



Dear families and friends of Lower Moutere School!

Welcome back to school! We hope this message finds you rested, rejuvenated, and ready for an exciting new year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

As we embark on this journey together, we want to extend a warm welcome to both returning families and those who are joining the Lower Moutere School community for the first time. Whether you are a familiar face or a new addition to our school family, we are thrilled to have each and every one of you with us.

The start of a new school year is always a special time, filled with anticipation and excitement. It's a time for reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, and setting goals for the months ahead. At Lower Moutere School, we are committed to providing a nurturing and supportive environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Throughout the year, we will keep you informed about important dates, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement in school activities. We encourage you to stay connected with us through our newsletter, class notices and the school Facebook Page to stay informed about all the exciting things happening at Lower Moutere School.

The staff have been at school for many of the weeks leading up to today, planning for the term ahead and organising the classes, ready for the students to arrive.

### **Welcome to the new staff!**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new staff!



Mrs Susan Shand to the role of Deputy Principal - Sue will be teaching 2 days a week in Room 5, alongside another new staff member, Miss Sophie Strawbridge. Sophie will teach the Wednesday to Friday in Room 5.

We welcome back for the term, Miss Emma McQuade, who is alongside Mrs Karetai in Room 6. Mrs Karetai, for this term only, takes every Friday off, and Emma is covering for her.

Mrs Sinclair will still feature in our staff line up as our Reading Recovery teacher, so you will still see Mrs Sinclair each morning, as she helps the students across our junior school!

Finally - Kathy Stephens has returned from the UK! We are very lucky to have Kathy wanting to be at our school, and along with her comes wonderful musical skills! Kathy will be releasing class teachers across the school, and students will be involved in her music classes. We are keen to develop both ukulele and keyboard skills for our students, as well as percussion instruments.

Now it's **back to the start of the new school year** and we look forward to having another great year!

With the start of the year come a few reminders from us all at the school. We ask that you read on carefully – any questions? Please ask a staff member!



## *SUNHATS & SUNBLOCK!*

Term 1 is a 'no hat, no play' term. Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with the correct style of sunhat – if you are needing a new hat, please see Sue in the office! Our classes do have a limited supply of sunblock. Parents are encouraged to send their children to school with sunblock or apply lotion before coming to school.

### *Bus contracts and passes*

Mrs Matthewson is our school bus controller. She will always be your first point of call with any questions that you have about the bus. Part of the privilege of riding the school bus is that all students are required to sign a bus contract, relating to agreed student behaviour. This is going to be sent home with all bus students. It is awesome for parents to read through the contract and explain to our students about what being a good passenger means. **The cost for the Motueka bus is \$40 for one child - \$75 for a family.** If you pay by internet banking, please ensure you put the family surname as reference. This is significantly cheaper than driving a car each day – do your bit for the environment and consider using this service!

**PAYMENT FOR BUS PASSES (MOTUEKA RUN) need to be made to the school office by MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY, 2024.** If no payment is received by this date, students will not be able to travel on the service.

### *School uniform*

The school has a compulsory uniform, and we ask that the correct items of clothing are worn. The uniform is as follows:

- Lower Moutere shirt – purchased at Whitwells, Motueka
- Black shorts or black skirt – from Kmart, Warehouse etc.

We ask that parents do not send students to school with multiple layers under uniforms. With the very warm weather at present, students do not need the extras. We also ask that the choice of shorts is straight black – while there are many variations with logos etc, the uniform is pure black shorts. The school does have a small selection of second hand uniforms – however the choice is reasonably 'slim' at present!

### *Bell times..*

The staff begin teaching programmes at 8.50am. Having students in class and ready is so important to helping this get underway. When students arrive late to class, it is really hard on them, as they not only feel on the backfoot, they need to work extra hard to catch up with what everyone else is doing. The latest time to be in the school grounds would be 8.45, ensuring that students get a chance to set themselves up for success, have a runaround and be all set for the bell. At the end of the day, the bell rings at 2.50pm, where the whole school is released together.



