

Week 2 Term 4 - L3 Update 27th October 2021

Kia ora koutou,
Dear families and friends,

Focusing on a long term lockdown:

I hope you are faring as well as you can be in these uncertain and challenging times. We realise that everyone's bubble is completely different, with different complexities and stresses in each one. As a school, we do not want to add to your burdens and overwhelm you with what needs to be done but we are also very aware that this lockdown, if it follows Auckland, could last a long time.

With this in mind, rather than waiting for Government announcements and constantly trying to change and adapt to what could happen if we returned to school at short notice, we are instead focusing on the long term needs of our students. If this is how Term 4 is looking for our children, we need to help make the learning as manageable for you as possible, while ensuring that children don't slip behind and miss out on the building blocks they need to make the progress required.

The benefit of this being Term 4, is that our teachers know your children well and understand them, which makes it a lot easier than a lockdown earlier in the year. Looking at our learning with a long term lens has led to some changes across the teaching platforms, to see if this helps you at home and will better cater for your child/rens needs. At Bubble School, we can see how the different age levels are coping with online learning and realise our Juniors need a lot more one on one support. Others do as well - as you know each child has a very different learning journey! Please breathe ... 😊 we will all get there and we are all still safe.

Our teachers are constantly trying to evolve their practices, to best meet the needs of all of the students in their class using this remote and restrictive online way of teaching. They are coming up with a wide variety of approaches. This may look quite different across classes, but teachers know the children they are trying to target and what may work to help students to understand concepts or get them hooked in. We are also trying to make it as easy as possible for parents to navigate and support your children, while also developing student independence. These are not easy times for anyone. We know everyone is doing their best.

Coming back to online learning from a holiday break is even more challenging than last time, however teachers are seeing increased online engagement as we all settle back into learning routines. The teachers are very pleased so far this week, with engagement. Thank you! We know many of you are struggling. Trying to teach your own children can be very frustrating, as you are so emotionally connected and patience is hard. This is what teachers do best with endless patience, and ours are

amazing at it! If the learning is not working for you, breathe 😊 and maybe change activity or take a break. We want learning to be fun and interesting and inspiring, so we develop life long learners. Go outside and look at the Spring growth and changes for example.

If you can help us by getting your child to the class Google Meets and learning times, we can try and get more enthusiasm happening. We are happy to hear your feedback. Some students want more, others are struggling with independent learning strategies, some are overwhelmed. Getting the balance right is not easy but we want all of your bubbles to be as happy as possible. Being with you is very special for your children and they will look back on this time as a special part of history.

Assessment:

At present, our teachers would normally be starting to test their students across a range of assessments, in readiness for our end of year reports. Depending on how long Level 3 Lockdown lasts, our reports may look different this year with *best fit* levels and less accurate data. We will let you know how this will look as time goes on. We will do our best.

Bubble School:

(This is to explain how our Bubble School is operating and why at times, your teachers may be a bit slow in answering emails, etc.)

With Secondary Schools going back and a few other employers needing staff on-site, we now have four separate bubbles operating at school, along with our Admin Bubble.

With teachers already working from home with their class online, it is challenging to be at school as well. So each bubble has a number of staff rostered into it, enabling most teachers to only have one day a week in *physical* school. We are also using our relieving staff and support staff on rosters in each bubble. Please be assured that each bubble has 10 students maximum, so for example, if a family is away one-day, then there may only be eight students in the bubble, but we do not slot other children in. Each bubble, at present, has its own play area, toilet facilities and staffroom space, to keep everyone as separate as possible. All our onsite staff have vaccinations and will have given a negative COVID test before joining the bubble. Students will be working through the same online work, as set by their classroom teacher.

NZ ShakeOut - Earthquake drill

Our School has registered for this event and planned to do it as a whole school activity. Maybe in your own homes, you can have a practice - **Drop, Cover and Hold for 30–60 seconds**. Putting an **Emergency Civil Defence Kit** together could also be a good discussion and activity for the family to engage in. Please click [here](#) for more information.



Hort Happenings: Thank you for the feedback around this. As last week progressed, we realised that even if we were to be back at school, this would be a step too far, adding extra pressure on parents! So please relax, it won't be happening until 2022. 🙌

Ag Day Changes:

Thank you to the committee, who has spent so many hours on this event. Sadly if we are still in Lockdown on Wednesday 3rd November, there will be online judging for the animal sections. The committee met yesterday and have shared the below information for all animal entries.

