

# STRATFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



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## NEWSLETTER

Hola / Hello / Konnichi Wa / Halla / Talofa / Guten Tag / Kia Ora

### LEARNING JOURNEYS - HE HAERENGA AKORANGA

Last Friday Home Sample Books should have been brought home by your child so that you could celebrate the learning progress that your child has made over the last term.

Home Samples should be representative of the work the children are doing in their other exercise books. **The quality positive feedback that you provide for your child is important in assisting them to become self directed learners.**

Learning Goals that are set should be **ACHIEVABLE, OBSERVABLE and MEASURABLE**. Children often set goals like *I want to get better at mathematics*. This is very broad and really is not **ACHIEVABLE, OBSERVABLE nor MEASURABLE**. We can assist our children by guiding them to break down their goal to e.g. ***I want to be able to learn my 8x's table and get 100% correct in 1 minute***. The time limit assists the need for immediate recall.

During the Term 2 *Learning Journey - He Haerenga Akoranga* interviews our teachers handed out the *Learning Journey - He Haerenga Akoranga* questionnaire to parents; we received a 59% response. Thank you to all of those parents who took the time to share their thoughts.

#### The Executive Summary is as follows:

National Administration Guideline (NAG) 2A states that schools are required to report to parents on the student's **progress and achievement in relation to national standards**, reporting in writing at least twice per year. The challenge is ensure that the next step learning needs of learners are best met by all.

The messages from ministry and politicians to school communities and educators have been mixed with regard to the standards. Schools with very little professional development have been left to make their own decisions such that in the Education Gazette of 3 May (Volume 89 Number 7 page 12) it is stated that schools are not required to report to parents using the national standards scale; it would be fair to say that we are **uneasy repeatedly telling children that they are well below the standard**.

It is clear from questionnaire feedback that our **school community is happy** with both the quality and the clarity of information they are receiving from their children's teachers in regard to their progress.

- 93% of parents were happy with two *He Haerenga Akoranga - Learning Journey Reports* per year with an additional one in Term 1 for students new to our school.
- 92% of teachers were happy with two *He Haerenga Akoranga - Learning Journey Reports* per year with an additional one in Term 1 for students new to our school.
- 100% of parents thought that teachers did report in plain language. 100% of teachers thought that they reported to parents in plain language.
- Question 3 asked parents what changes / additions / modifications would you like to make to the current process? 56 parents took the opportunity to respond to this question. 46% of these comments were focussed on telling us that the process was good the way it was. Other comments highlighted the dilemma of time particularly those parents with children in other classes; they had to rush from interview to interview.

#### The following recommendations were made and most will be implemented - there may be some slight adjustments to dates etc:

1. That Home Sample books be sent home at least one week before the *He Haerenga Akoranga - Learning Journey* interview;
2. That the Resource on the school website About us / Learning Resources / Assessment for Learning be updated to reflect changes. That we remind parents that teachers are available to discuss their child's learning progress at any time. (this will be on the school website soon)
3. That both teachers and parents are proactive in meeting where there is continuing learning / behavioural concerns with their students / children.
4. That the first *He Haerenga Akoranga - Learning Journey Report* meeting be rescheduled to Weeks 7-8 of Term 2; the second *He Haerenga Akoranga - Learning Journey Report* be retained as currently scheduled i.e. Week 8 of Term 4. NB this might require shifting backward in 2011 due to the shorter term 4.

5. That we revisit the start time of the interviews ensuring that the school remains open for instruction but commencing the interviews at 1.30pm in Term 2 and 2.00pm in Term 4. The early start, late finish evenings to be on Tuesday and Thursday of the scheduled week. i.e. 1.30pm - 8.00pm; 2.00pm - 8.00pm
6. That parent / child / teacher meetings are restricted to one week duration with two evening sessions in that week.
7. That parent / child / teacher meetings are increased to 20 minutes duration.
8. Those parents with more than one child be encouraged not to schedule back to back interviews.
9. That the Senior Leadership team builds on current initiatives to further parents knowledge in assisting their children as learners in the home.

**Analysis:**

The following question was asked:

1. We believe that two Learning Journey- He Haerenga Akoranga per year plus an additional one at the beginning of the year for students new to our school is sufficient. Do you agree?

i.e. Term 1: Meeting with Teacher - Child - Parent for students new to our school; and

Term 2: Meeting early in Term 2 to report on learning progress in writing against the agreed goals and National Standards; and

Term 4: End of Year meeting to report in writing on progress against the National Standards and to set learning goals for the following year.

