



Kia ora tatou katoa - hi everyone

No 5

8 March 2018

The bike track was being sealed today and tomorrow the contractors will be doing the finishing touches with soil and grass seed. At this stage the fences will be removed on Monday so by lunchtime we expect the field and the track to be ready for use. That means from next week the children are able to bring their scooters to school everyday to ride at playtimes and lunchtimes. For a start the only rule will be ONE WAY around the track. We'll use the first few days to 'iron out any wrinkles' (solve any issues) that may arise.

I have had queries from children about skateboards, rip sticks and roller skates. My response has been – let's get started with scooters (**and bikes) and then find out how that works first then we can look at other 'wheels' later – mixed or on a roster.

Children have asked about riding their own bikes at school in school time. The answer is "No" because ACC sponsor the BikeOn Trust who provide the Bikes in Schools programme (and a \$10,000 donation) so it was conditional that, in school time, the bikes and helmets must be safe and well maintained (part of the school's ongoing responsibility) – bikes and helmets from home do not always meet these criteria (their experience and our own).

*** the bikes and helmets have been ordered and will be delivered after the container arrives*

SUPER PLAYGROUND

A Super Playground has been installed at the school today. The Super Playgrounds are sponsored by Sport Canterbury and Sky TV and will provide a colourful addition to the school for the children. It is an artificial grass surface that is 20m x 4m - ours is installed outside Piwakawaka and Weka.



PAID UNION MEETING - [Tuesday 20 March](#)

The NZEI has called for Paid Union Meetings to consult teachers about their Collective Agreement that expires in June 2018. Under section 26 of the Employment Relations Act (ERA) 2000, paid union meetings are an entitlement for all union members. Classes will operate as normal until 1pm. Children can be picked up at 1pm although there will be supervision over the lunchtime 1pm -1:45pm.

All children need to be picked up by 1:45pm.

SCHOOL CARPARK USE

No parent vehicles should enter the school carpark before or after school.

Please do not park in the carpark or use it to drop children off.

The school car park was originally designed with a drop off zone. After some problems in 2015 we stopped using the Drop off zone. It was planned and built when the school roll was significantly lower and the increased traffic led to congestion, inappropriate speed, passing and parking that posed **a risk to the children** and adults walking into the school. Since then the entry gate into the carpark has always remained closed with a sign on it clearly stating **'No Entry'**.

There was an incident where a child was bumped by a car (fortunately no injury) and this incident highlighted a design fault which does not allow sufficient separation of vehicles from pedestrians.

EASTER BREAK includes Tuesday 3 April

Easter falls in the school term this year meaning as well as Good Friday and Easter Monday all schools also have the Tuesday as a holiday. The day after Easter Monday was traditionally part of an extended break for schools when schools had three-term years. Since schools switched to the four-term year in 1996 Easter has mostly fallen during the April school holidays but 2018 is an exception.

CONCERNS

Unfortunately things can go wrong at school from time to time for children, parents and teachers. Communication is the key to resolving any questions or concerns you have.

The school encourages open and early communication. We recommend that you come in to talk through a problem rather than discuss it in the community or act independently. The school has a responsibility to listen to your concerns, investigate them fully and work towards a resolution.

You, as parents, are the child's first teacher. How you resolve conflict and solve problems will shape how your children will handle conflict and emotional situations when they arise.

If your child shares a problem or a concern LISTEN. Keep your emotions in check. Let them tell their story, clarify what happened but try not to lead with questioning. You or the child may like to write down what happened in a story.

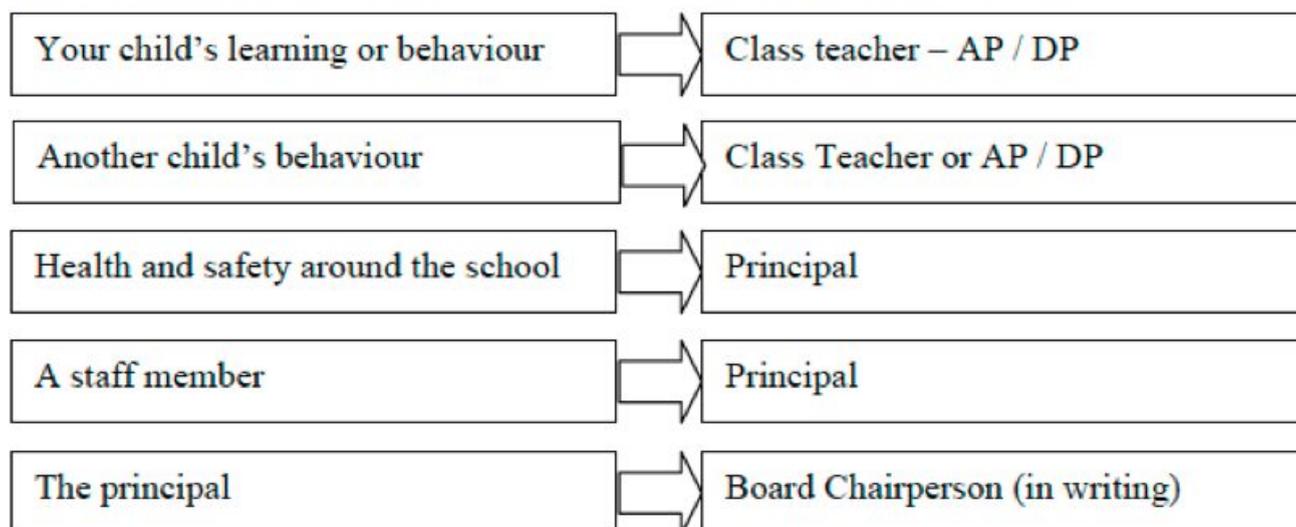
Be sympathetic, caring and reassuring:

- I am glad you told me
- I am sorry that it has happened
- I am going to contact your teacher and together we will do something about it.

Avoid talking about the concern in front of the child after the initial telling. Avoid the temptation to assume, judge or to blame as there are usually two sides to every story.

Got a concern about ...

Then contact the ...



PTA EASTER RAFFLE ~ TOMORROW ~ MUFTI DAY

- The raffle tickets were sent home earlier this week for you to sell to friends, neighbours, workmates.
- Children bring an Easter treat on the Mufti Day as a donation for the prizes - Easter Hampers
- Raffle tickets and money are due back to school Friday 16 March
- Raffle drawn and prize winners notified Tuesday 20 March

If you don't think the Easter Theme is appropriate your donation could be a healthier option or around a gardening theme - seeds, bulbs, or even a tube of toothpaste!



UPCOMING EVENTS

6 April

Botanical Gardens/Museum visit - Piwakawaka and Weka

16 March

Dance performance @ Casebrook Intermediate Hall - 1pm

12 April

Cross Country - change of date

Kia kaha te menemene - keep smiling

Paul