

Term 1 2022 Calendar

11	11	12	13	14	15
			Subway lunch	Last Day of Term 1 Family Merit Assembly	Easter Friday No school See everyone again on Monday 2 nd of May

Term 1 2022 Calendar

1	2 May Weaving Well-Being – Year 7/8	3	4	5	6
2	9 Weaving Well-Being – Year 7/8	10	11	12	13
3	16 Weaving Well-Being – Year 7/8	17	18 Ole Football Dental van leaves	19 Year 8 Immunisation	20
4	23 Weaving Well-Being – Year 7/8	24	25 Ole Football	26	27
5	30 Weaving Well-Being – Year 7/8	31	1 June Ole Football	2 Family Merit – 2pm	3 School closed PLD Day
6	6 School closed Queens B'day	7	8	9	10
7	13	14	15	16	17
8	20	21	22	23	24 Matariki holiday -School closed
9	27	28	29	30	1 July
10	4 Regional Cross Country	5	6	7	8 Last day of Term 2 Family Merit – 2pm



Postgate School Newsletter

Term 1: Week 11
2022

Mission Statement

To Create Life-Long Learners

**"Think like a proton,
always positive "**

- Atom Ant

Supporting statement:

We will promote life-long learning in our children by developing their social, intellectual, emotional and physical skills in a creative and caring environment.



"Together, We Learn and Achieve"

**"Ma te mahi ngatahi,
ka tu pakari te matauranga"**

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April 11, 2022

Kia ora e te whānau

Board of Trustees Meeting: Bernie Conroy has stepped down from our BOT. Bernie has served on the board for the past 7 years. During this time Bernie has been instrumental in a large number of key Postgate School incentives.

With no more children at Postgate School, Bernie stepping down from the BOT was not unexpected. We thank Bernie for her service to our school community. Our BOT have moved our school policies and procedures to the SchoolDocs website. This will enable you to access any policies you may need without contacting the school office. You can gain access to the SchoolDocs site via our school website, under the 'Board of Trustees' tab.

Any questions, please ask.

HERO: Last year we moved our Student Management System to HERO. HERO is an awesome tool. Shortly, we will be using HERO for many other things like sending the school newsletter, sending reports, reporting absences etc. Parents and caregivers will have access to this site. However, if your email address on HERO doesn't match your current one, you won't be able to gain access. You will receive information from Postgate next term about loading yourself onto HERO. If you can't gain access, it is because your details do not match up.

With Theresa being away it has been eye-opening how many phone numbers for emergency contacts do not work and how the usual families do not notify us when their child is away

Medication at School: The majority of children who suffer from asthma do not have medication at school or as we found on Cross-Country Day, their medication has expired. Can you please ensure your child/ren have what they need at school, just in case?

Team Release Days: It has been a long time since we have had a Teacher Only Day during the school year. Under the current collective agreement, schools can close for three days each year to have a Teacher Only Day. We personally think this is unfair on families and as Postgate does, we do things a bit differently. This week all syndicate teams are released on different days and we get relievers in for these classes. This gives teams the ability to meet, discuss, reflect and plan for the next term without impacting families during term time. Families have told us that having random days off during the year and early finishes are a huge inconvenience to working families and we respect this.

School closes at 3pm on Thursday, the last day of Term 1.

School Uniform: Can you please check your child/ren's school uniform over the holidays, that it actually is your child's? We've had a number of uniform items go 'missing' which are named but haven't appeared in the lost property.

Summer and Winter Fleece Sale: We understand the stresses of being a parent/caregiver and the extra burden currently facing families. To this end, Theresa and Louise have looked at our stock and worked out a special deal until the end of this term for our school community. All Summer and Winter fleeces will now be \$45 or for three or more a sweeter deal that the ladies will work out for you.

Thank You: As we roll into the last four days of Term 1, on behalf our staff I'd like to thank and acknowledge our school community. The last two and a bit years have been somewhat different and this term would have been the strangest of them all. A large number of school events have been cancelled, some students have not experienced schooling as it was nor have they been involved in many school activities.

It has been weird going from a system of staying home to save lives, that this virus kills to now we learn to live with it. This has required a huge change in mindset and for some families, this has been difficult. However, here we are.

From our first known school case on Friday 18th of February, your communication, thoughtfulness of others and commitment to your child's education has been greatly appreciated and received from our staff. The family of our first case set the standard for us all. They were relaxed, very clear and were happy for their child to be named as they didn't want people worried, concerned or anxious about who it was.

Your response throughout the last couple of months has been outstanding and our staff are very grateful to have you and your family as a massive part of our school community.

We were mindful of gossip at the Gatepost (see that?) and informing others of what they 'heard' or people putting their spin on events. Our thinking was to be how we always are with our honesty and being clear about what we knew was happening.

Our staff have been awesome; nothing has rattled them. They have remained focused on our core business. We have been very fortunate to have low levels of staff absenteeism compared with other schools. From our observations, the key for us has been our mask wearing. All staff have worn face masks in the classroom, in the playground and in the staffroom. This has helped make a difference as well as all staff being vaccinated. However, staff have caught

COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019) when they have been isolating at home with a COVID positive family member. Hard to escape it when you are forced indoors for 7 days.

Early on in our school outbreak, we had a lot of student to student spread of the virus. From our observations this was down to two reasons. Students with COVID coming to school and the poor wearing of face masks. As we have become more accustomed to knowing the virus and mask wearing becoming the norm, the numbers dropped dramatically.

At school, our focus has remained on learning and for those students who have been at school regularly, I have heard very positive comments about their progress. For students who have had a lot of time away, some range between 30-50% of the term off, progress has made a steady decline; which is extremely disappointing considering the time, effort and commitment staff have put into children over many years.

COVID is nowhere near done with us yet. We will continue to see cases at school and in our community; it is part of our life now. The best we can do is to live with it and to continue living our lives. COVID has been a terrible inconvenience like that unwanted house guest who doesn't know when it is time to move on.

Thanking you for your support.

Maururu kotahi ano koutou mo to koutoa tautoko o Postgate School.

Today's COVID update: Since Friday's update

- We currently have 19 children either with COVID or isolating because of COVID; which we know of
- 2 students have tested positive for COVID since Friday's update. These students were already isolating at home
- One family has gone into isolation since Friday.
- 135 students have had COVID, which we know of.
- Of the 135 students, 125 have now returned to school.
- 156 families have been in isolation, which includes **224** children
- 141 families have since returned to school
- There are 56 students absent from school today

- 249 students are present
- No staff have the COVID. No staff are in isolation.

A reminder that we have boxes of masks, hand sanitiser, and RATs for you out by the front office. These are there for you and if it looks a little low, please tell Theresa through the office window. It may be useful to think ahead to the holidays to get any supplies you may need.

Be kind to yourself and others.

Term Dates 2022

Term 2	Monday 2 May to Friday July 8 (Queen's Birthday Monday June 6 - Public Holiday) (Matariki – Public holiday – Friday 24 June)
Term 3	Monday July 25 to Friday September 30
Term 4	Monday October 17 to Thursday December 15 (Labour Day – Monday 24 October - Public Holiday)

There is a 'Teacher Only Day' scheduled during Term 2 for Friday 3rd June; however, this may change. All of the Northern Porirua schools, including Aotea College, will be closed on this day.

Cohort Dates 2022:

Term 2 = 2nd May and 7th June
Term 3 = 25th July and 29th August
Term 4 = 17th October and 14th November

Please phone 235 9358 or text 0277466791 or email the school office at absence@postgate.school.nz or notify your child's teacher via Seesaw before 8:55am if your child is going to be away.