



**Bring a gold coin to support Tonga  
If you do not have red and white  
wear black. It is on Friday the 18th.**

## School Council Roles Being Chosen

From last Friday the Waimataitai School Council are in operation. Classes are choosing their representative now for the important work of taking class ideas to the group and bringing back the projects that the Council have agreed to take on.

I was really impressed with the work the Council took on last year and the outcomes they achieved. I am looking forward to this new group being able to achieve, to the same degree. We have already had requests for the council to help raise funds and to support projects that are currently underway in town. If the Council agree that these are worthy causes we will be involved in some exciting work this year. The first initiative is a Non Uniform day this Friday to support Tongan recovery.

## Maths - Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities (DMIC)

All teachers at Waimataitai are involved in comprehensive professional development this year in Math.

The content of Math has not changed. The way teachers will teach this has changed. During this year teachers will be training in the new techniques they will use in the classroom. As they train they will be incorporating the new methods. Your child will notice a difference in the way they are being taught.

Students can expect to be challenged to think about math and respond in more comprehensive ways. They will be having to explain their thinking and their strategy. Teachers will expect small groups of students to work together when using strategies. There will be a move away from grouping students according to ability and more toward groups that have a mix of skills to calculate the required outcome. This is all based on research and many examples of successful practice in high performing schools both in New Zealand and overseas.

I expect students and parents to notice this difference. Don't be concerned. Ask questions and seek advice from your child's teacher. We are confident that this direction is the correct one for the students and teachers at Waimataitai.

## Cultural Event Postponed

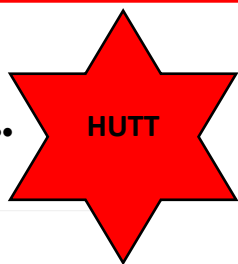
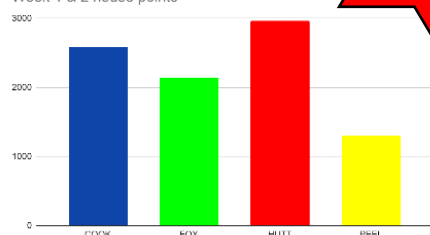
It is with sadness that I have to announce the postponement of our planned Pacifica Cultural evening this term. We will be trying to fit this event in as soon as the settings have relaxed sufficiently to allow large gatherings of people to enter the school site. The preparations that have already been made will be carried over. One of these preparations was that we had successfully negotiated sponsorship from Hellers for enough sausages to feed the school . I have been assured that this sponsorship will remain in place until we require it later in the year.

## HOUSE POINTS –

Term 1 : Week 1 & 2

**Congratulation....**

Week 1 & 2 house points



## Wai Tri and Swimming Sports

It has been decided that these two events will be put off until later in the year when we can do these under (hopefully) usual circumstances. If this isn't the case, we will still manage to do these events in an adapted format.

## Lucky Book Club

2022 Issue No. 1

Orders close Friday, 18<sup>TH</sup> February

