

We are now entering the halfway point of the term and COVID continues to impact our school. Thankfully case numbers in the school community have remained low, but it is important that we continue to do everything we can to minimise the spread as the numbers of positive cases in Taranaki rise. All students from Year 4 upwards, other than those who have exemptions, are required to wear a mask while at school. There has been a drop in mask wearing over the last week at the time when it is even more important. Thank you to the families who have made contact about positive COVID tests. If your child tests positive for COVID or is isolating at home, please let the office know and also include your day 10 date if possible (Refer to the table for guidance).

Our classroom programmes continue to run as normal and although overall attendance is down, the students have been making some excellent progress. The Ministry of Education is advising students to attend school whenever possible. We understand that this is a time of high anxiety for our students and their families. Please contact us if there is anything we can do to support you at this time.

How to work out your 10 days of self-isolation

Find out what you need to do if:	you are positive for COVID-19	you are a Household Contact (living with a positive case)*
Day 0	The day you test positive or start experiencing symptoms, whichever is earliest.	Your Day 0 is the same Day 0 as the first positive case in your household.
Day 3	-	Get a Day 3 test today, or sooner if symptoms develop. If it's positive, start a new 10 days of self-isolation.
Day 10	-	Get a Day 10 test today, or sooner if symptoms develop. If it's positive, start a new 10 days of self-isolation.
Day 11	After 10 days, as long as you are free of COVID-19 symptoms, you will be free to leave self-isolation.	After 10 days, as long as you have a negative Day 10 test result and no COVID-19 symptoms, you will be free to leave self-isolation.

start over if you test positive

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
 New Zealand Government

Unite against COVID-19

It is great to be able to have a version of the swimming sports this week with students participating in both competitive events and some participation events that are a bit more fun. Swimming is scheduled to continue to run until the end of next week but this is weather dependent.

Camp

I would like to pass on my congratulations and gratitude to all of our Intermediate families who have donated enough money to reach the minimum funding requirement for the Taupo camp to go ahead. This is a massive effort and a wonderful achievement. It is very humbling to see so many of our families not only covering the amount for their child but also giving more to help cover the cost of other students in the team. This shows just how caring our community are and it is very much appreciated. It is increasingly challenging to keep this type of out of province camp experience alive for our students. Donations can continue to be made towards this camp over the next two weeks.

Our Intermediate staff are now incredibly busy confirming details so if you would like your child to attend, please ensure the medical and consent forms are in tomorrow (Wednesday 9 March).

Covid Attendance Codes

With the situation developing and through the feedback we receive there are a couple of updates and clarifications. We have included the Ministry of Education attendance codes that are used during this time.

- **F (Attending off-site class):** Used when a student is self-isolating as a person in their immediate household has COVID-19. The student is still well and can access learning at home.
- **M (Medical – short term illness):** A student has COVID-19. They are not well and so not expected to be doing any schoolwork.
- **E (Explained Absence – Unjustified):** A student is staying home because they do not feel safe to come to school with COVID-19 in our school community. The reason could be because their own health or the health of someone in their household is vulnerable or they have anxiety which is COVID-19 related.

Our current school attendance rate for this week is 87%

Please remember it is not the office that chooses whether the absence is justified or unjustified. The Ministry of Education supply definitions for the attendance codes that we adhere to.

Justified absences

- Unplanned absences such as a bus breakdown, accident, road closure, extreme weather conditions etc
- Planned non-attendance such as national/local representation in a sporting or cultural event in New Zealand or overseas.
- Approved absence (also overseas) including bereavement, visiting an ill relative, exceptional family circumstances or a Section 27.
- A student accompanying, or visiting a family member who is on an overseas posting. (Up to 15 weeks) Eg, military or diplomatic.

2022 Teacher Only Day

We are required to have the final two Teacher Only Days as part of the most recent teacher collective contract this year. As such the Bell Block School Board has approved a Teacher Only Day for this Friday 11 March. Our staff will be undertaking professional development and developing programmes for students. We appreciate this can be disruptive for families and appreciate your support.