The parent responses were:

PARENTS		TEACHERS	
YES	NO	YES	NO
119.5	8.5	11	1

The following question was asked:

2. Do our teachers report to you in Plain language? i.e. in language you can understand

The responses were:

PARENTS		TEACHERS	
YES	NO	YES	NO
128		12	

**Our next Learning Journey - He Haerenga Akoranga will be held in Week 8 of Term 4 i.e. 29 November - 3 December. Please note that on Tuesday 30 November and Thursday 2 December of this week school will finish at 2.00pm.**

Organisational details will follow at a later date.

“If we think of our children as plants ... summative assessment of the plants is the process of simply measuring them. The measurements might be interesting to compare and analyse, but, in themselves, they do not affect the growth of the plants. Formative assessment, on the other hand, is the garden equivalent of feeding and watering the plants – directly affecting their growth.” (Unlocking Formative Assessment. Clarke. p.2)

**ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL APPOINTED:** I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Aaron Moore as Associate Principal. Aaron previously held the *Director of Hauora* position at Stratford Primary and was selected from a very strong field of candidates after a day of interviews on Saturday 21 August. In the interest of stability no significant changes to school organisation will be made for the remainder of this year. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, staff and school community we congratulate Aaron.

**FEET FIRST**

Remember that the Home & School will be out in the most unusual places looking for children who are walking, cycling, scootering, hopping etc to school. There will be instant spot prizes. Pinkies will be issued to go into the end of term lucky draw with a prize pool of scooters, safety pads and helmets.

Why not arrange to park your car at the War Memorial Car Park, Portia Street, Brecon Road etc or in a neighbouring street and encourage your children to walk to meet you; they are getting the exercise and you are assisting to remove the pressure of parking? Thanks to those parents who are already doing this.

The Home & School is continuing to promote *Feet First* and they need your support!!  
It is time for a change.

**School Website changes:** As signaled in an earlier newsletter the Essential Spelling Lists are now available on our school website. [www.stratford-primary.school.nz](http://www.stratford-primary.school.nz) click on **About Us / Learning Resources / English / Spelling Lists** We expect that by the end of Year 6 that 90% of our children will have mastery of the 290 words that are most often used in their writing. Together they make up about 75% of most writing so they are important. We will be continuing to add resources to our website so that we can all support our tamariki on their Learning Journey - He Haerenga Akoranga.

## Cybersafety Policy

At the August meeting of the Board of Trustees the Cybersafety Policy was approved. We have attached the Cybersafety Awareness Pack [CAP] for students to this newsletter. Please discuss with them the rules and the implications involved if they should be found misusing ICT equipment/devices and internet facilities.

## Blogging

Check out some of the children's writing on our school website [www.stratford-primary.school.nz](http://www.stratford-primary.school.nz) click on the *Children at Work* button and proceed from there. You can even give the children constructive feedback by clicking on the *comments* button; they love getting constructive feedback. How did their writing engage you as the reader; how might they improve it. The children are very excited that their writing now has a world-wide audience.

## MISSING

We have lost a White ZEN MP3 player from Room 10. It is the size of a small bar of soap. If anyone has any ideas on where it might have gone, please contact the School.

## TERM DATES FOR 2011

**Term 1:** Monday 31 January - Friday 15 April: Teacher Only Day 11 March; Taranaki Anniversary Day 14 March. Please note Easter falls during the break

**Term 2:** Monday 2 May - Friday 15 July: Queen's Birthday Monday 6 June

**Term 3:** Monday 1 August - Friday 7 October

**Term 4:** Tuesday 25 October - Friday 16 December:  
Labour Day: Monday 24 October

**Note:** The usual length of each school term has been adjusted for 2011. Terms 1 & 2 are slightly longer than usual and Term 4 is two weeks shorter. The adjustment has been made to align the October term holiday with the final stages of the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

**Problem to Ponder:** Mr. Lenz has 5 children. Last week he took photos of them, with 3 children in each photo. If he took one photo of every possible choice of three children, how many photos did he take?

**Last Newsletters problem:** Harriet caught 20 fish but had to throw 20% of them back in the water. Ivy caught 24 fish but had to throw 25% back. Julie caught 25 fish but had to throw 32% back.

Who took the most fish home and how many?

**Answer:** Ivy, 18

Our school roll is: 395

- Kelvin Squire, Principal

## HOME & SCHOOL

### FUN RUN

Thank you for the wonderful support with donations and parent participation on the day. Prizes will be given out on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Vouchers for bikes and scooters will be issued.

