

face Tena koutou, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Fakalofa lahi atu, Bula vinaka, Ciao, Namaste, Al Salaam a'alaykum, Ni hao, Merhaba, Konnichiwa, Hola, Annyong hasayo, Greetings



# Balmoral School Newsletter

## Te Kura o te Roto a Rangi

**BALMORAL**  
PRIMARY • INTERMEDIATE

19 Brixton Road, Mt Eden Auckland 1024  
Phone 638 7960 Fax 630 1944  
Email office@balmoral.school.nz  
[www.balmoral.school.nz](http://www.balmoral.school.nz)

### Vision

**To value diversity and to develop curious, confident and connected learners.**

Friday, 11 February 2022

### Dates to Diary

2022

**BoT Meeting**

**Tuesday 15 February 7:30 pm**

**Meet the Teacher on Zoom**

**Tuesday / Wednesday 15 / 16 February**

**Class Photos**

**Wednesday / Thursday 2 / 3 March**

**Teacher Only Day**

**Friday 18 March (School Closed)**

**End of Term**

**Wednesday 13 April 3:00 pm**

**Teacher Only Day**

**Thursday 14 April (School Closed)**

### **Canteen Days 2022** Currently Closed

Would you please check the calendar on our school website ([www.Balmoral.school.nz](http://www.Balmoral.school.nz)) for up-to-date events and times

**Tēnā koutou e te whānau, he mihi nui kia koutou katoa**

We have had a great start to our year. The tamariki have certainly been excited about being back on the school grounds, which has been lovely to see. From talking to a number of the pupils, they all seemed to have had a great holiday. I would like to acknowledge the parents and whānau who have prepared our ākonga so well for learning.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the staff over the Summer holidays who moved classes once again from the old relocatables up into the new primary block and then got it all set up for the start of the year.

Sadly this year, we could not have whānau present for our Intermediate Whakatau this week, and we had to postpone our Primary School Whakatau.

As always, we welcome parental involvement in your child's education and look forward to your continued participation in our school community over the coming year. Educating our students to be successful citizens requires a significant collaborative effort that we highly

value. With COVID interrupting many events, we all have to work doubly hard to develop and sustain these links.

We look forward to continuing to build on our community connection this year.

This year has again thrown a few curve balls our way in responding to the pandemic. Already we have had to adapt our gate openings to minimise the interaction/congregation of parents, staff and pupils. Thank you for your support in these short-notice changes.

We will also have to continue to be very agile in our programme delivery. We recognise that online learning is a poor substitute for 'kanohi ke te kanohi' (face to face) learning for most pupils. So while we intend to try and keep the school open, at times this year, we may need to deliver online learning.

**Nāku noa**  
**Malcolm Milner**  
**Principal (Te Tumuaki)**

## High Achievement

Yesterday I was contacted by two parents whose children had been incredibly successful in the Year 13 scholarship exams and had attended Balmoral Primary and Intermediate. One student gained three scholarship subjects in 'The Arts' and the other young man six scholarships in 'The Sciences'.

Both families thanked our school for our role in their success. They both recognised the importance of a curriculum that values creativity and critical thinking as preparing these young people for their challenges at secondary school and being able 'to think'.

It is always lovely to hear such messages from our community about the achievement of past students. We wish these young men all the best as they start their tertiary education.

## Meet the Teacher Evening Wednesday and Thursday 15 / 16 February

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, we will be holding our meet the teacher evening for whānau by Zoom. The following times will apply

### Tuesday 15 Feb

4:30 Year 1

5:00 Year 3-4

5:30 Year 8

### Wednesday 16 Feb

4:30 Year 2

5:00 Year 5-6

5:30 Year 7

The purpose of the evening is to acquaint yourself with your child's teacher and some of the learning the ākonga will engage in through 2022.

If you wish to talk about your child's learning specifically, you will need to make an alternative appointment to speak in-depth to your child's teacher. Unfortunately, you will not have the opportunity to do so at these Zooms.

You will receive a Zoom invitation to these meetings on Monday, 14 February.

## Primary School Blessing

On Wednesday 2 February at 7 am, we held our dawn blessing for the Primary School. I would like to acknowledge whānau for their support of this blessing, especially Matua Hare Paniora. Sadly, we could not have our wider school community join us for such an auspicious occasion.



## Communication through Email

Email has allowed us to communicate more efficiently and effectively within our Balmoral School community. Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date with the school office.

To ensure all parties (staff, students, parents and the wider community) find that email continues to be effective, we have developed school guidelines around its use. Please find below the procedures that are relevant to parents. Thank you in advance for following these guidelines.

