

Friday 31 January 2020

Kia Ora Pihinga Whānau

Welcome back. We hope that you all had a wonderful break over the Christmas period and managed to enjoy some time with your whānau and friends. A special welcome to all our new whānau who have joined us this year.



At the beginning of each term we will send out a newsletter outlining the term's events that are especially pertinent to our team. A copy of these letters may be found on the school website www.ashgrove.school.nz and also on the school app. Here you will also find a copy of the school newsletters and a calendar of events. It is a good idea to keep checking back so you are aware of all the events that are happening within our school. To download the school app on your device, visit the play store or app store, search for school apps nz, once loaded then search for Ashgrove School and download the app. This app gives you updates on school activities. Be sure to sign into the hub/learning team of your tamariki to keep up to date with news and events.

This year our team comprises of three classrooms of Year 0/1 tamariki – Mrs Roberts in Pihinga 1, Mrs Green in Pihinga 2 and Mrs Henry in Pihinga 3. We will be planning on a team basis to provide consistency across our team.

Learning Focus

This term our main focus is based around 'Myself, My Whānau and I'. We will be looking at ourselves, our school environment and our whānau, focussing on developing relationships, routines, and making connections within our community.

Values

At Ashgrove School we have STAR Values. This stands for "Service, Trust, Attitude, Respect and Responsibility". Each term the school focuses on a different STAR value. This term is Respect (Whakaute) and Responsibility (Takahanga). Your tamariki may earn tickets for any of the Star values throughout their week from kaiako. The children have individual kete bags to collect their tickets. These tickets are totaled each week and can be used to buy rewards at the end of the term. For each Whole School Assembly the tickets are collected in and there is a prize draw. One lucky Pihinga child will have their name pulled out of the box and will go up on stage for the Star Drop. The child will place a token on the Star Drop game and win a prize that matches the number they land on.

Dates for Term 1

Meet the Kaiako Evening - We warmly invite all parents and caregivers to the Ashgrove School Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 4 February. The first session will be at 5.30 and the second session at 6.10 in Pihinga 1. This will give you an opportunity to meet all of the Pihinga kaiako, hear about what we will be up to this year and how ako/learning will be structured and run. This will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have. Both sessions will have the same information so no need to come twice! We look forward to seeing you there.



Whānau meetings- 18 and 19 February.

Pihinga Celebration Assembly - Wednesday 1 April at 2.15pm.

Routines and Reminders

Oral Language - Children may bring a toy or small item from home to share with their homeroom on a Wednesday. Please place the toy in the class news box upon arrival to school.

Team Hui - This is held fortnightly on Fridays for tamariki to share and celebrate their learning together and sing songs. Some certificates will be given out to celebrate the tamariki's successes throughout the week.

Fruit Snack – Please make sure your tamariki has a healthy fruit or vegetable snack at school each day. Please no fruit pouches, yoghurt pouches, cheese or crackers. It needs to be small and preferably in a named container. If it is an apple please cut into smaller pieces for your tamariki. If their snack is not finished at snack time they can finish it at morning tea.



Morning Tea and Lunch - All tamariki need to take their rubbish back home in their lunch boxes. We strongly encourage litter free lunches as we do not have rubbish bins outside which is part of the Enviro Schools Programme. Tamariki need to be able to open items in their lunch independently. It is a good idea to pre open packages at home if they are difficult for your child to open.

Shoes – Please make sure your tamariki only wears shoes with laces if they can independently tie them.

We encourage your tamariki to be responsible for their own belongings by unpacking each day when they arrive at school. It is great for the tamariki to carry their own bag and take responsibility for looking after themselves now they are at school.

School Day - The school opens from 8.30am. If you arrive before the bell at 8.30am, please wait beside the office area near the main gate or by the scooter shed on the field as kaiako are still preparing for the day. Please be considerate at the end of the day and wait for your child in an appropriate place so that children are focussed and not distracted by family until the 3.00pm bell rings. A clearance bell rings at 3:10pm.

Sick Child - If your child is unwell please keep them at home so sickness is not spread within the team. Notify the school office via the app or phone the school before 9am.

Scooters - If you scooter to school please dismount your scooter before you enter school grounds. Scooters can be stored in the shed on the park during the day. Any bikes must be parked in the bike stands behind the hall and locked. However it is recommended by our local Police Constable Ken Terry that children under the age of 10 do not bike to school due to safety reasons.

Whole School Assembly - Every second Friday morning from 9:10am the school meets in the hall. One child

from each homeroom will receive a Star Certificate during this assembly. If your child is going to receive the certificate the office will contact you a day before to let you know so you can attend. Parents are welcome to attend the Whole School Assembly. We ask that you sit around the outside of the hall please.

Uniform

Please check that all school uniform items are clearly named and that your child has a named sunhat. If your child may require a change of clothes due to toilet training please provide these in your child's bag.

Urgent Messages

Please leave telephone messages with the office staff who will then pass these on to class kaiako at the next break. This will help to eliminate disruptions to the learning programmes.

We appreciate your support with these matters.

We are looking forward to a wonderful and exciting term. If you have any matters you wish to discuss then please feel free to make an appointment to see your tamariki's class kaiako.

Ngā mihi,

Nic Green, Emily Henry and Kaye Roberts

Pihinga Team