

NEWSLETTER

No. 08
Term 2, Week 6

Thursday 21st May 2020



Principal's Note

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to on-site learning! We honestly cannot tell you all how happy we are to be back on-site and with all of our children again.

Firstly, a big welcome to Santana, Callie, Leila, Theo and Ava who all joined us either via distance over the break, and in person on Monday. We are really happy to have you with us and to welcome two new families to our school.

I know that I may have mentioned this quite a number of times over the lockdown period, but we are so impressed with our community's response to Distance Learning. We are really pleased that families chose times and amounts that worked for them, shared their own experiences with us, and kept so upbeat and supportive all along the way. While Distance learning was a challenge for us, we also enjoyed a chance to try something new, give extra ownership over to the kids, run with what our children came up with and most importantly, have suck regular contact with families about learning and life. ALL of our children have come back so enthused about what they have been doing, and most importantly, the time that they spent with their families.

I have been amazed at how quickly our learners have reintegrated into school-life. It was obviously a well overdue opportunity to be with friends and back on a playground too. The classes are humming and there are plenty of very happy kids.

Learning for the next few weeks will be a little different from 'normal'. The focus in our classrooms right now is relationships, engaging with others, The Arts, and avoiding device time. We are all benefiting from the opportunity to reconnect and enjoy working alongside our peers.

I would like to also thank everyone for their support of our staggered pick up times. From next week, we will be continuing to offer a 2.30pm pick up slot and a 2.45pm slot. We will not be persisting with the 3pm slot as it has not generated enough numbers to help the staggering of crowds for which it was planned. If you elected to have a 2.30pm slot, we will keep you there unless we hear from you otherwise. Everyone else will be 2.45pm also unless we hear from you to choose a 2.30pm time instead. I really do appreciate your patience with all of these updates and amendments as we all find what will work best for our children.

Have a terrific weekend and make sure you take time to recharge ready for next week.

Nga mihi nui,

Gareth Swete
Principal.

Important Dates

Monday 1st June – Queens Birthday holiday

Friday 3rd July – Last day of term 2

Classroom Notes

Papatūānuku

We are so excited to be back in our class this week. We welcome three new tamariki also! Welcome to Theo, Ava and Leila!

This week we've spent some time getting reacquainted with our class and school environment. We've been learning about animals. We've sorted our plastic animals into categories of where they live. We counted each set, and found out we had lots of farm animals and zoo animals. This week we've focused on sharing knowledge about farm animals. The tamariki have painted brilliant pictures of a farm animal, and the background. Old Macdonald gets sung with great gusto everyday!

We've started learning to skip! This required some risk taking, and I was very proud of the positive attitude from everyone, to give it a go.

Report by Papatūānuku

Hine-Rau-Whārangī

It was wonderful to see the children's excitement on Monday, about being back at school! The children are settled and are enjoying reconnecting with their classmates again. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes via Zoom during our time apart, and sharing your learning experiences on Seesaw.

Monday was an extra exciting day for us as we welcomed Callie to our class! We're really looking forward to getting to know you and your family.

We are learning and exploring animals through The Arts. We used *Rumble in the Jungle* as an inspiration to draw our favourite jungle animals. The children named their animal and wrote a few sentences about what they like doing. The lion caught our attention and we learned how to draw a lion's head by looking at 2-dimensional shapes. The manes are made from leaves we collected in our playground. We can't wait to show them to you! We will share this work on Seesaw so you can see it too.

Report by Mrs Barr

Tāwhirimātea

Welcome back to onsite learning! I am absolutely blown away by how quickly and easily all the Tāwhirimātea children have come back together. It has been such a positive start, but a very exhausting one for many! This week we have focused on reconnecting with our peers and settling back into the routine of school. We have had a focus on new and known games in the afternoons. Some of our favourites include: monopoly deal, uno, draughts, go fish, snakes and ladders, battleships, trouble and more many more! Not only has this given the children the opportunity to become familiar with some new games but it has also allowed them some time to reconnect with each other while working on our key competencies. We have also been working on our skipping skills with both the small ropes and the long rope. There are impressive gains being made already! You may have noticed the children aren't bringing reading books home this week-this is to allow the children a chance to ease back into school without the pressure of homework as I know they will be feeling tired. We will continue to keep the books at school for another week but they will be able to bring their poetry books and library books home for the weekend.

I hope you have all had an equally positive week getting back into the swing of things.

Report by Mrs Swete

Ranginui

Welcome back Ranginui, it is great to see everyone's friendly faces this week. Here is what we have been up to this week... This week we have been learning about skyscrapers with Mrs Eathorne and most of them are really tall. *By Anja* Skyscrapers can be in all different sizes and shapes. *By Stevie* With Miss O'Malley we have been drawing a galaxy picture using pastels and white paint. *By Chaya* In the afternoons we go to Senior Sports. We have learnt Netball, Hockey and Miniball skills. *By Arden*

Report by Ranginui

Hinemoana

Welcome back (physically!) for Term 2. The children in Hinemoana have had such a great start to being back at school, settling in and having such positive can-do attitudes. We have begun our new topic, *Exploring Culture through The Arts*, with our first stop being the continent of Africa. Our challenge is to design and make our own instruments inspired by a traditional African instrument. It has been really fun to explore lots of different things about Africa and African music. We noticed and heard that African music uses lots of drums. Drums are part of the percussion family and help keep the beat in music. We are all really excited to start making our instruments!

Report by Hinemoana

Tāne Mahuta

Welcome back into the classroom Tāne Mahuta. We started our week reconnecting with each other and having a lot of fun playing some new and older board games. Our favourite new board games are 'sequence and monopoly deal.' These will be great to play on our wet days in Winter. This

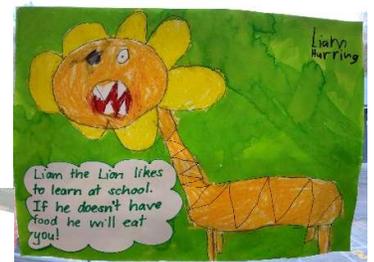
week we have started a new topic called 'Countries and Cultures', we have identified the different continents around the world and then investigating all the different countries in each continent.

We read a story about a kid called Stanley who became flat and his mother sent him away in an envelope. We are going to create our own 'Flat Stanley's' and are looking to send these to different places around the world to people we know. A wonderful week Tāne Mahuta!

Report by Mrs Marshall

School and Community News

Hine Rau Whārangī 'Rumble in the jungle'



Port to Port Tours

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know, if you don't know us already, that we are offering affordable ferry trips and visits to Quarantine Island and Marine Studies Centre and Touch Tank tours on MV Sootychaser.

Our business is small, just a one woman band right now. The boat is too. We take a maximum of 20 people per trip (we can do multiple trips however, as the boat is fast).

Adding other things such as Marine Science Centre or visiting sandflats with an ecologist as a guide will add between \$5 and \$8 per child.

The usual ferry price for groups less than 15 people is \$24 adult and \$12 child, return.

The 'Meet The Skipper' sessions can be arranged by calling 020 416 24150

www.porttoport.co.nz