



Ngā mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou katoa. We are busy getting ready for school to start next week so we thought we would keep you up-to-date with what is happening in the first couple of weeks.

COVID-19 - Level 1

It is important that we are also organised for any possible event and change that may happen. New Zealand remains at Alert level 1 and everyone is doing the right thing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, so we're pleased to say it's business as usual at the moment.

For our school we will:

- display QR code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App
- keep our visitor register, attendance register and timetables up to date
- be monitoring for illness and asking anyone who is unwell to remain at home, or to go home
- encourage people with relevant symptoms to seek medical advice through Healthline or their GP and get tested for COVID if recommended to do so
- reinforce the importance of good hand washing and drying
- reinforce good cough and sneeze etiquette

I can reassure you that we will continue to regularly clean all parts of our school.

Contact Details - Please update if needed from 2020

We would like to make sure we have all of your current information as things may have changed.

We need your:

- address
- Phone numbers (home and work)
- mobile numbers
- email addresses (personal and business)

These will be important for us to have in-case we have an emergency or a change in COVID-19 levels before school starts or at the beginning of the school year. If you have any changes please email - admin@houghton.school.nz

Reminders

In term 1 we:

- Arrive at school from 8.30am
- Wear sun hats all term (please make sure you have them from day one)
- Student should have sunscreen on before they come to school and reapply in classrooms and office
- Start swimming on Thursday 11 February
- Meet the Staff and Teachers Tuesday 9 February at 5.30pm in the Hall
- Whānau and staff picnic Friday 12 February 5.30pm on the school field

Floorball Notice

We are hitting the ground running with sports this year. Since registrations close on Monday 8th of February, we would love to know if your child is interested in playing Floorball in Term 1.

Games will be held at the ASB Sports Centre. The game times will range 3:30pm - 7pm, ASB Sports Centre. Younger children have the earlier games and older children have the later games. Y1/2 teams who have to travel from further away will get the 4pm games.

Floorball sticks and goalie helmets/knee pads are provided.

Please let Charles know if you would like your child/children to be included charles@houghton.school.nz

Road Patrol

We are hoping to get our road patrol service up and running for Term 1 ASAP.

This call out is for all parents across the school regardless of whether your child is in Year 6 or not. The senior Road Patrollers are competent at running the service, and just require supervision.

Every road patrol session has to have an adult to supervise the students on patrol. We require 10 parents who are able to help one day a week for the rest of term, either in the morning or the afternoon.

Morning sessions are from 8:30-9am and afternoon sessions are from 2.40-3.00pm.

If you are able to help, or would like to know more before committing, please contact Charles at charles@houghton.school.nz

If you are able to be a back-up volunteer, we'd also love to know.

We would really appreciate you taking some time to consider helping. Thanks in advance for your support charles@houghton.school.nz

BoT - Message from the Board of Trustees

Nga mihi nui!

Happy new year! I hope everyone had a great break, and is ready for 2021 to begin at Houghton Valley.

The School Board is currently going through a rapid transition period. Sadly Ange Williams and Teneti Ririnui have decided to resign from the Board this year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for the contribution they've made to our school. They've both given an enormous amount of time and energy over the past few years and I know I will miss their experience and wisdom at our monthly meetings.

As a result of their departure we now need to fill the two vacant positions. The Board will select two new members, who will fill what are officially termed 'casual vacancies'. The alternative is to hold a by-election, but seeing as we just had an election the current Board members agree, selecting the two new members is the best option to move forward quickly. The school community has a month to agree with this selection process. So please get in touch if you disagree with this process, and/or if you're interested in joining the Board!

Please do contact myself, or any of the Board members; Georgie Ferrari, Kelly Smith, Luana Carroll (Principal), or Stephanie Bosch (Staff Representative) if you have any thoughts, concerns, or general community feedback you want to raise with the Board. Our first meeting will be at the end of February. All are of course very welcome to attend. There will be biscuits and a quorum.

Wishing everyone a great start to the year.

Thanks!

Bret McKenzie

Interim Chairperson

botbret@houghton.school.nz

Dates for 2021

Term 1 **4th February** - Friday 16th April

Easter: Good Friday 2 April, Easter Monday 5 April and Easter Tuesday 6 April (a school holiday)

Term 2 Monday 3rd May - Friday 9 July

Term 3 Monday 26 July - Friday 1st October

Term 4 Monday 18 October - **Thursday 16th December at 12.30pm**

Teacher Only Days for 2021

12th March - PLD

1st April 2021 (Kahui Ako Staff Only Day)

8th June 2021 -PLD

26th October 2021 - PLD

Dates for Term 1

Tuesday 9 February 5.30-6.30pm - Meet the teacher

Friday 12 February 5.30-7.00pm - Whole school picnic

Tuesday 16 and 17 March - 3 Way conferences

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 9 February from 8.30am

Luana and the HVS Staff