Virtual Ag Day at Tamahere Model Country School

Agricultural Day is a very special tradition that allows us to celebrate our children's achievements, our rural identity, and our agricultural heritage as a country school. The purpose of Ag Day is to promote and encourage students to care and be responsible for rearing an animal. Our children learn valuable life skills, build confidence and responsibility.

If we are unable to proceed with Ag Day on school grounds (currently last postponement date of Wednesday 3rd November), we want to give children and

whanau who've worked so hard rearing and training an animal a way to showcase and celebrate.

We are therefore proposing a Virtual Ag Day event, which every registered student can take part in. When we're back at school under Level 2, we will be able to award ribbons, trophies and certificates for everyone who participates.

We understand that everyone will have varying levels of enthusiasm/energy at this point in the season!... and we don't want to add additional stress, so we have decided to let you choose what level of entry you prefer to go with for the Virtual Ag Day event, and submit whatever level of entry you can manage/you wish to submit.

1. Participation option

- Submit your Ag day diary, and a photo or video of you and your animal if you wish, to a google drive folder (photo/video content is up to you, any videos 2 mins max please).
- Student teachers/teachers will assess.
- Participation silver ribbons will be awarded, and diaries marked and awarded.

2. Competitive option

- Submit a 2 minute video (**following the criteria in the Instructions & Guideline attached**), and your Ag day diary, to a google drive folder.
- Video will be judged by official Waikato A&P Association judges.
- Ribbons and Trophies will be awarded, and diaries marked and awarded.

To make this competitive option (2) work, we've had to modify what we're asking each child to show us through video. Instructions are attached for each animal category.

For both options, we ask that you please submit your chosen video entry to the google drive folder set up for you (a private link will be provided by email). Videos to be 2 minutes max.

The videos can be taken on any day from Wednesday, 3rd November and submitted no later than 6pm on Saturday, 6th November. *We will notify you soon with the appropriate place to upload your video to.*

Please do not let this process cause any stress! We are happy to review whatever you are able to manage to upload and if we can help in any way, we are more than happy to!

Thanks

Frances & the Ag Day Committee

Welcomes!

We are very pleased to welcome **Robyn Hedley**, as the new Team Leader for our Administration Team. Robyn comes to us from James Barker Group at Otorohanga, as Human Resources, Payroll and Health & Safety Manager. Robyn has previous school experience coming from Okato College, as the Principal's Secretary. A very passionate equestrian enthusiast, Robyn competes at shows in both jumping and flat classes. You will see Robyn's name on the bottom of some emails, as Lisa Laurence will be taking Fridays off and enjoying long weekends going forward.

We would also like to welcome **John Ball**, who has joined our team as a part-time caretaker to assist Mr Wickens. John is wanting to keep himself busy in retirement and is a great community volunteer. Previously John ran his own transport business and has skills in so many areas from woodwork through to gardening. Great to have you on our team John.

Fun Run:

Thank you to everyone for the huge support for the FUN RUN/WALKATHON last term. We were so fortunate to have been able to complete this before the lockdown and everyone had so much fun. Now it's that time to gather in the money raised so that we can add it to the fund for the playground refurbishments.

Could you please take the time this week to ask all those who sponsored your child/ren, to pay what they have pledged?

- Then, to keep things simple, could you please deposit the money into the school account and add the payment reference FUNRUN. You can deposit all money into the bank account for the whole family. The school bank account details are:12-3152-0070140-00
- If you have cash and would rather drop this off, along with the sponsorship forms, please call the office on 07 856 928 and they will meet you at the front gate.

We have a few more prizes to offer for the most sponsors collected. They are \$30 Boundary vouchers. If you would like to be in to win for the **MOST SPONSORS** collected, please either drop off the sponsorship forms in the school mailbox, (contactlessly), and we can see who has won this prize of \$30 for the Junior, Middle and Senior Syndicates. Or you may email me with a photo of the sponsorship form to lboyd@tamahere.school.nz



We hope to see you all before the end of the year, but our focus is now on a long term outlook. By making this shift we are all a lot more settled and focused, and this may help your families as well.

He wiki rangi marie ki a koutou - wishing you a peaceful week!

Waveney