### YARROWS BAGS

Thank you to those of you who collect these for us. For those families new to Stratford Primary, please keep any "Yarrows" bags, give them a shake and drop them off at the office. Yarrows pay us \$40 each month we are able to send 250 bags back to Yarrows.

### ANDERSON'S PIES

Order forms were handed to children on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Please gather your orders, and the money and return it to the school **before 10<sup>th</sup> September**. Delivery day is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Please mark this day on your diary and come into the school hall between 1.30 and 2.30 pm to collect pies.



You may have noticed that the Council has moved the fencing out to protect the Kowhai trees and to discourage parking along the muddy verge. We have also been informed that in weeks 9 & 10 a parking warden will be issuing tickets along that area and the front of the school to those double or illegally parking. We've been lucky to get an early 'heads up' about this so that parents can arrange alternative pick up areas.



**CONGRATULATIONS** .... Summar Gradwell has been selected for the Under 11 Girls Taranaki Soccer Representative Team. Well done!

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Stratford Athletics Club**      **AGM**      Mon 30th Aug @ 7.30pm  
Stratford Plunket Rooms      We welcome all interested in offering ideas/support to help improve our club.



Five weeks to go for collecting the stickers!  
The Yummy Fruit Company has added a double your points with Royal Gala apples for the last five weeks. Any Royal Gala stickers need to go on a special sticker sheet.  
We also get double points for the bag label as well but we need the bar code from the back that says Royal Gala too!  
If you want to help us double our points please see Mrs Hill for a Royal Gala sheet.  
Lisa Hill, Yummy Coordinator.

**MANUKORIHI SPORTS EXCHANGE:**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Manukorihi will be visiting for a sports Exchange.  
The Sports involved are 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby, Soccer, Hockey, Boys and Girls Basketball, Year 8a and Year 7a Netball, and 2 teams of Indoor bowls. The games will be played on the following timetable.

- 11am                      Year 7 Netball, Boys Basketball, Hockey & Soccer
- 11.30am                1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby, Indoor bowls
- 11.45am                Girls basketball and Year 8 Netball

Players are reminded to bring a plate for a shared lunch after the game.

- Aaron Moore, Co-ordinator

**COMING UP**

**SHORT LUNCH HOURS REMAIN** until the end of Term 3.

- Friday 3 September      Sports Exchange: Manukorihi at SPS
- Friday 10 September    Anderson Pie orders due back. Next Newsletter
- Thursday 16 September Pick up pies: 1.30 - 2.30/Hall. Don't be late!
- Wednesday 22 September      Taranaki Cross Country in Hawera
- Friday 24 September      Term 3 ends
- Monday 11 October      Term 4 begins                      Short Lunch hours end so School finishes at 2.55 each day

**Week 8: 29 November - 2 December:**      **LEARNING JOURNEY - HE HAERENGA AKORANGA** interviews  
Please note, and mark in your diary, that school will finish at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday of that week to allow parent/teacher interviews to be booked.

Friday 17 December      School closes for 2010

- Kelvin Squire, Principal



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STRATFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

August 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Our school places a high priority on providing a learning environment with Internet facilities and ICT devices / equipment which will benefit student learning outcomes, and the effective operation of the school.

Computers are available in every classroom and learning space; digital cameras in every class room; wireless laptops, and interactive whiteboards in the middle and senior School, and one junior room. We are also using the internet to share information with our school community through our school webpage; communicate to the community through email; children are skypeing and emailing professionals around the world as part of their everyday learning, and classes are looking at the internet as an audience for their work and a way of sharing with family.

The ICT devices / equipment and access to internet facilities are now a common daily occurrence in every classroom. **No longer are they additional tools** or activities which require a separate policy governing their use; **they are an integral part of the school day.**

**Our school values and beliefs are integral to everything we, teachers, children and parents do.**

This has required a review of our school **Cybersafety Policy**. In the past this has been a separate agreement which required children and parents / caregivers to sign their acknowledgement of understanding of safe use of ICT and Internet use. As technology has become an integral part of our daily lives, our children's lives, we have aligned our school practises accordingly.

We now have a **Cybersafety Awareness Pack (CAP)** for all students and staff which supports our revised Cybersafety Policy. We have enclosed that part of the CAP that pertains to your child/ren.

A CAP will initially be sent home to all current students and all newly registering students. This will be repeated when students reach Year 5 to re-inform them of safe ICT practises and expectations at Stratford Primary School. All parties to the CAP will be a part of any future review process. Changes resulting from this review process will be shared with you.

