



# Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

*We Seek - We Strive - We Soar*

7th February 2024

Dear Parents and Whānau,

Happy New Year / Xīn nián kuài lè to you all and welcome to the Year of the Dragon.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2024 school year, particularly to our new pupils and their families. The staff are very excited about the learning year ahead and look forward to working with you all.

This newsletter will be posted out fortnightly on Thursday through Hero. Please make sure you look at it each week as it contains useful information about what is happening at the school. Parent letters will be used only when we have something urgent to share with you all.

It was great to see so many families who could meet with their new teachers today. If you were not able to make it to meet with your child's teacher, please feel free to contact them to set up a meeting.

Remember that it is compulsory for the children to wear their school hat every school day in terms one and four.

Have a great week everyone.

Neil Robinson - Principal



### LUNAR NEW YEAR 2024

To celebrate the Lunar New Year children can come to school **tomorrow** dressed in their Cultural Clothes or something red. Happy New Year.

TERM ONE 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Lunar New Year - Children can come to school in cultural clothes.</i>
<b>Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Pōhutukawa Assembly -2.30pm</i>
<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Y5/6 T-Ball</i>
<b>Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Whānau Aroha Day (More details to follow)</i>
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Kōwhai Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
<b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Y5/6 Cricket for selected students</i>
<b>Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Kauri Assembly – 2.15pm</i>
<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Tōtara Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
<b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Rimu Assembly – 2.25pm</i>
<b>Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<i>Kauri Assembly – 2.15pm</i>
<b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<i>Kōwhai Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<i>Pohutukawa Assembly – 2.30pm</i>
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<i>Tōtara Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<i>Y5/6 Cricket (Postponement Day)</i>
<b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup>-Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Mar</b>	<i>Y5/6 Bikes in schools</i>
<b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<i>Rimu Assembly -2.25pm</i>
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<i>Kōwhai Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<i>Holi – more details to follow</i>
<b>Fri 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<i>Good Friday (No school this day)</i>
<b>Mon 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<i>Easter Monday (No School this day)</i>
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<i>Easter Tuesday (No School this day)</i>
<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<i>Tōtara Assembly – 2.20pm</i>
<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Kauri Assembly -2.15pm</i>
<b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Rimu Assembly – 2.25pm</i>
<b>Fri 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Term One Ends.</i>



*Welcome to our new families – We held a welcome Pōwhiri for them this morning.*

### STAFFING UPDATE:

This week, we welcomed Linda Dai and Shelley Butt to our teaching team. Miss Dai will be teaching in Weka A in the Kōwhai team and Shelley Sensei is teaching in Kōkārīki B as part of the Kōwhai team. We also have three staff members who won new roles at the end of 2023 and have taken on new responsibilities at the start of this year:

- Annette Bradley has the role of Deputy Principal and amongst other things, is in charge of our English Language Learners programme and BSLA.
- Melinda Naryan is the Team Leader of Kōwhai
- Emma Best is the Team Leader of Kauri

Karine Das has worked at the school as a Learning Assistant over the last few years but left at the end of 2023 to begin her teacher training. We are thrilled to welcome Karine back to school soon where she will be fulfilling the practical part of her training.

### THE SCHOOL DAY

The instructional school day goes from 8.50am - 3.00pm The children should arrive at school **no later than 8.30am** so that they can be ready for the start of the first lesson.

**We ask that no child should arrive at school before 8.15am.** Staff members are busy preparing for the day and cannot supervise children before this time and so any children (and adults) arriving before this time, must assemble by the Pohutukawa's in front of Te Whau until this time. Whilst we realise that this does not suit all parents, we feel that the children's safety and teacher preparation time is very important.

Please contact the school office for details about our Before School Care programme if you wish to have your child at school before 8.15am.

### Attendance and Punctuality

As previously mentioned, the Ministry of Education has mandated that schools do more to make sure that children are at school and on time unless they are sick. They have pointed out that missing just one day a fortnight of school means missing a whole year of learning by the time a child turns 16. It is for this reason that they say that taking a child out of school for a holiday is marked as being an Unjustified Absence. We totally support families ensuring that their children experience being part of their culture but encourage parents to be mindful of the effects on school learning when this happens a lot.

We also want parents to continue to keep their children home if they are sick or displaying symptoms of Covid.

Please find below the Term dates for 2024. Please note that this year, Easter is in term time and that the Education Act mandates that schools are closed on the Tuesday as well (2<sup>nd</sup> April)

### TERM DATES - 2024

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<b>TERM ONE</b>	<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Good Friday</i> <i>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Easter Monday</i> <i>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Easter Tuesday</i>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10 Weeks
<b>TERM TWO</b>	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Teacher Only Day</i> <i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - King's Birthday Holiday</i> <i>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Matariki</i>	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	10 Weeks
<b>TERM THREE</b>	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10 Weeks
<b>TERM FOUR</b>	<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Labour Day Holiday</i> <i>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Teacher only Day</i>	<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10 Weeks

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your parent representatives work hard to make sure that our school is the best it can be. They meet twice a term and these meetings are also open to the public. Please ask at the office if you would like to speak to a Board member directly about anything to do with the school.

**Chairperson:** Nick Dempsey

**Board Members:** Rosie Williams, Simon Mahoney, Tarawhati Williams, Annuncia Gallagher, Jane Warne

## PROPERTY UPDATE

Our caretaker Daniel worked hard over the summer break to make sure that the school was well maintained and looked good for the start of school. He is away this week taking a well deserved break but will be back on Monday to continue his great work.

