

## Newsletter 1 – Term 1 – Feb 2020



3 February 2020

A warm welcome to everyone this term! I hope that you are all surviving the temperatures we are currently experiencing. Staff have had a busy start to their school year including the Teacher Assistants who completed their first aid training last week. Teachers also had a fun afternoon at Bowls Papanui on Condell Ave, we had a short lesson and then it got competitive! Great preparation for a termly staff sporting challenge with Ferndale school!

Please read the attached information for families regarding Coronavirus. The Ministry of Education are sending us regular updates that we will publish on our Facebook page as well as send home via the classroom teacher.

### **Statement from our Board of Trustees**

*Dear Parents/Caregivers.*

*On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to advise all parents and caregivers at Allenvale School that the principal Gary Quarless informed me by email that he will not be returning to Allenvale at the start of term one. This has come as a surprise to the Board and is obviously very late notice prior to the commencement of the New Year. In the interim, the Board has appointed Jenny Gosney as acting principal until we have a chance to meet and plan a way forward, and appreciate Jenny undertaking these extra duties. We have confidence that Jenny, the Senior Management Team and many other staff have the experience and skills to ensure a smooth and successful opening to the school. Whilst we are unable to provide much detail at this time the Board will endeavour to keep you informed as we work through this matter, however we are confident it will be business as usual in the interim.*

*Kind Regards*

*Jamie Gordon (Acting Board Chair)*

### **Staff**

We would like to welcome the following members of Staff to the Allenvale Team. They all bring a wide range of skills and experience that will continue to enhance students' opportunities. Welcome aboard everyone.

#### *Teachers*

Julia Hinde - Teacher Rm 1, Lisa Hanson - Teacher Rm 4, Carrie Aldridge - Teacher Rm 9, Caryn Marnewick - Teacher Rm 14

#### *Specialist Services*

Sante Beasant - Physiotherapist (Wednesday and Fridays), Stephanie Dunkin - Behaviour Specialist Teacher

#### *Teacher Assistants*

Zara - Rm1, Hannah - Rm 5, Barbie - Rm 7 & 8, Lucas - Rm 8, Lauren - Rm 12, Angela - Ashgrove

We are also sadly farewelling one of our Occupational Therapists - Beth Shearer. Beth is moving to a new position in mid-February and she will be greatly missed by the staff and students. We wish Beth all the best for her new job.

### **Welcome to New Families**

We would like to welcome the following new families to Allenvale School:

Sanders Family - Liam starting in Rm 4

Mills Family - Henry starting in Rm 11

McMenamin Family - Declan starting in Rm 11

Maynard Family - Nicholas starting in Rm14

Lamb Family - Nina starting in Rm 15

Lee Family - Ashton starting in Rm 15

Brown Family - James starting at the Westburn Satellite

Verdellen Family - Amy starting at TEC

### **PTA School Picnic 28 February, 5-7pm**

The PTA would like to invite all families to the annual PTA school picnic. Ice creams, sausage sizzle and coffee cart provided and families are welcome to bring more picnic supplies for the evening. A wonderful opportunity to meet other families and staff. A reminder notice will be sent closer to the date.

### **Specialist Services Team Update**

The specialist team would like to keep you all up to date and informed about how we plan to provide services in 2020. Our team is currently going through some changes in staffing and this will have an impact on our service delivery, particularly around prioritizing referrals and ongoing input.

We currently have three Speech Language Therapists - Michelle King (Team Leader), Paula Syme and Alysia Cotter (3 days per week), and a part time Psychologist, Cate Desmond. Sante Beasant is our new part time Physiotherapist.

We currently have one Occupational Therapist due to the resignation of one of the staff over the Christmas holidays. Madison Gerring (Chilton) will now cover all classes. We are awaiting confirmation regarding Music Therapy and second Occupational Therapy positions.

Please contact your classroom teacher if you would like a referral or more information.

### **Seesaw**

Over this term, we will be introducing Seesaw as a communication and student progress update tool. More information to follow.

