



Learning  
&  
Growing

# Hinuera School

Te Kura O Hinuera  
ESTABLISHED 1892

PRINCIPAL: DEAN McDONNELL



13 October 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

From Week 3 of this term the whole school will be taking part in the *Keeping Ourselves Safe* programme.

*Keeping Ourselves Safe* has been designed and developed by the New Zealand Police, in conjunction with teachers, to provide children with the skills to cope in situations that might involve abuse. It will be taught by your child's teacher, with support from a School's Community Officer as required.

*Keeping Ourselves Safe* has three overall aims:

- To develop and strengthen skills children need to keep themselves safe;
- To support and encourage abused children to get help from caring adults;
- To make parents and teachers more aware of the need to keep children from being abused

You can find more information about *Keeping Ourselves Safe* here: <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-and-community-advice/school-portal/resources/successful-relationships/info-parents-whanau>

To be successful, *Keeping Ourselves Safe* needs your help and support. Some worksheets will come home for you to work on with your child. It is important that you participate as much as possible, so that you can reinforce the messages children are getting and help your child use his or her new skills with confidence. It is a good starting point for families for having those discussions that we may never get around to otherwise, including the correct names for body parts, that our bodies are our own and should be respected by ourselves and others, and that there are some people in the world that don't stick to those rules (and how to keep safe from them). Although the topic of abuse is not a pleasant one, I want to stress that the *Keeping Ourselves Safe* programme is a positive one that children enjoy being a part of. The staff appreciate the full support of our Board of Trustees to run this programme in the school, and we thank them for this.

A parents' information meeting will be held in the school hall at 12.30pm next Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, and will be attended by our local School Community Officer, Constable Ross Watson. Please indicate if you will attend or not by completing the form on this link. <https://forms.gle/eut3jKDsbc3p1MV8> **Please complete the form, regardless of whether you are coming or not, as we want to be sure all parents have read this and know they had the opportunity. If you can't make the meeting, but have questions, please chat to your child's teacher or give Dean a call at the office.**

Being informed and knowing exactly what will happen is the best way to avoid confusion or concern as parents, so we really encourage you to attend this meeting. If you came to the meeting in 2017 you can decide if you want to come again. It will be fairly similar.

Please contact the school if you would like any more information about the programme or about child abuse, or if you would like to discuss any issues this topic may raise for your child.

Kind regards

Dean McDonnell - Principal