

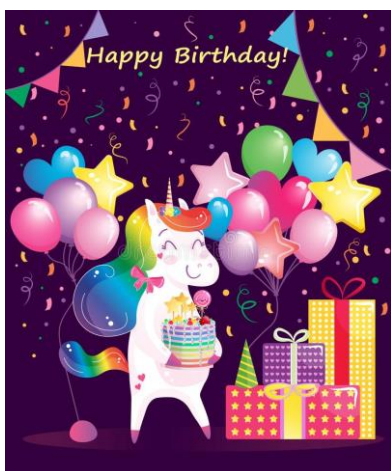
We have had some well-deserved rain around the place. It is quite amazing and most helpful that we have only had a couple of wet lunchtimes indoors. This means we have been able to get outside and really enjoy the warmth.

With Covid still working its way slowly through our school we certainly appreciate getting outside as often as we can. The tamariki and staff have continued on with quality learning in spite of the comings and goings as children and staff are away.

I am so impressed with the resilience of our kids as they leave and reintegrate on a 7 day cycle. We hope that you are all as well as is possible and that any Covid related symptoms have been mild.



To:
Liam and Elijah in Room 1



To our April birthday children:

Jacob, Micaela, Aradia, Hanna-Lee, Liam, Khloee and Georgia.

Covid

At Thornton School we are still seeing positive cases every day and currently we have had close to 10% of our children positive and now most returning to school after isolation. Our absences have been as high as 52% but we are still carrying on with our lessons in a changed environment.

Covid is now impacting quite widely across our school with lots of our students becoming household contacts or confirmed cases.

Please continue to monitor your child/ren's health carefully and watch out for symptoms. If they become unwell, please keep them at home and get them tested for Covid, and inform school if they are positive.

Thank you for staying in touch if your family is at home affected by Covid, to let us know what dates that your children test positive. It helps with our tracking and planning.

RATs - We now have Rapid Antigen tests here at school for students if parents need them. You can request these by phoning Kirsten in the school office.

Also thank you for your understanding around many things Covid at our school:

- when school is affected with staff members being away and us having to be flexible and inventive when covering staff absences
- waiting behind the orange cones when picking up your child/ren
- not coming on to school site unless absolutely needed
- wearing masks and signing in when coming into school

Hopefully we will be through the worst of the outbreak in the next few weeks and can then return to some sort of normality.

Those children who are isolating at home have access to the online learning programmes if they require them.

We are looking forward to the announcement on 14 April with the possibility of a shift to Orange level. We will continue with the Red restrictions until the school holidays. So, after school pick up will still be behind the cones.



Common Symptoms of COVID-19

* A new or worsening cough * Sneezing and runny nose * A fever
* Temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste * Sore throat *
Shortness of breath

For more information, go to <https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/about-covid-19/covid-19-symptoms/>, or feel free to call me on 027 321 8022.

School Bus



Thank you to those parents of those children who travel on the school bus who have signed the Bus Transport Code of Conduct.

If you haven't already done so, please share and discuss this Code of Conduct contract with your child if they travel on the school bus. Please note that both parent and child are required to sign this form.

This contract is available through the SchoolStream App.

Stationery and Tech Fees

Thank you to those who have already paid. Payment can be made direct into the school bank account 12-3253-0101698-01 or into Kindo. Please pay these by the end of the term or contact Kirsten in the office if you would like to organise a payment plan.

SchoolDocs

In our last newsletter we talked about SchoolDocs, our school's policies and procedures system.

Parents are able to access these policies and procedures via the School Docs button on the school website or on our SchoolDocs web page simply by going to www.schooldocs.co.nz and searching for Thornton School.

Enter our login name (thornton) and the password (pukeko)

Every term we will be reviewing several of our policies or procedures.

It would be great if our parents could take the time to help us review some of the policies.

All information is on SchoolStream and our website under Policies and Procedures.

Madagascar

We have decided to go ahead with staging our show in May.

At Red level we can have an audience of 200 in masks, following distance restrictions.

In Orange we can relax that to more than 200 in the audience.

So regardless of the levels we will be going ahead. At this stage we are only putting on six shows over three days. We will be inviting other schools to the matinees.

Parents of Rooms 1, 2 and 4 children will only be having two shows depending on what cast they are in. The **revised** cast list is attached to this newsletter. Please check for your child's performance days so you don't miss out on tickets.

Tickets:

Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday 13 April through iTicket

Prices:

Adults - \$15, Child - up to 13 years - \$5

Performance dates in May:

Tuesday 17 th	Jungle cast
Wednesday 18 th	Zoo cast
Thursday 19 th	New York cast

We will be frantically rehearsing over the remaining two weeks of this term and the three weeks at the start of next term leading up to the show.

We have the Little Theatre from Monday 9 May so will be taking children into Whakatane for rehearsals from that day.

Over these days all children will have the opportunity to go to the theatre to rehearse. We will let you know what days children will be leaving school to go in.



The Launchpad Champions programme

These are 30-minute presentations on Wednesday lunchtimes and start again in Week 1 of next term.

Launchpad Champions is provided without charge by volunteers from our local community. Volunteers are trained, police vetted and abide by their Code of Expectations.

Our Launchpad champion volunteer is Margie, who has taken this programme at our school for many years now.

The Launchpad Champions programme is **optional**. Every child is welcome.

Our children can opt in to the programme by completing the form on the app.

The Launchpad Champions programme:

- Is a weekly, 30-minute, fun and interactive presentation using korero, multimedia, music and games to present Christian values.
- Presents korero (stories) from the Bible and well-known role models from NZ history and the world to provide positive examples for our tamariki
- Reinforces school values and supports key competencies in the New Zealand Curriculum/Te Marautanga o Aotearoa
- Supports the health aspect of the curriculum, in particular hauora and the taha wairua/spiritual aspect of te whare tapa whā
- Supports wellbeing in education, including the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, helping children develop social and emotional skills and feel loved and supported
- Supports Aotearoa NZ History, sharing foundational stories with a focus on Māori narratives

2022 - Term Start and End Dates

Term 1: Tuesday 8 February to Thursday 14 April
Anzac Day is in the school holidays.

Term 2: Monday 2 May - Friday 9 July
Queen's Birthday Monday 6 June Matariki Friday 24 June

Term 3: Monday 25 July - Friday 30 September

Term 4: Monday 17 October - Monday 19 December
Labour Day Monday 24 October

Ngā mihi
Shelley Bremner
Principal