



3 February 2025

Malo lelei, guten tag, こんにちは, kon'nichiwa, hej!, hallo, namaste, As-salaam 'alykum, hujambo, 안녕하세요, talofa lava, bula vinaka, malo ni, 你好 | Nihăo, kia ora ki a koutou!

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. 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'.

And a reminder, this Thursday, 6 February DNI will be closed for Waitangi Day, and we are also closed Friday 7 February for a Ministry approved Cluster Curriculum Day.

Whānau Hononga Evening (Family Connections):

Each classroom teacher will organise an evening event sometime before 19 February to meet with the whānau from their class. This is an informal opportunity to build relationships, ask questions and learn a bit more about the DNI programme. This meeting is not a time to discuss individual needs, but rather a time to meet the teacher and other whānau.

Learning Discussions:

Later in term one (March/April) we will hold individual learning discussions 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 hui we will share baseline data 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 whānau 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 whānau hui in late February/early March. You are warmly invited to attend. Details will be emailed closer to the time.

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 3:10pm.

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.

Several times a term you will receive an emailed Behaviour and Attitude Report. This will outline how things are in the classroom.

ICT Acceptable User Agreement:

Students will be welcome to use the internet at DNI - all students have agreed to this [Internet User Agreement](#) as a condition of enrolment.

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. Please see our procedure linked here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DGu_-i17ic8Pp7Ho_VEHTH9y3fPes-hBO44R9DmPh5I/edit?usp=sharing

Lunch Options:

We offer the following lunch options at DNI:

- Lunchonline on Tuesday (Taco Vida), Wednesday (Pita Pit), Thursday (Sushi) and Fridays (Hell Pizza). Lunchonline 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 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 our second day, Tuesday 4 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 (with black and red DNI socks) or long pants (with plain black socks), polo, and black shoes as per the guide on the website.
- or
- Kilt, polo and plain white or plain black knee length or white ankle length socks (not sports socks that sit under the ankle), or black tights, black shoes as per the guide on the website.
- or
- Culottes, polo and plain white or plain black knee length or white ankle length socks (not sports socks that sit under the ankle) or black tights, 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, nail polish and jewellery, cosmetic contact lenses, false eyelashes, 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 (including colours/patterns that you can't naturally grow) are not acceptable. 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, and one colour only.
- A DNI jacket, or a **plain black** outdoors jacket (water resistant and therefore not a hoodie or cotton layer) is permitted in cooler weather. Students are not permitted to wear these inside.
- Hair ties and accessories should be in DNI colours (black, red and/or white) and be for function (not fashion) and discreet.

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:

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.

DNI use OfficeMax MySchool. This provider guarantees their product both in terms of quality and price. The lists will be available here www.myschool.co.nz/Dunedinnorth. You DO NOT have to use OfficeMax.

Mobile Phones:

Students are not permitted to have mobile phones during the school day. Please read the policy [linked here](#).

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. There is a document to read and sign at the end of this document.

Noho Marae:

We hold an overnight experience in Term 1 each year. In 2025 this will be a noho marae in March beginning on March 12, with the final classes leaving on March 21. We are just confirming the dates each class will go and you'll get these dates next week. The purpose of the overnight is to allow students to make friends in a non-classroom environment as well as taking part in activities. We ask for whānau to contribute to the cost if this is manageable but no one will miss out due to finance. **As per your classroom placement letter during the holidays we will need adult helpers for this, but we need to police vet anybody staying overnight. If you are hoping to come, please make sure you have been in touch with the office by Wednesday 5 Feb 3 pm, because we are unlikely to get police vets back in time after that.**

Additionally, there are always a number of Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) activities offered in electives (which run in Term 3 and Term 4 each year) and at least one elective involves overnight stays for those interested.

Absences:

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, or late due to an appointment etc please phone the office and leave a message on the absence line, or email the office office@dni.school.nz by 9:15am. This saves an enormous amount of time for the office staff as we need to phone or text you if your child has not arrived.

Please be aware that we may text you if your child has not arrived - you can reply to the text but it costs **9c a text**. You may prefer to phone us back or email us to let us know.

Music Lessons (*Term time only*):

At DNI we offer a range of options for learning a musical instrument. Itinerant music teachers are employed to run these classes and they involve a small cost. Most lessons take place during the school day and you can sign up for music lessons on our website or [at this link](#).

Please let us know if you require hardship funding to enable your child to attend music lessons. All of these classes blend with, and complement, the school music programme.

Summer Sports:

Engagement in sports is a great way to keep fit and learn valuable social skills. We offer a range of options and we're always keen to offer more where there is enough interest. You can sign up for summer sports [at this link](#).