The CAP includes information about your child's obligations, responsibilities, and the nature of possible consequences associated with cybersafety breaches which undermine the safety of the school environment. **The behaviour of all students when using ICT devices / equipment and internet facilities is now governed by our school behaviour policies and our school values.** This does not require the student and parents / caregivers to sign a form of understanding, as it is expected children will use ICT devices / equipment and internet facilities in the same manner they would use their books, pencils and pens.

Though most users of on-line services have mainly positive experiences, like any endeavour - travelling, cooking, attending school - there are some risks. The on-line world, like the rest of society, is made up of a wide array of people. Most are decent and respectful, but some may be rude, obnoxious, insulting, or even mean and exploitative. **Please note that we do have software installed to minimise risk.**

As a school, we are committed to using this technology to support and enhance the learning programmes and to assist students to develop the skills required to use on-line resources appropriately and effectively. We are also committed to providing a safe environment for your child.

In order to provide that safe environment teachers will regularly model and discuss safe online practises; lessons in Cybersafety will be ongoing.

**WHAT ARE WE ASKING OF YOU**

We are asking you to go through the CAP with your children and to discuss with them the rules to help keep Stratford Primary School students Cybersafe and the implications involved if they should be found misusing ICT equipment / devices and internet facilities.

If you have any questions about the CAP, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Paul Elkerton  
Director ICT & Technology

Kelvin Squire  
Principal

**CYBERSAFETY AWARENESS PACK (CAP)  
FOR STUDENTS**

**This document is comprised of this cover page and three sections:**

**Section A: Introduction**

**Section B: Cybersafety Rules.**

**Section C: Cybersafety Agreement**

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**Instructions for parents\*/caregivers/legal guardians**

Please read sections A and B carefully. If there are any points you would like to discuss with the school, please contact your classroom teacher as soon as possible.

1. Discuss the cybersafety rules with your child.
2. Please keep sections A and B for future reference.

**\* The term ‘parent’ used throughout this document also refers to caregivers and legal guardians.**

***Important terms used in this document:***

- (a) *The abbreviation ‘ICT’ in this document refers to the term ‘Information and Communication Technologies’*
- (b) *‘Cybersafety’ refers to the safe use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones*
- (c) *‘School ICT’ refers to the school’s computer network, Internet access facilities, computers, and other school ICT equipment/devices as outlined in (d) below*
- (d) *The term ‘ICT equipment/devices’ used in this document, includes but is not limited to, computers (such as desktops, laptops, PDAs), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, webcams), all types of mobile phones, gaming consoles, video and audio players/receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), and any other, similar, technologies as they come into use.*
- (e) *“Public Sites” means School internet,” flickr®”, (a site where photos can be displayed), social networking and blog sites which can be accessed by anyone, anywhere*
- (f) *‘Objectionable’ in this awareness pack means material that deals with matters such as sex, cruelty, or violence in such a manner that it is likely to be injurious to the good of students or incompatible with a school environment. This is intended to be inclusive of the definition used in the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act 1993.*
- (g) *“Student work/material” relates to original examples of school work (such as drawings and paintings, stories, poems and other literary work and videos) that have been produced by students and retains their intellectual property rights*

*Additional information can be found on NetSafe’s website [www.netsafe.org.nz/ua](http://www.netsafe.org.nz/ua)*

**SECTION A  
INTRODUCTION**

The measures to ensure the cybersafety of Stratford Primary School outlined in this document are based on our core values.

The school’s computer network, Internet access facilities, computers and other school ICT equipment/devices bring great benefits to the teaching and learning programmes at Stratford Primary School and to the effective operation of the school.

Our school has rigorous cybersafety practices in place, which include cybersafety use awareness packs for all school staff and students.

The overall goal of the school in this matter is to create and maintain a cybersafety culture which is in keeping with the values of the school, and legislative and professional obligations. This use awareness pack includes information about your obligations, responsibilities, and the nature of possible consequences associated with cybersafety breaches which undermine the safety of the school environment.

The behaviour of all students is governed by our school behaviour policies and our school values. The purpose of this awareness pack is to make students and their families aware of their responsibilities in using the school ICT equipment

Students are encouraged to take more ownership of their responsibilities as they develop through the school. For this reason older students (Years 5 – 8) will be re-issued with a new Cybersafety use awareness pack.

The internet and use of “public sites” such as social networking, blog and “flickr@” are becoming an integral part of our children’s lives. Our school website can be viewed by anyone with internet access, anywhere in the world. As educators, Stratford Primary School aims to encourage the correct use of such sites under a managed and supervised programme.

