

## 20 May 2020 Term 2 Week 6

Kia Ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

We're back!! It has been a fantastic start at The Vale with everyone, students and staff alike, very keen to get back to routine and school way of life. Staff have commented how very impressed they have been with the way students have been following the rules of Level 2 in school and the safe practices we have in place. Ka pai koutou!

As expected with the return to school, there are a number of notices that need attention so please ensure you keep updated this week. If there are any concerns you are welcome to contact the office for clarification.

### Level 2 Safety Rules

It is vital we all follow the rules, including whānau members, when coming to school. For those who need reminding, they are:

- Please stay home if you are unwell.
- Safe hygiene practices must be followed when at school - washing hands regularly, coughing etiquette and distancing when possible.
- No one is permitted on to school grounds with the exception of students and staff. All visitors, including parents, caregivers and whānau, must check in at the office on arrival.
- When dropping off or collecting children, please wait in your vehicle or if on foot, waiting at the front entry of the school maintaining a safe distance from others.
- If you have any concerns in regard to your child's return, we encourage you to contact the office.

### School Uniform

Due to COVID-19, there has been a hold up with our current winter supply from our uniform company. Unfortunately they will not be available for at least another two weeks. We understand that many of our whānau are waiting on items from this order. To that end, Merivale School Board Of Trustees has decided that until the delivery arrives, students who do not have the correct uniform have permission to wear dark pants/trousers and dark jerseys/hoodies. These items must have little to no writing or logos on them. Once the supply arrives, the correct school uniform will need to be worn. A price list is available at the office for those needing to purchase items.

### Whakawhanaungatanga

As previously mentioned, our theme this term is Whakawhanaungatanga or relationships. In many ways, the theme relates to our collective approach with dealing with the new 'normal' at Merivale School. Over the coming weeks there will be opportunities for students and staff to further strengthen this theme among themselves and the school community as a whole. We invite and encourage whānau to engage with your child's classroom learning to be part of this journey.

### Whakamaharatanga

On behalf of Merivale School, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to Whaea Naomi and whānau at this time who are dealing with the loss of their father and koro last week. Moe moe ra, e Matua. Whaea Los is currently working in Akomanga 2 until Whaea Naomi's return to NHEW and Merivale School.

*Ko te pouri te wa engari ka mutu ano hoki -  
Sadness has a season but it too, shall pass*

Nga Mihi  
Matua Tom

### FOUND

A black puffer jacket was found on Henderson Crescent. Please contact the school office if this belongs to you.

### THROAT SWABBING

The Public Health Nurses are coming back into school twice weekly to continue with swabbing throat for Group A strep as part of the rheumatic fever prevention programme. There has been an increase in the number of cases over the past 6 weeks. If your children have not returned to school and they have been complaining of a sore throat please contact Jan in the school office and she will make arrangements for a public health nurse to visit your home to swab their throat if you are unable to take them to the doctor. **Please note** that this is **not** a COVID test.

### HEADLICE

As we get back into school life, please remember to be regularly checking your child's hair for headlice and treating if necessary. We have free treatment shampoo and combs in the school office available to all.