Sports Term 2

Registrations are open for the following winter sports:

Netball	Year 3-8	Closes Wednesday 16 March
Hockey	Year 3-8	Closes Friday 18 March
Mini-Ball/Basketball	Year 1-8	Closes Friday 18 March
Volleyball	Year 7-8	Closes Friday 1 April

Please register online using the Google registration form available from the parent app or Facebook. Registrations must be received by the cut-off date. If you have any queries or if you are having difficulty making payment, please contact our Sports Co-Ordinator by email to sport@bellblock.school.nz



Mini-Ball/Basketball registrations are now open for Year 1-8 students.

Please check the parent app or the registration form for full information including game days, season dates and fees. Please note: New Plymouth Basketball Association operate all its activities using the Vaccine Pass System and require all people over the age of 12 years

3 months involved with the team to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. With the current Traffic Light System at Red, NO PARENTS/SPECTATORS will be permitted into the stadium. Only the players, coach and up to 2 support people will be permitted entry.

Mini-Ball/Basketball registration form: <https://forms.gle/HxwbexQ4NF2nHnFk8>

Registrations close on **Friday 18 March at 11.59pm**. The deadline for payment of fees is Thursday 24 March at 3pm.

Volleyball

Volleyball registrations are now open for Year 7/8 students.

Please check the parent app or the registration form for full information including game days, season dates and fees. Please note: Students are not required to present a vaccine pass, however all adults involved with the team are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and show their Vaccine Pass on arrival.

Volleyball registration form: <https://forms.gle/31m7AcQGu4kY3WW27>

Registrations close on **Friday 1 April at 11.59pm**. The deadline for payment of fees is Friday 8 April at 3pm.



Coaching

Our sports teams rely on adult volunteers from the community to coach, manage and assist school sports teams. This means that we can offer as many opportunities as possible to our students. Coaching and volunteering is a highly rewarding activity so please consider putting your hand up to assist wherever possible. Under the government mandate for the education sector, all parent volunteers must be fully vaccinated in order to coach or manage a school sports team. Proof of vaccination will be required.

Student Leader Introductions



Kia ora, my name is **Itrat Afroz** and I am proud to be one of your Takahē Whanau Leaders for the first half of 2022. I will always have a positive attitude when trying my best at everything I put my mind to. I will be showing manaakitanga and respect towards our students and staff. Some of my hobbies include playing netball, touch, listening to music and enjoying the time I spend with my friends and family. I am so grateful to have this opportunity and look forward to working alongside other members of the Student Council! If you see me around the school make sure to come and say "Hi!"



Kia ora, my name is **Paige Wilmshurst** and I am proud to be one of your Takahē Whanau Leaders for the first half of 2022. I will show the Triple A's and our school values towards our staff and students at all times. Some of my hobbies are netball, tennis and swimming. I am so grateful to have this opportunity and I can't wait to work with the other members on the Student Council. If you see me around the school, don't hesitate to come and say "Hi!"

Tuckshop Specials

This week's highlight:

Hotdog Combo \$6 (hotdog + drink + cookie)

EFTPOS and text orders are welcome to 021 0242 0269.

See Facebook for our full menu.

Note: With now two sessions of morning tea and lunch breaks, The Tuck Shop remains available for students to come at their allocated break times for snacks, however, if possible, can orders for meals be placed before school please.

Take care and we will get through this.

