



What's the hAPS?

29th May 2020

Dear parents and caregivers

Thanks for your fantastic support for dropping off and collecting your children from school entry gates during the last two weeks. We will continue this procedure for the duration of level 2, as well as the late 9.10am school roll call and early leaving at 2.50pm for the students riding scooters and cycles. We also really appreciate your positive comments and feedback as you have acknowledged the lengths teachers and school leadership have taken to ensure the safety of our children in managing this routine. The children have settled back to school really well and it is wonderful to have children loving their learning with their teachers face to face and being with their friends again. Despite our initial concerns of not being able to have parents on the school site, teachers have commented on how proud they are of the children "stepping up to the challenge". Older siblings have displayed leadership and care for younger ones, with many children displaying greater confidence and independence. Once we come out of COVID restrictions we hope you will consider continuing this routine as this has made distinct improvement on traffic flow at the front gate area, as well as reducing driver frustration.

With the last few wet days as well as for new parents to our school, just a reminder of our bus bay traffic and pick up rules. If at all possible please ensure children's car seats are on the left hand passenger side, so that **children can exit the car directly onto the footpath** as it is too dangerous to allow them out when some cars 'double lane' entry into the bus bay. If you collect your child from the back gate (Roanoke Way) please remind them NOT to run down the driveway and they must stop at the coned crossing/speed bump area. We prefer you wait for them at the end of the driveway as some get so excited to see you they impulsively run down the drive and straight across the road.

We are continuing with our track and trace lists for our 061 and 062 bus children. This is checked when they get off the bus in the morning, and when they get on the buses in the afternoon. If your child has not caught the school buses whilst this process has been in place, and you would like them to now catch the school bus, please email jmunroe@albany.school.nz so that they can be added to our contact trace list.

We still have a number of families who are continuing to keep their children at home. We understand your concerns and want to assure you that the teachers are continuing to reinforce social and "moist breath" distancing requirements, school wide additional hygiene routines, classroom heating and no assemblies. We have had some children being kept away from school "because it is raining or too cold" which is not considered a valid reason for absence. Given the significant disruption to in-school learning we need **all children to return to school** as soon as possible. For some children and their families the longer the delay the more difficult reintegration becomes. The Ministry of Education are continuing to monitor weekly attendance numbers so it is imperative that you contact us on a daily basis if your child is absent for medical or family reasons. We do fully support and appreciate you keeping your child at home if they have any cold or flu like symptoms.

A reminder also with the wet weather on the way, to ensure your child has a spare change of clothes in their school bag. Please note that this does not have to be school uniform. This will avoid your day being disrupted if we have to phone you to bring spare clothes should your child require them.

We desperately need more parent assistance to support our road patrol children for a half an hour before or after school (see page over). Currently we are having teachers cover this duty when they should be in class setting up for their day. If you have a family member who may be able to assist (such as a retired grandparent) a small financial contribution to cover travel costs could be offered.

Have a fantastic long weekend as school will be closed on Monday due to the Queen's Birthday public holiday.

Together in learning,
Maree Bathurst, Principal



TERM 2

(dates subject to change dependent upon covid-19 restrictions)

Wednesday 15th April—Friday 3rd July

16th/17th June Class and individual photos
25th June BOT meeting, 6.30pm
3rd July Last day of Term 2



Urgent Help Needed

We urgently require parent helpers (grandparents or other family members) to supervise our student road patrollers on our morning and afternoon pedestrian crossing, as at the moment four teaching staff are taking on this duty.

You do not need to have a child in Year 6 to take on this role, full training will be provided.

If you have a family member who may be able to assist (such as a retired grandparent) a small financial contribution to cover travel costs could be offered.

Please email Fiona Francis (ffrancis@albany.school.nz) if you are able to assist, or would like some further information before making a commitment.

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