The school’s computer network, Internet access facilities, computers and other school ICT equipment/devices are for educational purposes appropriate to the school environment. This applies whether the ICT equipment is owned or leased either partially or wholly by the school, and used on *or* off the school site.

The school may monitor traffic and material sent and received using the school’s ICT network. The school may use filtering and/or monitoring software to restrict access to certain sites and data, including email.

The school may audit its computer network, Internet access facilities, computers and other school ICT equipment/devices or commission an independent forensic audit.

The school will, from time to time, publish student’s work online; the purpose of which is to:

- a. Educate the student when working safely in an on-line environment
- b. Encourage the student to be part of and participate in the wider school community
- c. Engage the wider community with the students learning.
- d. Celebrate student achievement using Web 2 technology.

**RULES TO HELP KEEP STRATFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CYBERSAFE**

As a safe and responsible user of ICT I will help keep myself and other people safe by following these rules.

**I will not tell anyone else my personal internet user name and password.** I will log on only with that user name.

I can only use the computers and other school ICT equipment for my schoolwork.

If I am unsure whether I am allowed to do something involving ICT, I will ask the teacher first.

I understand that I must not, **at any time**, use the Internet, email, mobile phones or any ICT equipment to be unkind, mean, rude, offensive, or to bully, harass, or in any way harm anyone else connected to our school, or the school itself, even if it is meant as a ‘joke’.

**While at school, I will not:**

- Attempt to search for things online I know are not acceptable at our school. This could include anything that is rude or violent or uses unacceptable language such as swearing.
- Make any attempt to get around, or bypass, security, monitoring and filtering that is in place at our school.

If I find anything mean or rude or things I know are not acceptable at our school on any ICT, I will:

Not show others  
Click on the **‘Hector Safety Button’** or turn off the screen and  
Get a teacher straight away.

**I understand that I must not download or copy any files** such as music, videos, games or programmes without the permission of a teacher. This is to ensure we are following copyright laws.

I must have a letter from home and permission from a teacher before I bring any ICT equipment/device from home. This includes things like mobile phones, iPods, games, cameras, and USB drives. **I also understand that the school takes no responsibility for the loss or damage of any personal items that I may bring to school.**

I will not connect any device (such as a USB drive, camera or phone) to school ICT or run any software, without a teacher’s permission. This includes all wireless technologies.

**The school cybersafety rules and our school values apply to any ICT brought to school like a mobile phone.**

I will ask my teacher’s permission before giving out any personal information online. I will also get permission from any other person involved.

**Personal Information includes:**

- Name**
- Address**
- Email address**
- Phone numbers**
- Photos**

I will respect all school ICT and will treat all ICT equipment/devices with care. This includes:

- Not being silly and playing around with it.
- Not intentionally disrupting the smooth running of any school ICT systems.
- Not attempting to hack or gain unauthorised access to any system.
- Following all school cybersafety rules, and not joining in if other students choose to be irresponsible with ICT.
- Telling a teacher about anything wrong or damaged.

I understand that if I break these rules, the school may need to inform my parents. In serious cases the school may take disciplinary action against me. I also understand that my family may be charged for repair costs.

**SECTION C**  
*STRATFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL*  
*CYBERSAFETY USE AWARENESS PACK AGREEMENT*

**To the parent/caregiver/legal guardian, please:**

1. **Read this page carefully**, to check you understand your responsibilities under this awareness pack
2. **Keep the document for future reference**

**I understand that Stratford Primary School will:**

- Do its best to enhance learning through the safe use of ICT. This includes working to restrict access to inappropriate, illegal or harmful material on the Internet or school ICT equipment/devices at school, or at school related activities.
- Work progressively with children and their families to encourage and develop an understanding of the importance of cybersafety through education designed to complement and support the use awareness pack initiative. This includes providing children with strategies to keep themselves safe in cyberspace.
- Respond to any breaches in an appropriate manner.
- Welcome enquiries from parents or students about cybersafety issues.
- Publish images of the Student on the Internet, as well as any work that he or she may create at school, in strict compliance with the school's policy for the online publication of student images and student work and the associated guidelines.

**My responsibilities include:**

- I will read this Cybersafety Use Awareness Pack document.
- I will discuss the information with my child and explain why it is important.
- I will support the school's cybersafety programme by encouraging my child to follow the cybersafety rules, and to always ask the teacher if they are unsure about any use of ICT.
- I will contact the principal or school cybersafety manager to discuss any questions I might have about cybersafety and/or this use awareness pack and I am welcome to do this at any time.
- I will contact the school or principal should I want to withdraw consent for the school to publish images of the Student on the Internet, as well as any work that he or she may have created at school