



Letter #9

Thursday 10 March 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tēnā koutou Katoa

We are now half way through the first term and I am pleased to say we are still here! It has not been without its hurdles with a number of positive cases and household contacts amongst both students and staff. I have been amazed by this community who have taken a common sense approach, isolating when required and then back at school as soon as the isolation period ends. Today the Senior Leadership Team had coffee with Mr McCarthy and he sends his best wishes to you all. I must say he does look very relaxed! Today we have 77.2% attendance and we have been hovering around that figure over the last week.

In this newsletter I highlight some fantastic learning which is happening around the school. It is nice to see regular programmes occurring and learning on site not being compromised by the virus. Provided we can maintain our staffing we will be trying to keep St Heliers School open. It is important for the wellbeing of children and staff that they can continue to come to school.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO ISOLATION

You will have heard that the Government has announced changes to isolation.

- Household contacts who test negative only need to isolate for 7 days.
- Household contacts test on day 3 and day 7 and if they test negative and are displaying no symptoms can come back to school on day 8.
- Household contacts who test positive also isolate for seven days but do not require a test on day seven. They return to school on day 8 if they are showing no symptoms.
- Any household members who test negative and then subsequently test positive must isolate for 7 days from the date of the positive test. No further tests are required.
- If you are part way through your 10 day isolation at 11.59 on Friday night (11 March) then you can end your isolation if you have completed 7 days. For example, if Friday is day 6 of your 10 day isolation, your last day of isolation will be Saturday.

Although we continue to ask you to notify the school that your child has either tested positive or is a household contact, and we record that information, it is important for you to manage the time that your child will be able to return to school. We do not record when your child is due back, as this can change during the isolation period. We do not require proof of positive or negative tests.

The new changes will make a huge difference to the speed with which the children can return to school. **We do however, ask that they do not return to school if they are still unwell.**

Thank so much for your consideration and cooperation as we navigate this new phase together.



**Children aged 5-11 can receive their
second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine
8 weeks after their first dose**

SCHOOL VISITS RESUME

It was nice to welcome parents on site for their children's first visit to the school last Friday 4 March. After a short welcome in the hall the children went to class with Mrs. Lyon while the parents had an information talk and slide show presented by our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Alex Wood. Today the children are having their first visit without their parents and have been placed in their Year 1 class. These new children will officially start next Monday 14 March.



YEAR 4-8 PAT ASSESSMENTS

New Zealand teachers use a variety of tests to determine what level students are at, what progress they are making, and where they may need extra help. Progressive Achievement Tests, commonly known as PATs, are one of the main sets of tests schools use.

PATs are multiple-choice tests designed to help teachers determine achievement levels of students in their class. The test results help teachers decide what kinds of teaching materials are needed and which methods or programmes are most suitable for their students. PATs are also important because they identify the progress a student is making from year to year.

Over the next few weeks our teachers are using three PATs to assess our Year 4-8 students.

Mathematics covers number knowledge, number strategies, algebra, geometry and measurement, and statistics.

Reading Comprehension assesses how well students understand the text they are reading. Each test is organised around several extended pieces of writing which include stories, poems, reports and explanations.

Reading vocabulary assesses students' ability to understand the words they read. Each question is based around a keyword that is embedded in a short sentence. Students are asked to choose a synonym that best represents the meaning of this word from a list of five possible alternatives.

For all the children who are absent while their class is involved with PATs, we will endeavour to catch them up on their return to school.

Patsy Torrie

STAFF WELLBEING WEEK

Although not common in many schools, Staff Wellbeing Week each term is a special day that my previous school and St Heliers School both share. Usually the middle week of the term we have a week where we think about our own and each others wellbeing. We don't have before school or after school meetings on this week to allow staff to spend more time with family. This term there have been a few treats for staff which I think everyone has appreciated.

I can't say enough about how committed and dedicated the staff of St Heliers School are. The pastoral care and academic progress of the students is always at the forefront.

A special mention to our wonderful part time and relief teaching staff and our non-classroom based teachers who have really stepped up to cover classes for isolating teachers. Without their mahi we would not be able to keep the school open.



MERIT CERTIFICATES

Not since Term 2 last year has the school been able to have Merit Certificate Assemblies. This is a new type of assembly for me and it has been wonderful to read all the wonderful comments that the teachers have written. Merit Certificates take place every term with different children acknowledged each term.

Parents of children who are receiving certificates have been, or will be contacted and invited to attend. It is so nice to have occasions when we can invite small numbers of parents on site. Of course we will continue to observe safety measures.

Parents and caregivers of children receiving certificates are invited at 8.55am on these days:

TUESDAY 15 MARCH	YEAR 1	TUESDAY 22 MARCH	YEAR 2
WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH	YEAR 8	WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH	YEAR 7
THURSDAY 17 MARCH	YEAR 3	THURSDAY 24 MARCH	YEAR 4
FRIDAY 18 MARCH	YEAR 6	FRIDAY 25 MARCH	YEAR 5

