

Letter #9

Friday 3 September 2021

Principal: Sean Valvoi

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Ōpaheke School

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you have had a good week despite it being the second full week in lockdown. I have enjoyed seeing some of the interactions between students and their teachers online. It is nice to see parents in those chat sessions too. Teachers have appreciated the kind words of thanks from many parents for the time, effort and creativity they are putting into the class meetings and lessons.

School Newsletter

The day that we went into our full day of lockdown on Wednesday 18 August we were due to send out our fortnightly newsletter to parents. This was not completely finished but I thought it would be nice to send out anyway. Please be mindful to ignore the dates on the newsletter as this was written before lockdown. The newsletter will follow this email.

Devices

Devices are no longer being distributed. We ended up distributing 101 devices which is a fantastic effort by the team and will hopefully build on the good engagement we are seeing between the students and their teachers.

A Message from the Ministry of Education on Vaccines

A number of parents and whānau are asking about who should give consent for their 12 to 15-year-olds to be vaccinated. This is the messaging from the Ministry of Health:

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect each of us and our whānau. The more of us who are vaccinated in our community, the greater our immunity.

The Government approved a vaccine to immunise and protect 12 to 15-year-olds. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine has been approved by our Medsafe experts. This vaccine is also used for 12 to 15-year-olds in other countries such as Canada, USA, Europe and Japan. Here is a [video you can watch](#) to explain how the vaccine works.

Many parents and whānau would like to provide informed consent on behalf of their young person. The easiest way to do this is for a parent or caregiver to be present during vaccination and provide verbal consent. You can book your young person in for vaccination at the same time as your vaccination or accompany them to their appointment.

You can book through your GP or through vaccination centres:

Book online through [Book My Vaccine](#)

For a group booking, call the COVID Vaccination Healthline on [0800 28 29 26](#) (8am–8pm, seven days a week).

Ph: 09 298 5410
Email: office@opaheke.school.nz
Tasman Drive, Papakura 2113

www.opaheke.school.nz

[A Message from the MOE on Safe TV viewing for students an Alert Levels 3 and 4](#)

More time at home can see young people watching more TV, and potentially watching outside their normal viewing hours – which can increase the risk they will encounter unsuitable viewing. Tools are available to help parents protect students from TV content that may harm them.

A practical guide to the latest tools (including parental locks, classifications, advisories, warnings and time-bands) plus an informative video from Jordan 'How to DAD' Watson is available at safeviewing.co.nz.

These tools are overseen by the Broadcasting Standards Authority, which provides [further useful information here](#).

As always, please let us know if there is anything you need to support you and your tamariki during this time. The next letter to parents will be towards the middle of next week. I will be able to give details on cancellations or postponement dates for scheduled events. Please have an enjoyable weekend and I hope you and your family get the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine.
Stay strong, stay safe and stay kind.

Noho oro mai.

Sean Valvoi
Principal