Conrad Hailes

Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Bell Block Rugby Club Muster

27 March and 2 April

2-3pm both days

Please register your interest for the upcoming season at

www.sporty.co.nz/bellblockrugby/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1 2022

MARCH

- Wed 9** Swimming Sports Finals Year 3-8
- Thu 10** New Entrant Visit 11.45am
- Fri 11** **SCHOOL CLOSED Teacher Only Day**
- Mon 14** **SCHOOL CLOSED Taranaki Anniv.**
- Wed 16** Netball registrations close
- Fri 18** Digital Assembly 2pm
Hockey registrations close
Basketball registrations close
- Mon 21** Intermediate Camp

APRIL

- Fri 1** Yr 7/8 Volleyball registrations close
- Fri 8** Digital Assembly 2pm
- Tue 12** PTA AGM 7pm
- Wed 13** Pizza Day
- Thu 14** Last day of term
- Fri 15** **SCHOOL CLOSED Good Friday**

2022 Term dates:

- Term 1** 31 January – 14 April
- Term 2** 2 May – 8 July
- Term 3** 25 July – 30 September
- Term 4** 17 October – 14 December

Dates for school events are also located on the School Calendar on our website and parent app.

NEW PLYMOUTH & STRATFORD COACHING PROGRAM YEAR 3 - 6

This program is focused on primary aged kids thinking about and playing hockey. We want the kids to enjoy their summer sports and return to hockey as close to the season starting as possible. This program will get them working on base skills and game play. Aimed at already playing hockey or new to hockey.



STRATFORD (Sundays)
Time: 9 am - 11 pm
Dates: 3 & 10 April 2022
Venue: TET Stadium, Portia Street
* Facilitated by Stratford Hockey Club

NEW PLYMOUTH (Sundays)
Time: 12 pm - 2 pm
Dates: 3 & 10 April 2022
Venue: NP Hockey Turf, Hobson Street
* Facilitated by Northern United Hockey Club



Costs: \$ 8 for 1 session, \$15 for 2 sessions
Register before Friday 25 March 12 pm
via www.taranakihockey.org.nz



NEW PLYMOUTH & STRATFORD FUN STICKS TERM 2, 2022

Fun Sticks is an 8 week progressive programme that will introduce your child to hockey through basic fundamental skills and fun hockey games. This programme is developed for children in year 1 & 2 at school and 4 - 6 year olds.



STRATFORD (Mondays)
Time: 4 pm - 5 pm
Dates: 2 May - 27 June 2022
Venue: TET Stadium, Portia Street
* no Fun Sticks during Queens Birthday weekend

NEW PLYMOUTH (Saturdays)
Time: 8 am - 9 am
Dates: 7 May - 2 July 2022
Venue: NP Hockey Turf, Hobson Street
* no Fun Sticks during Queens Birthday weekend and Matariki weekend



Costs: \$ 35 per child
Register directly with Taranaki Hockey
via www.taranakihockey.org.nz





Bell Block School Newsletter

TUESDAY 8TH MARCH

Junior School

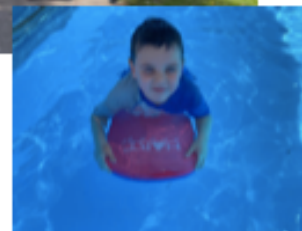
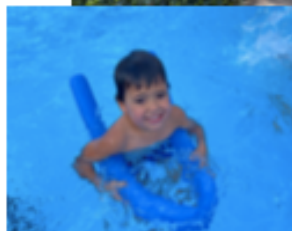
Room 3

Room 3 have been creating self portraits. We drew ourselves and then labelled our portraits with all the things that make us special and unique. Here are Jake, Lachie and Matilda's drawings and their awesome descriptions.



Room 4

Room 4 is filling up with a lovely bunch of new students to Bell Block School. They have been learning about the school Waharoa, named Nga kete matauranga, linked to the baskets of knowledge carved on it. They have also gained so much confidence in the pool during learn to swim.



Junior School

Room 5

Room 5 have had a great start to the year. They have been learning all about statistics in math. Jay and Samaira are showing their fruit tally charts and bar graphs. Jacob has worked together with friends to create a great, stable tower. Ka pai on all of your hard work so far this term!



Room 6

Room 6 have been having lots of fun exploring using their senses. They were blowing bubbles and thinking about what they saw, felt, smelt, heard and maybe taste... They used this experience to help them with awesome ideas and language for their writing. Great work Room 6!

