

Waikowhai Intermediate School



WAIKOWHAI
INTERMEDIATE

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Tuesday 1st February

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Waikōwhai Intermediate for the 2022 school year. Ensuring that students and staff are safe and happy is always our first consideration in our planning before focussing on teaching and learning. Starting this year in Red Level, and with Omicron in the community, we have had to spend a little longer as a team ensuring that everyone's well-being is looked after, and we are planned in a way to have as little disruption to teaching and learning as possible.

With the support of the Board of Trustees, we have been able to ensure we have the staffing to re-work our timetable, so that we have teachers available to cover in case of absence when needed. All classes are still planned to receive the same curriculum as in a normal school year, but the timetable in behind how we run things has increased staff cover. So all classes will still experience four different Specialist classes in 2022, with a programme that runs for one term. With the extra cover we have employed, we will be able to cover classes internally, which means any teachers in front of our children this year, will already be part of our Waikōwhai Intermediate team, and therefore minimise disruption to learning.

At the start of the school day we are asking all children to head straight to class. Tomorrow, details will come home from teachers regarding what the first day will look like, and their classes for 2022. At the end of each day, Year 7 students will finish at 2.55pm, and Year 8 at 3pm. Any students with siblings, or travelling together, can leave at the same time. The Auckland Transport buses will follow their normal timetable, but our KiwiCoach Bus to Mangere Bridge will leave at the earlier time of 2.45pm.

Many of the Public Health requirements that were in place at the end of Term 4 are still in place in schools. Teachers and students are required to wear a mask when indoors, hand washing is important and we have sanitiser in all classrooms, cough and sneeze hygiene is always important, and any staff or children who are unwell should stay home and get tested.

I have confidence in the plan that we have created that we are in a strong position to have as little disruption to learning and teaching as possible. As we move forward we will continue to communicate as things change, either in a fortnightly Newsletter, or in a more timely way as necessary. Please also keep open lines of communication with the school, as working in partnership together always gets the best outcomes for our children. Email is always a good first point of contact, and all emails are on our school website, my email is dking@wai-int.school.nz.

We look forward to the year ahead, there will be challenges that we need to meet together along the way, but we also know that at Waikōwhai Intermediate there is always a huge variety of great learning opportunities and good fun, and we will deliver that again in 2022.

There are some other school routines to share for the start of the year:

Summer heat - Hats, sunscreen, drink bottles

Please remind your child to bring and wear their school hat, available from the uniform shop. We also accept plain, all black or navy caps. It is a good idea to provide your child with roll on sunscreen if you can, however sunscreen is also available at school. We have a number of drinking fountains around the school where children can fill up their drink bottles. It is also a good idea to provide your child with hand sanitiser if you can, while we have plenty at school, it is good practice for children to manage this themselves and also ease congestion at the sanitiser bottles at school.

Mobile Phones, money and other valuables

All children need to hand in mobile phones to their teachers at 8.30am. If children are bringing money to school for lunch they should order in the morning and keep any money with them securely on their person, or hand it into their classroom teacher. Our tuckshop is open from the first day back at school. No other valuables should be at school, and if required, should be handed into the classroom teacher in the morning. As a school we are unable to take responsibility for children's belongings that are left in bags.

School shoes

We have tried to keep our rules about school shoes as simple as possible for families so children can get shoes that suit their needs. School shoes must be all black shoes, which means no white or colour on the shoes, including the soles of the shoes and logos.

Pick-up and drop off from school

Traffic flow before and after school is always an issue. At Waikowhai Intermediate we are fortunate that behind our school there is a cricket club at our end of Keith Hay Park that has a carpark that can be used for pick-up and drop off as the front of school is very busy.

Ngā mihi nui,

David King
Principal

....developing life-long learners...