



Dear families and friends of Lower Moutere School!

Welcome to you all to 2023! I trust that the summer break has been great for you all – catching up with friends, extended family and taking advantage of the many great opportunities that exist in our area! We extend a warm welcome to the new families who have started at Lower Moutere School. We know that your time at our school will be awesome, and we look forward to sharing with you all the great things that we do here.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be walking around the school again, filled with our happy students! They bring a real 'buzz' and energy to the place and hearing tales of their adventures is fantastic! The students have settled in extremely well yesterday – top marks to them and the staff too!

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.

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

We extend a special welcome to our returning staff – Mrs Kirsty McLeod and Miss Lana Wood! It is great having you back in our school!

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 \$35 for one child - \$70 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 FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY, 2023. 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:

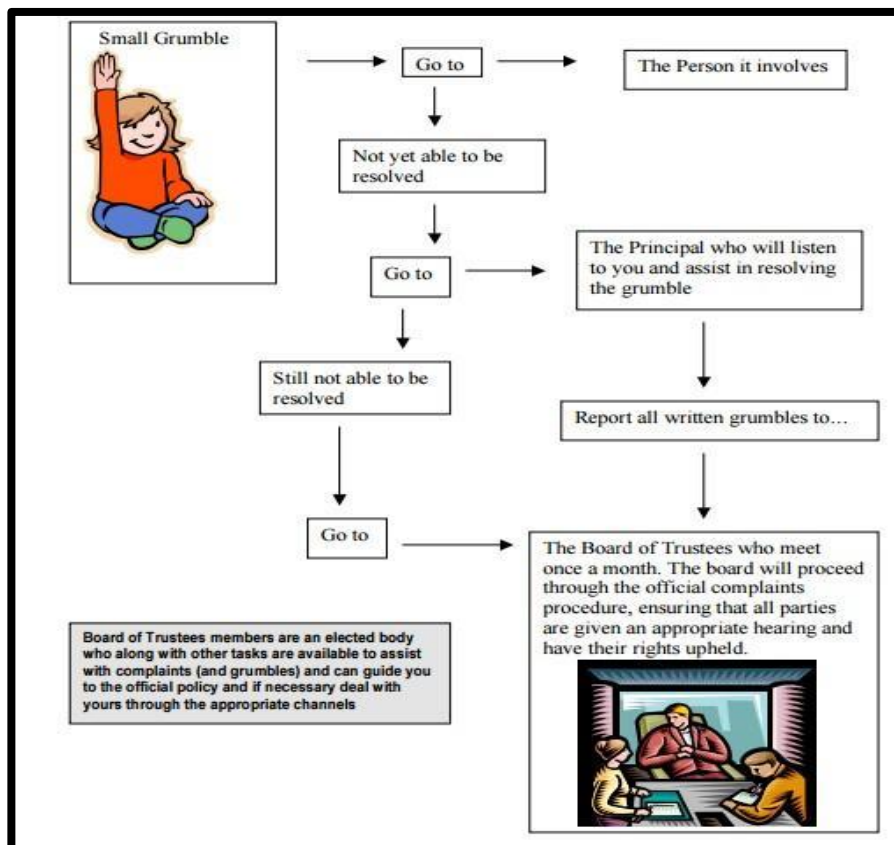
- Lower Moutere shirt – purchased at Whitwells, Motueka
- Black shorts or black skirt – from Kmart, Warehouse etc.

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!

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!





Cell phones at school

As a staff, we have discussed the use of cell phones at school. We understand that some students do require these, especially if they are travelling back to Motueka. Therefore, on a trust basis, we ask that if a student carries a cell phone to school, they are handed to the class teacher at the start of the day. These will be handed back at the end of the school day. If a student is found with a cell phone at school, and the class teacher is unaware, the phone will be handed to the school office, where parents can come and collect them.

Property work this year...

- ✓ We continue to see the buildings upgraded significantly. Thanks to IMB and IanTwinn Builders, they continue to work through, aiming to have the whole project completed by April. Rooms 3 and 4 are only weeks away from finishing – material hold ups have plagued the project however this has not pushed the project too far behind! Work behind our New Entrant Room and Room 1 has made this a more exciting place for our juniors to work in!



Behind Room 1



The interior of Room 3 - ready for gib stopper & painter



Touch rugby

Touch Rugby 2023 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

Weet Bix Tryathlon!

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

Whole school picnic – Big Day out!

We are planning a whole school event, to Rabbit Island on **FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY**. More information to follow next week – and weather dependent.

What's coming up?

Event...	When...	Where...	Who??	Transport?
LMS Swim champs	Thursday 2 March	School pool	All students	-
LMS Try-athlon	Thursday 9 March	School grounds	All students	-
Parent interviews	Tuesday 7 & Thursday 9 March	School	All families	-
Mana Whaitake	Tuesday 7 March	Kaiteriteri	Senior students	Yes
Year 7 / 8 immunisation	Friday 10 March	School	All Y7 / 8	
Motueka Swim champs	Wednesday 15 March	Motueka High	Swim finalists	Yes
Last day term 1	Thursday 6 April			
First day term 2	Wednesday 26 April			
TEACHER ONLY DAY	Monday 24 April		All schools – Motueka district	

School Assemblies

The school has two assemblies each week – one on the Monday morning (on a short week, it will be the first day back), to go over all the notices and events for the week, and then on the Friday. 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!

Monday - 8.50am in the hall (teacher led), Friday – 2.20pm in the hall (student led).

What are we focussing on this term??



This term, our over- arching theme of study is 'The House that Jack Built'. This is a Social Sciences and Aotearoa Histories based theme where we are exploring varying voyages that many took to come to New Zealand. This theme will feed across all of our curriculum areas, including...

- Writing – Creative writing and developing timelines
- Arts – Harakeke and kowhaiwhai
- Science – Maturanga - the science and technology used in early navigation
- School values – We learn to respect each other as we get to know one another

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 for further details!

We look forward to catching up over the term ahead.

Regards

Chris Bascand (*Justice of the Peace*)

Principal

A final thought to our wonderful parents ...