### **SESTA**

Cross Country Rentals welcomes all families to SESTA this year. All new drivers have had an induction meeting with Linda King, Madison Gerring (OccT), Beth Shearer (OccT) and Steph Dunkin (Behaviour Specialist Teacher). This meeting ensures that all new drivers are aware of our systems and protocols. This has made for a smooth start to the year.

An information sheet for families will come home this week. There are some strict rules and procedures from CCR and the Ministry. We appreciate your cooperation with this. If you are moving house, we need to know ASAP. At least three weeks' notice is required. A new SESTA form must be completed and lodged with the Ministry for approval before CCR can transport from the new address. Once again, your cooperation is greatly appreciated. CCR is your first port of call if

there are any issues, concerns or queries about the service. Linda King (AP) will follow up in regard to school processes, or support needed for students while travelling.

### Uniforms

Allenvale School Uniforms can be purchased from the school office. We have samples on site to try if you want to check sizing. Please call Alex (03) 351 6743 for more information or to order.

### Sickness

**IF YOUR CHILD HAS DIARRHOEA OR VOMITING, YOU MUST KEEP THEM HOME FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS AFTER THE LAST BOUT (of vomit or diarrhoea).**

#### How can I help prevent the spread of gastroenteritis?

Gastro spreads very easily to others. You can help prevent spreading the disease by:

- thorough hand washing – especially after going to the toilet, after nappy changing and before handling food; encourage your child to wash and dry their hands after using the toilet
- thorough cleaning of your toilet and bathroom areas
- washing dirty clothing, in hot water preferably, and rinsing separately from the rest of the family laundry
- avoiding sharing food and drinks
- keeping your child away from friends and other children until vomiting and diarrhoea have stopped; children with diarrhoea must stay away from daycare, kindergarten and school until there has been no diarrhoea for 48 hours

KidsHealth NZ

Also, please would you keep your child at home if they have other signs of sickness, e.g.:

- Heavy eyes / signs of a headache General lethargy
- Runny nose, especially green discharge
- Sticky eyes
- Temperature
- Spreading rash (until the doctor has been seen)
- Coughing and sneezing

It is important that these infections do not get the chance to be spread further around the school. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

I look forward to catching up with you all throughout the term and at the school picnic on the evening of 28 February.



Jenny Gosney  
Acting Principal

This notice was on Facebook on Friday 31 January 2020

31 January 2020

Kia ora parents, caregivers and whānau,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer break with your young people and that everyone is looking forward to school starting on Monday 3 February 2020.

I am sure you have heard the many reports of coronavirus and the recent developments with the spread of this virus in some parts of the world. This is a new virus and its specific nature is currently unclear, however it appears that you can have the virus at an early stage and not be showing any symptoms. The incubation period for this virus is currently considered to be 14 days.

As always, if your child/young person is unwell they should not be at school. If you have a particular concern about your child/young person's health you can contact the Health line at 0800 611 116 or your GP for medical advice.

If your child/young person has been to China over the summer break particularly if they have visited the Wuhan or Hubei province or if they have been in contact with someone who has a confirmed case of the virus I ask that you keep your child/young person at home for 14 days. Before you send your child/young person back to school, please ring me for a final discussion before doing so.

Because the common type of flu and coronavirus have similar symptoms it will be difficult for staff to determine what type of virus a child/young person has. If your child/young person develops flu like symptoms school will be in contact with you and ask that you take your young person home and that they remain at home until they are well. If a student does still attend school while showing symptoms the Principal can preclude the child/young person if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease (Section 19 Education Act). The child/young person then has to stay away for the infectious period of the specific disease.

For more information on the coronavirus (Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) you can go to the Ministry of Health website <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov> . The World Health Organisation will continue to provide regular updates on the coronavirus and the link for this information is: <https://www.who.int/>

If you have any concerns or questions and would like to discuss this further please contact me and we can discuss these.

Ngā mihi nui



Jenny Gosney  
Acting Principal