School Photos:

Kelk Photography will be here on Tues 4 February, for individual and class photos. Please ensure students are at school on time.

After School Art Classes (Term time only):

Julie Butler, our Textiles' teacher, is also an artist and offers individual and small group tuition for students attending DNI. Cost per student, per session, is \$25. The classes cover: Drawing, watercolor and acrylic painting, claywork, felting, pewter casting and much more. To register your child contact: Julie Butler: julieb@dni.school.nz

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 to fully participate in the school day, then the best place for them is bed, with a hottie :) Children should not attend school until **at least** 48 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 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.

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

Vaping:

We are sad to say that vaping has become an issue children are confronted with. Vaping, like smoking, is not legal for intermediate age students. It is really important that you discuss the probability that vaping is being discussed at this age and that children are prepared for what they might say and do in these situations. For clarity, vaping (or any other substance that is not legal at this age) will not be tolerated at school, or at any time a student is in uniform. We take safety very seriously and bringing or taking illegal substances to school undermines the sense of safety that one can expect at school.

School Excursions:

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

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 Carpark and Bank Street areas along to Gardens Pet Doctors/Botanic Gardens/Cricket Sports Ground. 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 the blanket permission form (attached) to cover low risk outings in the local Dunedin area. We will always inform you of trips in advance and we still seek specific written permission for high risk activities or overnight stays, but this means that you don't get a constant stream of paperwork back and forth!

Please fill in details on the form attached to indicate that you give your child permission to take part in classroom excursions or tasks.

Teachers, please return this form to the office for filing

BLANKET PERMISSION FORM 2025

Child's name _____ **Room** ____

Please tick:

- ☐ Yes, I give my child permission to undertake school-related tasks in small groups within the Botanic Gardens/cricket grounds and shopping area.
- ☐ Yes, I give my child permission to attend low risk outings, within 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 1-6

Parent / Caregiver signature: _____

Student Information Consent:

Images of our students (photographs, video clips, etc), and examples of their school work, are sometimes published in our newsletters, on our school website, and other online channels such as the school/class blogs, facebook page, You Tube etc. We publish student material to celebrate students' work and achievement, to encourage students to participate in our school community, and to promote the school.

Please indicate your wishes by ticking the relevant box:

- ☐ I DO give permission for my child's name, image, or work to be published in the school newsletter, on the school website, or the wider online community (as indicated above).
- ☐ I DO NOT give permission for my child's name, image, or work to be published in the school newsletter, on the school website, or the wider online community (as indicated above).

Home Learning Expectations, 2025

Homework is a topic that polarises people. Most of us remember homework being an important part of school life when we attended school, however like many aspects of life, things are different a generation or two on and it is important that we reflect this in our expectations.

It is expected you will **read every night for at least 20 minutes** and **practice basic facts** in a book or online (if this is an area of concern for you). Other than that, homework is a choice. **We expect our DNI students to:**

- Attend to learning tasks set at school in a timely fashion. Tasks that are not completed during the time a teacher has set at school may be sent home for completion (or students may be asked to do this work in break times)
- From time to time we may set tasks (like during science fair) that allow students time to practise self-management skills outside of the classroom
- Get involved in **at least one sport or cultural activity per term**. DNI operates a system of 'colours' and students earn colours by getting involved in extracurricular activities.
- Take responsibility for themselves - ensure they make time to learn to use the washing machine, have clean uniform pieces each day, make and pack their lunch, pack the required items for school each day. Learn to walk or use public transport to get to and from school independently.

You can choose to do one or more of the following if you would like to do homework.

- Science badges (this has a cost that can be paid once the badge is completed. - please look at www.sciencebadges.co.nz/html/badges.html to find out what one/s you would like to do - (they are a lot of fun) and let Toni Johnson know and she will order them through the school.
- Learn a **new** skill eg: musical instrument, origami, yoga, sport, or language and write a timeline, diary or video diary about the experience.
- Write a script for a play (you may or may not perform it).
- Build something at home eg: birdhouse, bench seat. Draw the plans and take photos of the process.
- Cook dinner for a week or one night a week. Write a menu, shopping list, take photos of each meal and get reviews from the people who eat it. Make a recipe book.
- Volunteer somewhere for a period of time eg: a pet shop, rest home and write about your experience.
- Create a presentation on a topic you are interested in.
- Your own idea - come and talk to me about it :)
- For whanau that wish to have more traditional homework to work through together, we can also recommend purchasing from this range:
<https://esa.co.nz/collections/start-right-workbook>

Please discuss with me what level would be most appropriate for your child.

Please complete and return the slip below so that I am aware you have seen this form.

I have read the form and we have decided that _____ (child's name) in Room _____ will do extra homework/will not do (please circle) extra homework this year.

Signed _____