



3 February 2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome (back for year 8s) to Dunedin North Intermediate!

We have enjoyed our first day with your tamariki and hope that they come home full of beans also. This letter has been emailed to you also so the links will work if you check your email copy. Check your junk mail too, you may need to mark us as safe:)

Meet the Teacher:

There will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher on Tuesday February 11, 5.30pm. This is a chance to hear about expectations, ask questions and learn a bit more about the DNI programme. In weeks 8 and 9 of term one we will hold individual interviews with caregivers and students. This gives us time to get to know your children and properly assess where they are at in terms of academic learning and self management. At this interview we will share a baseline report with you (where we believe your child is working in reading, writing and maths) and we'll also use this time to set goals for the rest of the year.

Partnership and Whanau Hui:

Good education requires a positive home/school partnership. For this reason we value time to meet with families in a range of formats throughout the year. There will be a whanau hui in the coming weeks and you are warmly invited to attend. Details will be emailed soon.

School Hours:

School is open for students **from 8.25am in the mornings**. While there may well be staff here earlier than this we can not guarantee that your children will be supervised so we ask that you do not drop off children before 8.25am as the school will remain locked until this time.

School finishes at 2.55pm. With the exception of children that wait for the north line bus (Waitati, Warrington, Karitane, Waikouaiti) we expect that all students leave the school grounds by 3.05pm.

Staff Professional Development:

Dunedin North Intermediate is one of about 18 schools in Dunedin who are part of the Maori Achievement Collaborative (MAC). On Thursday 5 March approximately 140 teachers will attend an overnight noho at Ōtākou Marae. School will be open as usual on March 5, but closed for instruction on Friday 6 March.

Communication Expectations:

Communication with whānau is an essential aspect of good relationship building. The first port of call for any question you might have is always the classroom teacher and email is a good way to contact them. We expect our staff to acknowledge receipt of your email within 24 hrs (Monday to Friday) but generally teachers do not check email during the day as this gets in the way of their teaching duties. If your message is urgent, please phone the office.

ICT Acceptable User Agreement:

Students will be welcome to use the internet at DNI as soon as the attached User Agreement is signed. [Internet User Agreement](#)

Concerns and Complaints Procedure:

Conflict is a natural and unavoidable fact of life. Good management of conflict is therefore vital and usually concerns can be resolved quickly when attended to appropriately.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzMBB3MAKAGcbkJHU1c5OUpOSXM/view?usp=sharing>

Lunch Options:

We offer the following lunch options at DNI:

- Lunch-on-line on Wednesday (Subway), Thursday (Sushi) and Fridays (Hell Pizza). Lunches online can be ordered by parents via their website <https://www.lunchonline.co.nz/> up until 8:45am on the day of delivery. All further information can be found on their website.
- On Mondays and Tuesdays students who need to purchase lunch are expected to do so before they enter the school grounds in the morning. Once at school we do not expect students to leave again.

Lunch online ordering will be available from week 2, Wednesday 12 February.

School Uniform Rules:

The Board of Trustees, as representatives of the community, expect DNI students to wear a uniform. There are multiple options for the formal uniform, and children are expected to wear one of these options in its entirety:

- Formal shorts or long pants, polo, and DNI socks, black shoes as per the guide on the website.
- or
- Kilt, polo and white or black knee length or ankle length (not sports sock that sit under the ankle) socks, black shoes as per the guide on the website.
- or
- Culottes, polo and white or black knee length or ankle length (not sports sock that sit under the ankle) socks, black shoes as per the guide on the website.

Students have a choice of DNI sweatshirt, DNI jersey, DNI Vest or DNI polarfleece to accompany the formal uniform.

Additionally

- The full formal uniform is to be worn to and from school, and for assembly and other formal occasions as determined by the staff
- Students have the option of wearing the **full sports uniform** at school, sports top, sports shorts and sports shoes, but they must not mix and match their uniform pieces.
- Students leaving school **to travel to a DNI sports fixture** may wear full sports uniform
- Cosmetics and jewellery are not to be worn with the school uniform. However, small plain studs (one per ear) in the ear lobe or a pendant that can not be seen (tucked inside uniform) are acceptable. Facial piercings are not allowed at any level.
- The school management and staff reserve the right to ensure uniform standards are upheld, which include grooming, hair styles/hair colour and jewellery. Extreme hairstyles are not approved and the Principal has the final decision on what is appropriate and inappropriate to wear with the school uniform
- Permitted artificial hair colours are natural blonde, ginger, brown and black.
- A DNI jacket, or a **plain black** jacket is permitted in cooler weather

We have been notified that there has been some delay in some of the uniform options arriving. Students who are affected will be issued uniform passes until they arrive in Dunedin.

If you need hardship support with uniform items we may well be able to help. Please give Anne a call at the office. We do not want starting school to be stressful for whānau.

Stationery:

Stationery lists are available on the website and from the office. Students should have their stationery by now. Please do let us know if you require some support, or some extra time. We do not want starting school to be stressful for whānau.