- Teachers will reply to an email within three working days (72 hours)
- During the day, they are expected to be working with children.
- Please do not expect an immediate response from them or email them in the afternoon about a change of plans after school.

### Email Etiquette

1. Try to decide if you are sending this email for information giving or other reasons: organisation of events, meetings and information sharing are the best use of email as a form of communication.
2. Keep the email brief and include a clear subject line as a header so people can swiftly identify if it is relevant to them.

3. Make sure that it is clear in your email what the purpose of the email is - do you require specific action, or is the email for information only?
4. Do not use email for complaining or venting.
5. Do not use email as an excuse to avoid personal contact.  
A simple rule of thumb asks yourself if you would say what you have written to the person's face.

### **Parents to Staff email (Contact your child's teacher if you wish to talk about their learning)**

1. If you have any concerns about your child, in the first instance, you need to contact your child's classroom teacher to make a time to meet to discuss. This appointment can be made via email. Please inform your child's teacher of your concerns before the meeting so they can prepare.

If your concerns can be addressed via a conversation on the phone, please inform your child's teacher, and this will be arranged.

## School Hours

### **Intermediate**

- Classes begin at **8.40 am**: children should be at school by **8:25 am**
  - **Intermediate children are allowed into school grounds from 8.15 am**
  - **The Intermediate Gates open at 8:15 am**

### **Primary**

- Classes begin at **9 am**: children should be at school by **8:45 am**
  - **Primary children are allowed into school grounds from 8.30 am**
  - **The Primary Gates open at 8:30 am**

No children are allowed on our grounds before these times. Staff often have meetings before school or are setting up the rooms for the day. Therefore, they are not available to supervise children.

We request that parents recognise these parts of teacher's day as necessary preparation time.

**School finishes when the bell rings at 2:55 pm for the Intermediate and at staggered times for the Primary. All children are expected to have left the grounds by 3.10 pm.**

If you require your children to be looked after outside of these hours, we offer on-site and after school care through an independent contractor. You can contact Stephen and his team through [Balmoral@skids.co.nz](mailto:Balmoral@skids.co.nz) or on 021 975632.

## Term Dates 2022

### **Term One:**

Tuesday 8 February - Thursday 14 April

### **Term Two:**

Monday 2 May - Friday 8 July

### **Term Three:**

Monday 25 July - Friday 30 September

### **Term Four:**

Monday 17 October - Tuesday 20 December

### **2022 Public Holidays:**

Waitangi Day:	Monday 7 February
Good Friday:	Friday 15 April
Easter Monday	Monday 18 April
Anzac Day	Monday 25 April
Queens Birthday	Monday 6 June
Matariki	Friday 24 June
Labour Day	Monday 24 October

## Teacher Only Days

All New Zealand schools are required by regulation to be open a specific number of days each year. Sometimes we close the school for pupils and add an extra day somewhere else in the school year to meet the regulated requirement of days open for instruction.

This year we have four Teacher Only Days where our school will be closed.

**Friday 18 March** T.O.D

School Closed

**Thursday 14 April** T.O.D

School Closed (Attached to School Holidays)

**Friday 3 June** T.O.D

School Closed (Attached to Queens Birthday)

## Staff Update

I would like to welcome Megan Beattie, a new teacher in our Primary School. Megan previously taught at Epsom Normal, in the UK and at a primary school in Wellington. I am sure Megan will enjoy being part of our school's community.

The school said goodbye to Pauline Morgan during the school holidays. Pauline was a key member of our Learning Support Team. We will miss her cheerful, happy manner in our classrooms.

## School Counsellor

The Board have decided to employ a School Counsellor again in 2022 to support our tamariki.

Supreet is a Registered Clinical Arts Therapist and Alcohol and Drug Practitioner based in Auckland. She works with adults and adolescents in the mental health, addictions, forensic and trauma sectors.

Supreet will be at school from Thursday 24 February. Staff, parents and children can make referrals using the online referral form. A link will be sent out later.

As this is a limited resource, cases allocated will be based on need as decided by the school process.

## Sun Hats

Thanks to those parents who have sent their children to school with a school sun hat. Sun hats are compulsory at Balmoral School. Any child who does not have a hat is required to sit in the shade during morning tea and lunch.

Hats can be purchased from the school office for \$18.50

## Free On-Line Parenting Programmes

The **Free online parenting programme**

**Triple P Online, Teen Triple P Online, and Fear- Less Triple P Online**

The **Triple P Online, Teen Triple P Online, and Fear- Less Triple P Online** are now available FREE online to all parents and caregivers in Auckland.

## Wellbeing Support

Support your child's emotional wellbeing and help reduce stress for the whole whānau. The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® has helped thousands of Aotearoa families be happier, cope better with stress, and enjoy family life more.

