



Ph. 07 888 7396

Newsletter February 22nd 2021

Office@firth.school.nz

Mobile: 027 266 0365

www.firth.school.nz

Kia ora te whanau

PRINCIPALS BLURB

Nau mai haere mai te kura o Firth. Welcome back to our school for another exciting year of learning. A special welcome to our new staff and students to our Firth whanau, we hope you will enjoy being part of our learning journey here at Firth. We are currently developing our strategic plan and establishing our localised curriculum that reflects our unique learning community. Our focus is on developing our vision and values to create a language of learning. Our whanaungatanga plan is a new initiative that promotes positive behaviour using restorative strategies. This also encompasses our whanau teams which replace our house teams. We have been working closely with iwi and developing partnerships that will enhance our knowledge of tikanga and te reo maori. Our teachers have engaged in two learning opportunities guided by iwi, participating in haerenga, learning about the history of the Matamata. This will support the implementation and teaching of the history of Aotearoa curriculum. We are excited to engage with the Wairere Toi team, an initiative we set up last year with our year 6 boys. This year we are excited to once again have them working in the school, with all our students, on a Thursday afternoon as part of our whanau teams activities. Students will rotate each week in their whanau teams with teachers and students collaboratively learning the history, waiata, haka, tikanga and te reo.

Our teachers continue to work alongside Massey University to build teacher capability in Mathematics. We will be having a Teacher only day on **Thursday 1st April** to allow our teachers to travel to Tauranga to work with a school to develop further our Mathematics programme at Firth.

Bell Times

Our bell times will remain the same for 2021 as we have seen this benefit the students last year. These will be our bell times for 2021.

9.00 am school begins

11.00 am morning tea - students play

11.30 am students sit and eat

11.45 am students in class

1.00 pm lunch break - students play

1.30 pm students eat lunch

1.45 pm students in class

3.00 pm school ends

COVID Alert Level update

We are now in alert level 1 which means our parents are welcome back into our school grounds. Thank you to all of our whanau for your patience and calmness this week. It certainly is reflected in our students. We continue to support sanitising and coughing into our elbows to keep everyone safe. If your child feels unwell please keep them home.

Communication

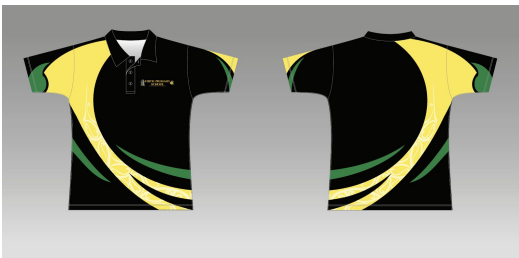
We are using several platforms for communicating with whanau. School loop, Facebook, Website, email and txt will be the avenues that we are committed to using to deliver consistent communication of information. We will be sending out a google form for you to complete. Please complete your contact details so we have up to date and correct contact information.

Touch Rugby

Touch rugby begins on 24th February and runs for 6 weeks. We will have teams of mixed gender, years 5 & 6 and years 3 & 4. We are excited to be sporting our new uniform this year and we take on other schools in the touch competition.

Uniforms

Thank you for your patience as we wait for our uniforms and hats to arrive. I apologise that these are taking so long, I am as frustrated as all of you however due to COVID and the chinese new year shipments have been slow moving from China. We are hoping these are here within the next 3 weeks. You will have the option to purchase a polo shirt or sports shirt. They are both \$40 each. Your child will need a compulsory school hat that you can also purchase at the school office for \$15. All students will require a regulation hat to access outdoor play areas. We will review the optional uniform again at the end of 2021 and we ask that your child wear plain black on the bottom, shorts, track pants, skirt or tights.



Whanaungatanga

At the end of the year we will put all smiley faces in a grand draw and we will have two bikes that 2 lucky students will win a bike at the end of year prizegiving.



Whanaungatanga In the Playground.....

Teachers are responsible for giving out smiley faces to students in the playground that have been displaying our Firth Values. The student then writes their name and room number on the back and they place these in the whanau points box situated in each classroom. Students receive 10 whanau points that are recorded on the whanau team chart which is displayed in each classroom. At the end of the week these will be collected by our student leaders and a draw will take place at assembly held each fortnight. Students will receive a duffy book if their name is drawn from the box. 2 draws for Juniors and 2 draws for Seniors.

Term Dates 2021

Term 1 2021 - Wednesday 3rd February - Friday 16th April

Teacher Only Day - Thursday 1st April

EASTER - Friday 2nd April - Tuesday 6th April

Last day of term 1 - Friday 16th April

Term 2 - Monday 3rd May - Friday 9th July

Term 3 - Monday 26th July - Friday 1st October

Term 4 - Monday 18th October - Wednesday 15th December



Keep up-to-date with what is happening at Firth Primary School on our Website. Firth Newsletters are now available at www.firth.school.nz. Firth Primary School Facebook page. We have a facebook page - please 'like' our page to keep up to date with what's happening.

Nga Mihi
Michelle Ryan
Principal