LEARNING AROUND OUR SCHOOL



Assessments in Year 2



Room 13 publishing and doing art outside



Year 8 workshop on algebra



Room 16 discussing number knowledge



Year 8 peer group work outside



Reading in the library



Room 18 practicing their numeracy skills



Room 22 practicing small ball skills in PE



Room 5 tallying the number of days at school

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 14 March	Mid-Term New Entrants start
Tuesday 15 March	Year 7 Challenge Week—Wero Year 1 Merit Certificate Assembly
Wednesday 16 March	Year 7 Challenge Week—Muriwai Surf Lifesaving Year 8 Merit Certificate Assembly PTA Meeting 7pm
Thursday 17 March	Year 7 Challenge Week—In School Activities Year 3 Merit Certificate Assembly Board Meeting 7pm
Friday 18 March	Year 7 Challenge Week—Auckland Adventure Park, Silverdale Year 6 Merit Certificate Assembly
Tuesday 22 March	Year 2 Merit Certificate Assembly
Wednesday 23 March	Year 7 Merit Certificate Assembly Swimming Sports—Year 5 and Year 8
Thursday 24 March	Year 4 Merit Certificate Assembly
Friday 25 March	Year 5 Merit Certificate Assembly Swimming Sports—Year 6 and Year 7

For those of you who are isolating we look forward to seeing you sooner after Friday. Enjoy your weekend and take care of yourself and your family.

Noho ora mai

Sean Valvoi
Principal



**We are a fun, friendly club based for Eastern Bays
and Eastern Suburbs families.**

If you have any questions or wish to register your interest, please visit
www.auhc.org or email juniors@auhc.org

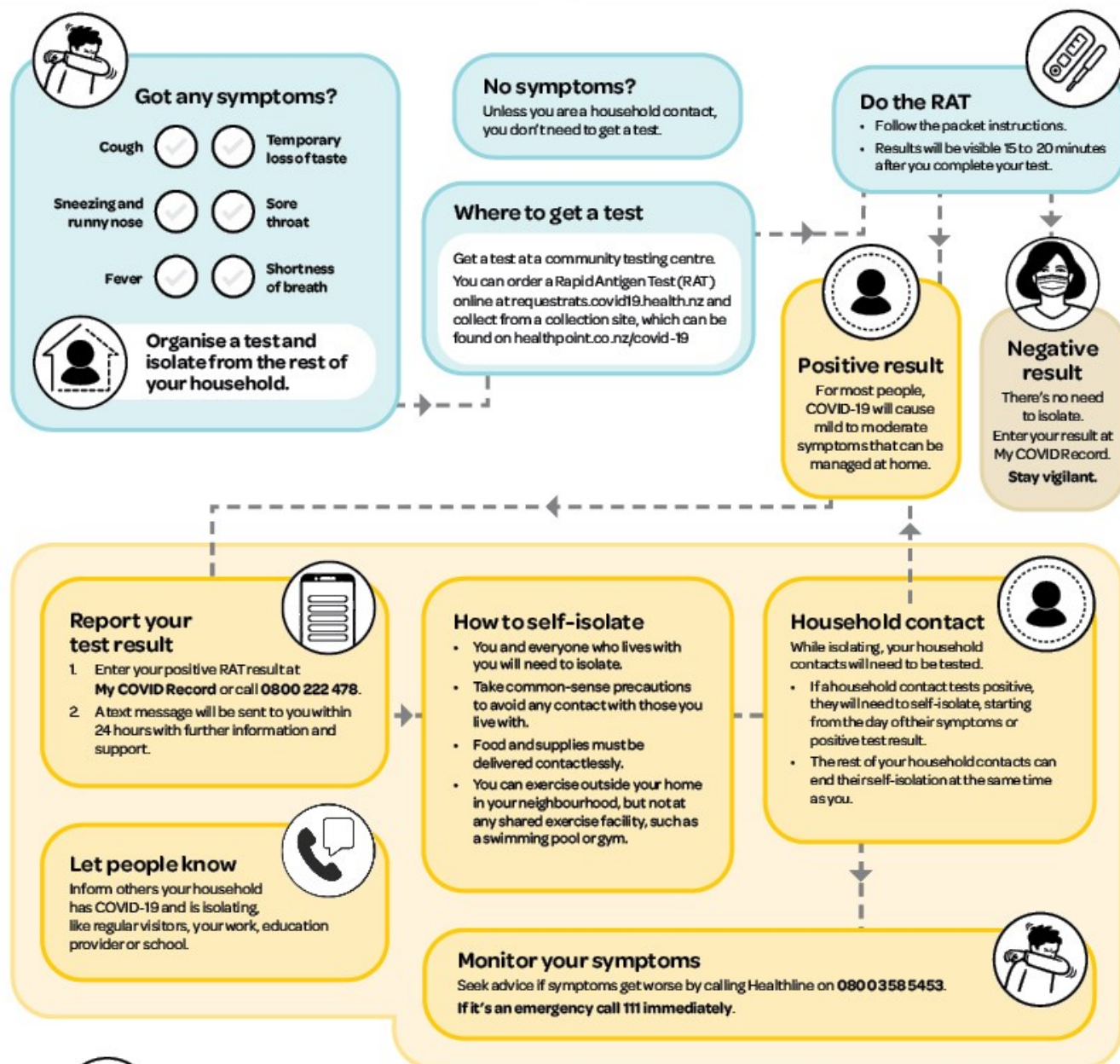


Want to play hockey?

New players welcome

Email juniors@auhc.org

What to do when you have COVID-19 symptoms



Extra support

Most people can manage self-isolation with support from whānau and friends, but there is help available if you need it. Go to workandincome.govt.nz or call the **COVID Welfare Line** on **0800 512 337**.

Financial support

If you can't work from home while you're self-isolating, your employer may be able to apply for the Leave Support Scheme to help pay your wages or salary, even if you are a part-time or casual employee.

For more information about testing positive, head to:



[Covid19.govt.nz/positive](https://covid19.govt.nz/positive)