### *CELL PHONES at SCHOOL -*

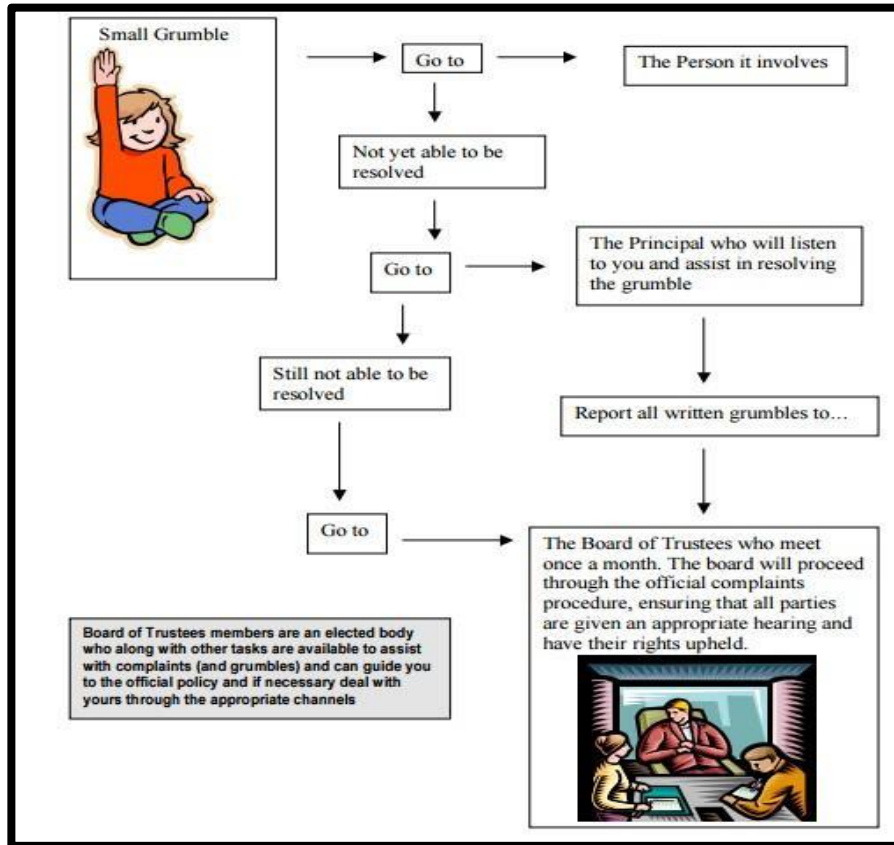
With the recent change in ruling for cell phones at school, we will continue with our current practice of ...

1. We recognise that some students need a cell phone for after school activities and checking in with parents.
2. Cell phones can be brought to school – then must be handed in to the class teacher. These will be stored safely at school.
3. Where a cell phone is found on a student and has not been handed in, we will hold the cell phone in the school office for collection.
4. If a student continually breaches this, they will be asked to either keep the phone at home.



## Concerns and grumbles...

As a school, we work incredibly hard to 'get it right' for all students and families across the school, treating all fairly and consistently. There are, however, times when we do not get it quite right and people need to know more, or wish to seek more information. We ask that parents, if you are concerned or unhappy about something we have done, please use the following steps...



## Swimming - daily!

Our statistics for water safety is appalling – and the summer period has sadly brought a number of drownings yet again ... for a nation where we are surrounded by water, our need to be skilled and competent swimmers is vital. Students will be swimming daily at school and we ask that parents ensure that students come to school appropriately equipped for this. If your child is not swimming, they do require a note from home or phone call to the office – many thanks!



## Property work this year...

There is much excitement in the playground today as students realised that we have a new sandpit! This is still being developed with a slide and some other features yet to be installed! A big thanks to Casey Fordyce Landscaping for developing this over the holiday period!



## Touch rugby

Touch Rugby 2024 starts soon! Mr Lynch will be sending out entry forms very soon. Coaches and managers are required for the teams if you are able to assist – please let Mr Lynch know – [mlynch@lowermoutere.school.nz](mailto:mlynch@lowermoutere.school.nz)

## Weet Bix Tryathlon!

Get your entry in online by checking our school Facebook page - all the information is there!

## What's coming up?

Event...	When...	Where...	Who??
<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	Monday 5 February	-	All students and staff
WAITANGI DAY	Tuesday 6 February		
Keeping Ourselves Safe parents info meeting	Thursday 8 February 3pm	Room 4	Parents
MOTEC starts	Monday 12 February	MOTEC	Year 7 & 8 students
Board meeting	Thursday 22 February	Staffroom	-
LMS Try-athlon	Friday 1 March	School grounds	All students
LMS Swim champs	Monday 4 March	School pool	All students
Life Education	4 – 8 March	Harolds van	All students
Mana Whaitake	Tuesday 5 March	Kaiteriteri	Senior students
Motueka Swim champs	Wednesday 13 March	Motueka High	Swim finalists
Year 7 / 8 immunisation	Thursday 21 March	School	All Y7 / 8
Board meeting	Thursday 28 March	Staffroom	-
Easter break	Thursday 29 March – 2 April	-	School closed
Last day term 1	Friday 12 April		
First day term 2	Monday 29 April		
<b>TEACHER ONLY DAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY 4 JUNE</b>		<b>All schools – Motueka district</b>

### School Assemblies

The school has two assemblies each week – one on the Monday to go over all the notices and events for the week, and then on the Friday at 2.20pm. The Friday assembly is to share students work, present awards and any other notices that need to be shared – sports, weekend events, reminders for the week ahead. Parents are most welcome at both assemblies and we look forward to seeing you there!



### What are we focussing on this term??

This term, our over- arching theme of study is 'How to be a healthy ME!' This is a health focussed study, targeting a number of the really great suggestions that came out of our health consultation in 2023.

- Writing – Explanations and descriptions
- Arts –Portraits and Digital Art
- Science - Healthy foods and eating processes
- Science – Maturanga - the science and technology used in early navigation

School values – We learn to look after ourselves and treat our body with care.

### After school care!

A reminder that Lower Moutere School offers an after school care programme – that runs through to 5.30pm each evening! WINZ subsidy is available – so if you are needing that care after school, look no further!! To book in, call 027 358 7233 or you can email [kidzklubafter3@gmail.com](mailto:kidzklubafter3@gmail.com) for further details!

We look forward to catching up over the term ahead.

Chris Bascand *(Justice of the Peace)*  
Principal



Individually, we are  
one drop. Together,  
we are an ocean.

–Ryūnosuke Akutagawa

@weareteachers