



20 March 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Commemoration of 15/3

This week has been a week of quiet reflection for many of our community, following last Friday's tragic events. Our flag has flown at half mast, and our teachers have provided routine, and a gentle, measured response to student queries. As a school, we continue to be guided by the needs of our students and the support the Ministry of Education has provided to schools.

This has been a significant event in our nation. The on-going outpouring of love and support for the Christchurch community is a remarkable response. On Friday, our school would like to join with several other school across the Kapiti region, and draw this week to a close with a brief commemoration on our back field.

We would like to warmly invite parents and whanau to join us for this: **Friday 22 March**

- 1.30pm - Students take their lunch to the back field and eat this with their classes
- 1.39pm - A bell will be rung and all will stand for a minute's silence
- 1.40pm - The school Kapa Haka group will lead a Haka
- 1.45pm - Students will return to normal lessons in their class

We are aware that many of our students, especially those that are young, are not aware of this event, and we will – as always – continue to protect our children from ANY content we consider harmful. This event is intended to be a coming together of our community to actively respond with aroha and unity. Teachers will introduce this event to their classes with a brief statement:

Eg: *'Our class is going to join with the rest of the school, and with a number of other schools, to show manaakitanga: kindness, care and respect after some recent sad events.'* No other conversations about the actual event will be initiated by staff, and as there are no changes to our daily timetable, children will quickly return to their afternoon routine and programme.

If you feel this may harm your child, **please email your child's teacher BEFORE Friday** and other arrangements will be made. You are welcome to attend to support your child also. Class teachers will continue to monitor the needs of your children, and respond appropriately.

We wish to thank all our community for their kindness and gentleness during this challenging week.

He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata
Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure

On behalf of the staff of Raumati Beach School,

Mike Farrelly
PRINCIPAL