Mobile Phones:

As mobile phones become more accessible schools are needing to consider management of mobile phone use. At DNI we accept that many children have phones and that they are a necessary communication method for parents after and before school.

Students may be invited to use their phone during school time for a learning activity. Teachers will make this invitation very clear.

At all other times between 8.45am and 3pm, we expect that mobile phones are switched off and out of sight. Students are invited to check phones for messages from parents between 12:25 and 12:35pm (the designated seated lunch period).

If you need to contact your child urgently outside of these times, please phone the school office. Using phones at other times in the day will result in the phone being removed from the student and returned at 3pm. We take no responsibility for phones that are removed in this instance.

We also ask for your support in ensuring that appropriate methods of conflict resolution are maintained. At times students telephone or text their parents during the day if a conflict arises between another student or a teacher. Children are often very upset at this point, and consequently parents feel very anxious about their child, and it is not uncommon for the office staff or principal to receive a phone call from a parent before a child has even reported an incident to a teacher. We need time to resolve issues at school and we ask that you direct your child to a teacher, rather than taking the issue up for them, if they communicate with you during the school day. If an issue remains unresolved by 3pm then by all means get in touch with your child's teacher.

Homework:

Homework is one of those topics that polarise people! There are always as many families requesting homework as there are vehemently opposed to it.

For this reason we are flexible with homework. We do expect children to get involved in a range of extra-school learning activities including sports, music, computing clubs etc. We also expect children to read regularly.

Teachers will outline their own expectations around homework in their welcome newsletter and again at the Meet the Teacher Night. If these expectations do not work for your family you are welcome to negotiate an alternative with the teacher (please make an appointment to do this).

Camp (Outdoor Education Stay):

We can confirm that a one night (two day) camp will take place for all students during the last week of term, (April 6-9).

This is an opportunity for students to get to know each other and their teachers better, challenge themselves and most importantly, have a good deal of fun! The cost of the camp is being confirmed, but will likely be \$50-70. Please contact the office staff if you would like to spread payments out over Term 1.

A little parent help would be appreciated - please contact your child's teacher asap if you can help. Teacher emails are generic first name and last name initial @dni.school.nz (for example heidih@dni.school.nz) Dates are as follows: Monday night (6th April) Rooms 1, 3, 4, 6. Tuesday night (7th April) Rooms 13, 14, 16. Wednesday night (8th April) Rooms 8, 10, 11.

Music :

We need all registrations for music lessons by **Friday February 7 please.**

A link is provided here, or you could check the website for a link to the available options, or come and see the office staff. [Music 2020](#)

Sports:

We need all registrations for Term one sports teams by **Wednesday February 5, 5pm please.** A link is provided here, or you could check the website for a link to the available options, or come and see the office staff. [Summer Sports 2020](#)

School Photos:

Kelk will be here Tuesday morning (4 February), from 8.45am for individual and class photos. Please ensure children are here on time and have full school uniform by this time.

Health and Participation

We've had a few particularly difficult years with illness. It is really important that children are kept at home when they are unwell to limit the spread of illness. Equally, we expect that all students present at school are able to participate in the school programme (swimming, PE etc). If your child is unwell, or not well enough fully to participate in the school day, then the best place for them is bed, with a hottie :)

Children should not attend school until 24 hours after their last bout of vomiting or diarrhea, untreated headlice or contagious infections as listed on the Ministry of Health website.

We thank you for your support with this.

Bikes, skateboards and scooters

Students are welcome to bring bikes, skateboards and scooters to school and they may play on on skateboards and scooters at breaks (but not bikes). However we take no responsibility for these items, and scooters and bikes must be kept in the bikeshed (not in the classrooms). As such bike locks are essential.

Lime Scooters are not to be used by students for transport as this is not legal for students of intermediate age.

School Excursions

As part of the extracurricular experience at DNI students may be selected to perform the 'student helper' role in the front office. At times this may involve them leaving the school grounds on short errands to places close to the school such as the supermarket or post office.

There is also sometimes a need to send children in groups of two-three to other places in the immediate vicinity to assist with their learning.

In both situations the boundaries include the Gardens Mall and Bank Street areas along to Pet Planet. Students will have a very specific task to perform and will be set a time limit. **No child will be sent on their own outside of the school grounds.**

In addition we also like to take classes on outings within the Dunedin area. To make planning for these outings much easier, we request that you fill in blanket permission form (see below) to cover low risk outings in the local Dunedin area. We will always inform you of trips in advance and we seek specific written permission for high risk activities or overnight stays.

Please fill in details on the form below to indicate that you give your child permission to take part in classroom excursions or tasks. For any further information or if you would prefer that your child did not take part in such activities, please contact your child's teacher.

BLANKET PERMISSION FORM 2020

Child's name _____ Room ____

Please tick:

- Yes, I give my child permission to undertake school-related tasks in small groups within the Gardens shopping area.
- Yes, I give my child permission to attend low risk outings, within in the local Dunedin area (not overnight stays). I understand that I will be notified of these events via classroom notices and school newsletters.
- Yes, I have read this newsletter, pages 1-5

Parent / Caregiver signature: _____

Teachers, please return this form to the office for filing