Choose the FREE online course that's right for you to help with child or teen anxiety, general parenting issues, and supporting your child's development. An entire range of tips and tools is available to all parents and caregivers in our region. Find out more at <https://triplep.online/nzmoh>.

Free access to Triple P Online, Teen Triple P Online, and Fear-Less Triple P Online has been funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Health, with support from Whāiaurau.

### Attentive Parenting Programme

**The RTLb Cluster 7 is pleased to offer the Incredible Years - Attentive Parenting Programme (online via Zoom).** The Attentive Parenting® program is a **7-week** group-based "universal parenting programme. This is one of the Incredible Years Parenting Programmes focusing on foundational parent skills.

It is suitable for ALL parents of children 4-8 years to promote their children's emotional regulation, social competence, problem-solving, and school readiness. **The Ministry of Education funds the course at no cost to parents.**

**The course will be held on Wednesday during the day by Zoom**

Our start date is below, and our times will be set shortly. It is a daytime course

Dates: 23 February - 13 April

Course materials will be posted to you once your registration is confirmed.

Course numbers are limited to 14.

Please contact Grace [Graceh@rtlb7.school.nz](mailto:Graceh@rtlb7.school.nz) or Julia [Julial@rtlb7.school.nz](mailto:Julial@rtlb7.school.nz) to register your interest by 14 February. Please include your phone number and the age of your child/children.

### Building Progress

This is the fourth year of our major school rebuild.



We are very close to completing this very complex rebuild of our school. We are very appreciative and lucky to now have state of the art classrooms and eventually more comprehensive school facilities and grounds that will support children and their learning.

Over the summer break, the builders completed a substantial amount of work. Our Primary Block is complete, and students are occupying the Hubs. Southbase is currently back on-site fixing a number of defects. It will be great to have this all signed off as soon as possible.

The school is currently funding the re-establishment of the school grounds and planting. Jeff and his team have been working hard on the Junior School playground, sandpit and mud kitchen over the summer. They have also been planting in the middle school netball courts

and rebuilding a historic stone wall, built during the Great Depression, damaged during construction.

All the temporary classrooms have been removed from the school fields. Southbase has to complete remediation of the school fields. Once this has been achieved the Board have instructed NZ Turf institute to upgrade the eastern half of the school field. This will include ensuring a level playing field and laying field drains to ensure greater use of the fields. The western field will be completed later in the year.

There has been a delay in completing the pool. However, we have received a sensible solution to water egress in the pool shed from the project team, and the builders have finally been issued with an instruction to complete the work. We are now waiting for them to give us a timeframe for completion.

We expect the waterproof sunshades for the two amphitheatres (outdoor teaching spaces) to be installed over the next two weeks. We are waiting for the installers to identify an appropriate date to complete this.

**Further photos of our build can be found on the Balmoral Primary and Intermediate Facebook Page.**

### Keeping Children Safe On-Line



Over the last few years, more learning has been happening online. Young people are also spending greater amounts of time on digital devices. This increased time can also expose them to a greater amount of risk online

Our school's network provider N4Ln provides a free protection service for our families.

[Switch on Safety filter](#) helps keep ākonga safe when learning from home. It is a free filter that blocks the worst of the web so that children don't have to deal with scam websites, malicious software and inappropriate content. Download at Switch on Safety.

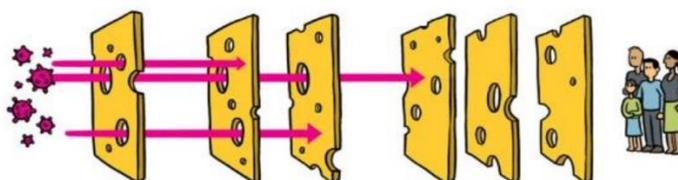
### COVID Update

# COVID-19



There are many things that schools and Kura can do to reduce further the risk and impact of a COVID-19 case in their environments.

As the cheese model below explains, our school has adopted layers of preventative measures to protect staff and students.



The more layers of protection in place (e.g., good hygiene practices, handwashing, ventilation, cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas regularly etc.), the harder it is for the virus to get through.

To help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, we will be following these guidelines at school

- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Create a culture where face-covering wearing is normalised for years 0 and above
- Maintain physical distancing as much as possible
- Encourage good hygiene practices
  - Hand hygiene
  - Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, including cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces, as well as regular cleaning
- Ensure children/tamariki, students or staff members with COVID-19 symptoms get a COVID-19 test and remain at home until a negative result is received and they are symptom-free for 24 hours
- Reduce mixing as much as possible of the children/tamariki, and staff

### **Notifying School of Sickness**

Please let the office know before 9:00 am if your child is going to be late or away from school due to sickness or travel: email [absences@balmoral.school.nz](mailto:absences@balmoral.school.nz), website <http://www.balmoral.school.nz/absence/> or phone 09 6387960.

