



## **Birkdale Primary School**

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# **Education Crisis – Paid union Meeting on Tuesday 19th June (afternoon)**

**Following on from last week's newsletter, where I pointed out that there are critical issues to be resolved for the teaching profession, I thought it would be helpful to provide you with further information about the issues. I am also asking for your support and understanding for teachers across the country.**

**As a community we want to provide the best environment and conditions for our students. This includes recruiting and retaining professional, passionate, highly trained teachers, who are well supported, and within manageable class sizes.**

**The Educator sector, particularly in primary schools, is moving closer to a crisis.**

Some Key facts:

- Over the past 6 years there has been a 40% drop-off in those training to teach.
- 40% of new teachers leave the profession in the first five years.
- Meanwhile, 35% of our experienced teachers will be eligible to retire during the next 10 years and many are leaving early.
- The Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins, has described recruitment and retention of teachers as “a ticking time bomb”.
- There are growing student numbers and a serious shortage of teachers already.
- Some schools are struggling, or sometimes failing to find quality trained teachers.
- Some schools are having to permanently raise class numbers/combine classes, as they cannot fill vacancies.
- The relieving teacher pool has shrunk and there are times when classes have to be split up and sent to other teachers, as no reliever is available.
- Since the early 2000s, teacher salaries have dropped significantly relative to the median New Zealand salary, from 1.8 times the median (for experienced teachers on the top of the pay scale) to just over 1.5. In effect, this means jobs that used to earn less than teachers, now earn more.

In order to discuss these issues, many of our teachers are attending a paid union meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday 19th June.

The teachers' union, NZEI, has called their second paid union meeting as negotiations continue for the new Collective Agreement. The NZEI are stressing that important decisions need to be made at that meeting. Strong member support for our "*It's Time – Kua Tae Te Wa*" campaign will encourage the Government to urgently and seriously respond to the crisis in education and the pressing need to attract and retain people in teaching.

## IMPORTANT:

The school will remain open. However, if you are able to find a way, it would be much appreciated if you could pick up your child/ren at 1:00pm or earlier on this day. We understand that many of you are working parents, however, to allow teachers to attend their meeting, a skeleton staff will remain to supervise the students who cannot be picked up. Normal class programmes will be replaced with activities.

If you are unable to pick your child/children up, we have asked PKC to open at 1:00pm. PKC will charge \$15 from 1pm - 3pm for current users and those using the facility as a casual on this day. If your child does not attend PKC currently, you will need to fill out an enrolment pack (not huge). All other remaining students will be supervised by the skeleton staff.

**PLEASE NOTE: Our Junior Syndicate (Nikau, Miro, Kauri, Pohutukawa and Kowhai classes) are schedule to attend a trip to MOTAT on this day. They will be returning to school by 2.30pm. They will attend the trip as planned.**

We apologise for any inconvenience but these issues are very important for the future of our children's education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Adrienne Mawer  
Principal

Please complete the tear off slip below to indicate if your child(ren) will be going home at 1.00pm or staying at school on **Tuesday 19th June**. Please return to your class teacher by Monday 11th June 2018. If your child is in the Junior Syndicate who is attending MOTAT, you do not have to return this slip.

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### PAID UNION MEETING – TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018

- No, I do not need my child/ren supervised – I will pick them up at 1.00pm.
- No, I do not need my child/ren supervised – They will walk home at 1.00pm and there will be someone at home to greet them.
- No, I do not need my child/ren supervised – They will attend PKC from 1.00pm.
- Yes, I would like my child/ren supervised on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June until 3.00pm
- Yes, I would like my child/ren supervised on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June and then he/she/they will be attending PKC from 3.00pm.

Child/rens Name:..... Room/s:.....

Signed: .....

**PLEASE RETURN FORM BY MONDAY 11TH JUNE 2018**