

BIRKDALE

Respect Integrity Perseverance Empathy

NORTHSCHOOL *Manaaki Whakakotahi Manawanui Aroha*

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Our School policies can be found in [SchoolDocs](#).

Search for 'Birkdale North School' from the tab in the top right corner 'Search for your School'.

Tekau Pipirir 2022
Tenth June 2022

Kawerongo
Newsletter

Kaupeka kura tuarua
Term 2

Principal's voice:

Tēnā koutou, talofa, bonjour, malo e lelei, kia orana and hello,

I hope you all had a good Queens birthday weekend and took the opportunity to get out and about when the weather allowed. It has come to the time of year where as soon as the sun shines you have to drop everything else and take advantage of any sunshine we have!

Covid is still around, please be cautious and follow our guidelines.

We are doing our best to keep the school open and operating, but it is not easy! At the moment we are averaging 3-4 staff off sick each week (Flu's, sickness, household contacts, covid symptoms and of course cases of covid also). Being a small school this impacts on our resources. Relief teachers are hard to get and are being shared among many schools.

So far we have managed not to close classes but please be aware that this is still a possibility. It will most definitely be a last resort but need you to be aware it could happen.

Procedures in and around school

Following on from our situation with illness and lack of relieving teachers we are finding that less of our children (year 4-6) are wearing masks and fewer of our parents are also coming into school wearing masks.

Every little bit helps and we ask you to encourage the children in years 4 to 6 to wear masks inside class. We also ask that you wear a mask when entering the school grounds, please. This may help to keep illness at bay and ultimately mean that we can keep the whole school open.

You are welcome to attend our Whakataua

We are having a Whakataua next week on Wednesday 15th June. You are welcome to join us.

The Whakataua will be starting at 9:15 am and would request that you are in the hall and seated by 9:05.am.

We are welcoming all new people from the beginning of this year. If you are part of the Manahiri (visitors) we will email you individually.

Please RSVP by emailing to office@birkdalenorth.school.nz if you are intending to join us. Please indicate how many will be attending.

How do we communicate with you?

We have a few different ways of communication:

- We email
- We have our [website](https://www.birkdalenorth.school.nz/) <https://www.birkdalenorth.school.nz/>
- You can follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BirkdaleNorthSchool) <https://www.facebook.com/BirkdaleNorthSchool>
- We use schoolAppsNZ
- To download the App Scan the QR code for access from a compatible Android or iOS mobile device



Or search SchoolAppsNZ on your smartphone and download. This is the icon you will see:



Crossing patrols

It is great to see our Road Patrol students on patrol again. The students are so excited and enthusiastic to be involved. Thank you to the parents for your encouragement. I would ask that you show patience as they become accustomed to their roles. The Road Patrol team consists of three or four people - an adult, usually a teacher, and two students on signs, plus one student on the school gate.

We realise you are busy but it is important we role model the correct places to cross. Please, if you are crossing the road use the correct crossing even if it means you have to walk an extra few metres. There will come a time when you want your child to cross by themselves, let's teach the safe way to do that.

The students have set words they use:

Lead Road Patroller (On the school side)	Road Patroller on the opposite side
"Signs out" (The students put signs out and will use their left arm as a barrier to indicate to pedestrians not to cross yet.)	
"Check" (The Lead Road Patroller does another check of the road.)	
	"Clear" (The other Road Patroller will also check and confirm.)
"Cross now" (The Road Patrollers will drop their left arm and allow pedestrians to cross.)	
"Signs in" (is said as the signs are brought in.)	

Trips to the planetarium

It was quite a task getting booked for the planetarium and then making sure it was not coinciding with other events at school. Thank you to all who have replied to the letters. If you have not yet sent back consent please do so as soon as possible as this impacts on the organisation of the trip:

- The Seniors go on Thursday 30th June
- The Juniors go on Friday 1st July

Walking into school safely

Please use the footpaths when walking into school. Walking in the car park is unsafe and is not role modelling safe practices for children.

As you are aware we have building work happening at school which means there are vehicles coming in and out of the school frequently. We also have buses delivering children to Wairau Valley Special School at the beginning and end of the day, as well as the usual flow of traffic that happens in a school day.

We want our students to be safe, please walk on the footpaths and if you drop them off at the gate remind your children to do the same.

Fencing at the front gate

You will have noticed the posts are in place at the front gate and at the entrance to Roseneath Place. It has taken a bit longer than expected to get the fencing up but it is coming!!

I would like to let everyone know this is not about locking people out of school. We very much consider ourselves part of the community and encourage our community into the school. The grounds will still be open at the weekends and after school. Please if you have anyone who has expressed concerns about this assure them that we don't intend locking people out!

It became apparent during Covid lockdowns that we needed extra protection around our school for those times when we needed to ensure the safety of our tamariki. Once the fence is in place it gives us the option to be able to lock the school when we need to.

Matariki Disco and public holiday

Matariki public holiday falls on 24th June. We have in the past had a Matariki disco for our tamariki which has been very popular.

Because of the holiday and the need to think about the wellbeing of the teachers, we have decided that the disco will take place on Thursday 23rd June but within school time.

The theme will be "come dressed as a star", the tamariki can interpret that in any way they like! We will have a fun afternoon and tire them out before they get home. We will set up some quiet areas for those children who find it a bit overwhelming. I am sorry but you won't get your free time in the evening this year but perhaps organise a nice coffee in a cafe before you pick your children up at the end of the day!

We will give children the opportunity to change into their "disco gear" at lunch time.

Up and coming events

Please remember to check our calendar on the website.

School Term Dates

Term 2 Monday 2nd May - Friday 8th July
Term 3 Monday 25th July - Friday 30th September
Term 4 Monday 17th October - Wednesday 14th December

Public Holidays - school closed

Friday 24th June - Matariki
Monday 24th October - Labour Day

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 14th June - BNS Cross Country - 1:30 - 3:00pm
Wednesday 15th June - Whakatau
Thursday 16th June - BOT meeting - 6:15pm all welcome
Tuesday 21st June - Interschool Cross country
Wednesday 22nd June - Badminton Taster day (years 4-6)
Thursday 23rd June - Matariki disco (in the afternoon during school hours)
Monday 27th June - Class, Individual & Sibling Photos
Wednesday 29th June - Badminton Taster day (years 4-6)
Thursday 30th June - Stardome Trip (senior classes)
Tuesday 5th July - Inter School Football
Wednesday 7th July - Reports sent home.
Thursday 7th July - Stardome Trip (junior classes)
Friday 8th July - Last day of Term 2
Monday 25th July - First day of Term 3

Noho ora mai rā,

Jan.