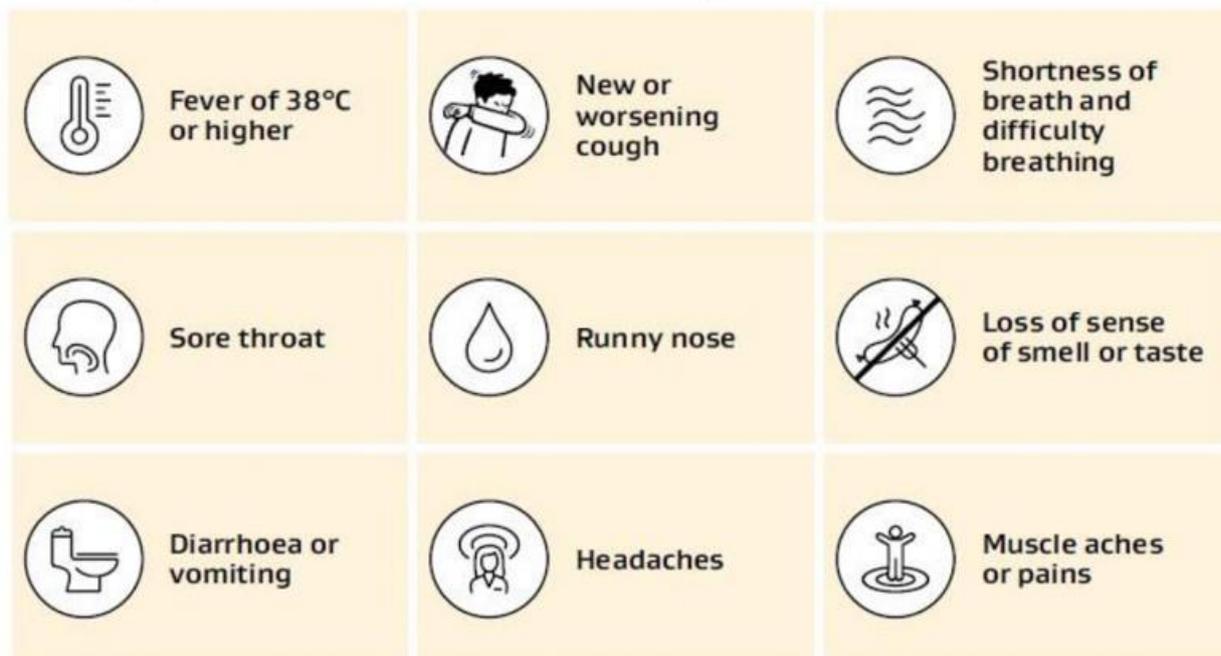
All un-notified absences result in a text message to query the student's whereabouts. Caregivers can reply to these texts, but it reduces unnecessary work if the office doesn't have to send them in the first place.

Unexplained absences automatically change to 'truant' mark with the Ministry, so you must let the office know as early as possible if your child is going to be late or absent – the office can then put the correct code on the electronic roll.

## Sickness and Absenteeism

Anyone who is unwell with COVID-like symptoms should not be at school. Students who arrive at school with one or more of these symptoms (see below) will be sent home.

COVID-19 symptoms can include one or more of the following:



If pupils receive a negative test, they should not return to school until symptom-free for at least 24 hours.

## HOW TO ACCESS VACCINATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Immunisation against COVID-19 for 5 to 11-year-old children adds another layer of protection for them and their community alongside wearing masks, vaccination of older siblings and adults, ventilation, distancing, hand washing, and staying home and getting tested unwell.

In December last year, MedSafe approved the Pfizer vaccine for children aged 5-11 years, and the tamariki vaccination programme was launched on 17 January, 2022. This update is to provide schools with some more specific information about the tamariki vaccination rollout in Auckland and how your students and school community can access information and vaccination.

Children can be immunised against COVID-19 at similar locations to those used in the vaccination rollout so far, with many sites accepting walk-ins (no booking needed):

- - GPs
- - Pharmacies
- - Pop-up events in the community
- - Community Vaccination Centres

There is lots of capacity across the system and no vaccine supply shortage. Check out <https://immunisation.northernregion.health.nz/getting-vaccinated/where-to-get-vaccinated/> for your closest walk or drive-in vaccination centre. This website also includes details of which sites have low-sensory or accessible settings for those tamariki who may need it. You can also check if your local GP or pharmacy takes bookings or walk-ins.



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