We believe that having an attractive and well maintained environment motivates the children and makes us all proud of the school. For this reason, we try and keep everything looking as good as it can be with the funds we have available.

During the break, we:

- Had the playground markings refreshed.
- Painted the Te Taiao roof (Pohutukawa classrooms)
- Painted the outside of the Administration Block
- Recarpeting of the classrooms in Te Tuaiwi (what was the senior block)
- Removal of the temporary fencing so we can now use the field

## STATIONERY FOR SCHOOL

If you have not already purchased your child's stationery for school you can still purchase it online by going to [www.myschool.co.nz/blockhousebayprimary](http://www.myschool.co.nz/blockhousebayprimary) enter your child's name and choose the pack that you require. They will deliver this to your home.

## SUNHATS

Great to see almost all of our students wearing their school sunhat. Just a few students who still need one. Hats are available from [www.argyleonline.co.nz](http://www.argyleonline.co.nz) and must be worn in Terms One and Four. Thank you.

## NUT ALLERGIES

Our school has some students who exhibit serious reactions to anything nut. All require Epi pens to be held in the school. For their sake, we try to be nut free at our school and ask that you please help us in this endeavour. **This includes not sending any nut products, Nutella, or peanut butter to school.**

## PARENTS OF YEAR 3- 6 CHILDREN

A reminder to parents that we would like all of the Year 5 and 6's to have their own Chromebook at school. **Please note that this is a Chromebook not just any Laptop computer.**

Year 3 and 4 children are very welcome to bring Chromebooks (only) to school as well.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the office and we will organise someone to give you a call.



MusiqHub lessons

## MUSIC LESSONS BLOCKHOUSE BAY PRIMARY

Term 1 spaces available for Guitar,  
Ukulele and Keyboard

Experienced music tutors offer small group as well as one on one lessons. Lessons are 30 minutes long and are held on Wednesdays during school hours and after school.

CALL 02102420972 FOR  
ENQUIRIES AND  
BOOKINGS

**MUSIQHUB**  
PLAY SMART

**BARFOOT & THOMPSON**  
LICENSED REAA 2008

**Blockhouse Bay**



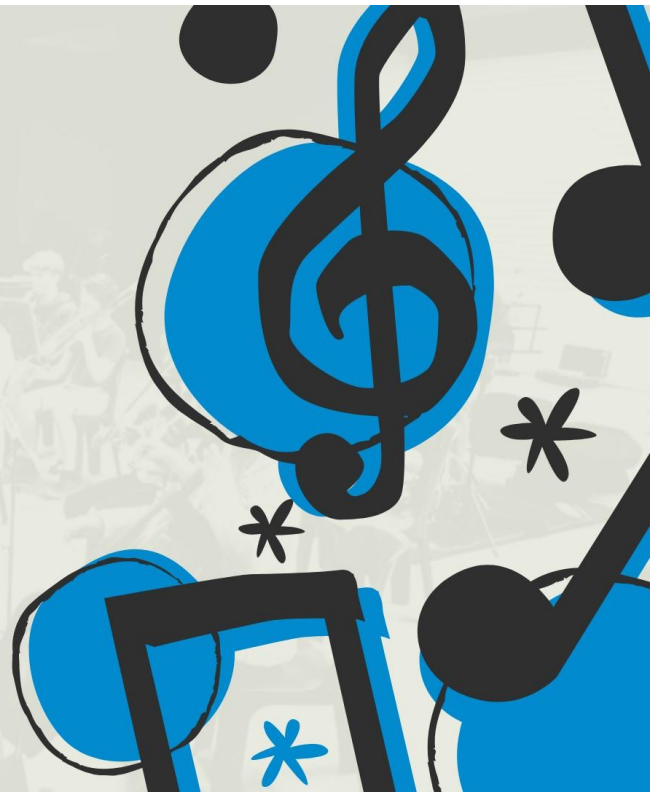
# BAYLYNN YOUTH BAND

WE ARE A UNIQUE COMMUNITY 'BANDCHESTRA' BASED IN THE BLOCKHOUSE BAY AREA AND HAVE BEEN RUNNING SINCE 2015. OUR MOTTO IS "LEARN TOGETHER, PLAY TOGETHER, GROW TOGETHER"—DEVELOPING SKILLS AS A MUSICIAN NO MATTER WHAT STAGE YOU ARE IN YOUR MUSICAL JOURNEY.

WE WELCOME ALL STUDENTS FROM YEAR 5 AND ABOVE WHO HAVE SOME MUSIC READING SKILLS AND CAN PLAY THE FOLLOWING INSTRUMENTS:

- STRINGS (VIOLIN, VIOLA AND CELLO)
- BRASS (TRUMPET, CORNET, TROMBONE, HORN, TUBA)
- WOODWIND (FLUTE, CLARINET, SAXOPHONE, OBOE, BASSOON)
- GUITAR OR BASS GUITAR
- DRUMS OR PERCUSSION

THE BAND REHEARSES EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING SCHOOL TERMS FROM 6:45PM TO 8:30PM AT THE BLOCKHOUSE BAY PRIMARY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE!



BAYLYNN YOUTH BAND

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