MANUREWA WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wisdom through understanding

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**7th September 2020**

Dear Parents/Whanau

From 2021, at Manurewa West Primary School we are looking to implement Cohort Entry for all students starting school as 5 year olds.

**What does this mean?** Once your child has turned 5, they will be able to start school on the closest date **after** they have turned 5. There are 2 entry points throughout the term so this may mean that your child may have to stay at ECE for a few more weeks until the entry point.

**Cohort Entry - What You Need To Know?** The Education Act 1989 has been amended to allow schools to adopt and enforce a cohort entry policy after consulting with their community. Cohort entry refers to children starting school as a group, at the beginning or mid-point of a term, AFTER THEIR FIFTH BIRTHDAY as opposed to starting school on their fifth birthday. Parents choosing not to start their child until the age of six must ensure they start school on their sixth birthday, regardless of a school’s cohort entry arrangements. A child already enrolled at one school who moves to another does not have to wait for the next cohort intake. Children enrolling at the start of Term 1 would be considered Year One students for the year. Children enrolling at the start of Terms 2, 3 and 4 would be considered Year Zero for the year and would be in Year One the following year.

**What are the advantages of moving to Cohort Entry?** At Manurewa West Primary School we strongly believe in having the best start to school for all children, but most importantly in the early years, as this will set them up for a successful future. Cohort Entry in Schools is the perfect way for your child to have the best start at school.

Having children start as a group at the beginning, or mid-point of the term allows a consistent and settled induction and transition process rather than this being repeated every week throughout the term as new students start. This ensures that groups of children are receiving the same message at the same time. We have also embarked on a collaborative approach to teaching and learning across the school where students move between teachers so that there is equity of teaching and learning. Cohort Entry will work seamlessly with groups of students starting school at the same time. Teachers will be able to best meet the social and emotional needs that children have when they’re transitioning to a new environment. We can help them integrate into our school as a whole group so the transition process is much better, seeing that their peers and friends are going through the same experiences and can support each other. This also helps us as school leaders to better plan to meet our staffing needs. Your child will still have the opportunity to have up to 2 visits at school, prior to starting school.

Should Cohort Entry dates be implemented the dates for 2021 will be:

**Term 1** 02/02/21 15/03/21 **Term 2** 03/05/21 08/06/21 **Tuesday Term 3** 26/07/21 30/08/21 **Term 4** 18/10/21 15/11/21.

If you have questions, concerns or thoughts to share on this important issue, please send them by email to admin@manurewawest.school.nz

Nga mihi nui

Kogie Naidoo

Principal