

# SUMPTER BAUGHEN

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## Newsletter

Number 01

1 February 2019

Website [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

Phone (09) 433 5823 Email – admin@matarau.school.nz



Welcome to the 2019 school year. A special welcome to our new families, and to our international students.

### Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website and are emailed - if you would like to receive your newsletter by email, and do not currently, please contact us.

### Early Thanks

...to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.

...Helen Dorahy, Brenda Sinclair and Jim Palmer, for working hard over the holidays preparing school for our return.

...to parents who have already acted to ensure children are well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

### Term calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

6 Feb	Waitangi Day Holiday
11 - 15 Feb	Year 7 Auckland Camp
18 Feb	Swimming Time Trials
19 Feb	Individual Duathlon Event
20 Feb	Team Duathlon Event
21 Feb	ESOL trip to Waitangi
23 Feb	Country Fair Fundraiser
25 / 26 Feb	Parent Interviews
4 / 5 March	Year 8 overnight camp to Mermaid Pools & Poor Knight Is
12 Mar	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
14 March	Year 1 to 3 Swimming Sports
20 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
12 April	Final day of term 1
29 April	First day of term 2

### Term dates 2019

Term 1	30 Jan to 12 April
Term 2	29 April to 5 July
Term 3	22 July to 27 September
Term 4	14 October to 13 December (to be confirmed)

## Hayden Martin Electrical

Tel - 027 645 8923

Email -  
admin@hmeelectrical.com



366 Kamo Road  
Kamo  
Tel : 09 435 1924

## Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

To advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day with the reason for their absence (the Ministry of Education requires us to code each absence).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

## School Contributions /Trips and Events Fee

1. The Board is grateful for payment of **school contributions** and is committed to using these in ways which add value to your children's learning - in this regard it is a little unique as a donation, as we want you to get something concrete in return. Your contributions help to lower teacher / pupil ratios, improve access to digital devices, increase teacher aide hours, expand our Learning Support programmes, subsidise buses & visiting drama groups & so forth. Contributions may be paid in one instalment at year's commencement or quarterly.
2. **The trips and events fee** is a more efficient and convenient alternative to the usual collection of smaller amounts throughout the year. This fee covers entry to visiting drama groups, around one return bus trip each term, and miscellaneous event / trip costs. We select events / trips carefully and negotiate the best deals we can on your behalf. Participation in these events is encouraged but not compulsory. Please advise the school office if you do not want your child to participate in these events, in which case payment of the trips / events fee is not required as no cost is incurred by the school for their non-participation where this is known in advance.

**It is a reality that NZ schools are significantly underfunded by government, requiring schools to find their own sources of funding. While we are creative and diligent in seeking alternative sources of funding (with a determination to ask from parents no more than we need) your school contribution is a small but significant part of our funding. The board encourages payment of this contribution if you can, and promises to use every cent wisely and in ways that add value to learning.**

**If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet. Kevin is also more than happy to discuss how the school determines its budget priorities and manages its spending with any interested person.**

## Senior Options programme

Thanks to those who have already offered to help with the Senior Options Programme. If you think you might be able to help, & have a skill or interest to share, please contact Mrs Donaldson next week. We are especially keen to connect with someone with any skills in digital technology or robotics.

## Swimming Time Trials

If you are able to help with swimming time trials on the morning of Monday 18 February please let Helen know. These trials help us to place swimmers in appropriate races for forthcoming swimming events. Some of you are experts at this and we would love to have your assistance again. Thank you in anticipation. *Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

## BASKETBALL 2019

If any child (girls & boys) from Year 3 - 8 are interested in playing Basketball for our school please contact Lisa Ryan - [lryan@matarau.school.nz](mailto:lryan@matarau.school.nz) or 0274 543 630. Games are played in Kensington after school on Wednesdays, they play each term, so kids can play for a term or 2 or 4. Practices for Junior teams are at school. Seniors in Kamo on Friday (TBC). This is friendly competition for all skill levels. Perfect for all.

## Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. All items can be purchased from Officemax in town, and also now from the school office. Stationery can also be purchased throughout the year from the office.

### **Sunhats**

A reminder that school bucket sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. New hats can be purchased from the office for \$10. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

### **Punctuality**

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call, we understand that sometimes things don't quite go to plan. Many thanks.

### **Learning Support Programme**

A number of parents were advised last year that their children had been placed in Learning Support programmes to commence 2019. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected.

### **Swimming**

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

### **Pool Keys**

The pool will be available for use by school families outside of school hours. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$30 per family for the 2019 swimming season. If you have a key from last year it is important that you return this as soon as possible. Last year's keys will not work on the lock in 2019. No fence jumping please.

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak (possibly week three). We are keen for offers of help and so, if you are able to help with inspections, please phone Helen here at school. - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

### **Bus Times**

Bus times and routes are as at the end of last year and are available on our website. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.

### **End of Day Buses**

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

### **Request from our Librarian**

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

### **Guitar Lessons**

If interested in after school guitar lessons please phone Vangie on 021 188 3251, or email [killalea@outlook.com](mailto:killalea@outlook.com) during the month of February.

## Pick up of Children

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by Room 13, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.
2. If dropping children off in the upper car park please note the designated drop off zone. **Please do not park in the zone** and move on as quickly as you safely can.
3. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.
4. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:20PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office).

## Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. If you do assist in classrooms you will be asked to read over some guidelines and suggestions prior to starting. **It is absolutely critical that parent helpers respect the privacy of children and their families by ensuring that any observations or impressions are not discussed outside of the school.**

Please give Kevin a call if you wish to further discuss your potential involvement.

## Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

## Medications

Medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. **Where we currently hold medication for your child, please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

## Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning (and sometimes health) can result from simple things like ..

- .. **drinking plenty of water.** Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).
- ... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM (or earlier) is suggested for all children.
- .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.
- .. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

## Friday Lunches

.. start next week ... order form attached. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday each week. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 10 minutes in the morning and/or 15 minutes around mid-day to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

## No Monday Lunches

**Please note that there will no longer be Monday lunches, unless a parent can help.**

If there is a parent or two (to take turns) that can prepare Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 11:50am on Mondays please give Helen a call.

## Communications

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair, and will accommodate you where we can. Where an issue involves a dispute between children, please remember that the school is required by law to apply "natural justice" principles to every investigation, this involves hearing all sides and gathering good information, and keeping some elements of the outcome confidential. **Try to avoid settling on**

**conclusions in advance of a thorough investigation by the school, as incidents always look a bit different when placed in their wider context.**

In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher, but senior staff are always available down the track, or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude, ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems .. **although remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week.** Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second, or third, or fourth piece of relevant information.

We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask.

### **Homework**

.. information to follow within next week or two.

### **School contribution / ipads etc ... Years 5 to 8 students only**

As in 2018 the board is suggesting a discounted school contribution **in the event that parents are providing their children with their own (take home) digital devices - years 5 to 8 only.** The contribution and fees request from was sent home yesterday. The Board is trying to keep costs as low as possible and give you options. We realise that there are divergent views out there on the role of digital technology in learning, and we want to be respectful of this fact. The call is entirely yours. You should feel under no pressure in any direction. Our goal is simply to grow our competency in using digital technologies to enhance learning, and to ensure that children can access these technologies when they are needed. We are also well aware of the need to limit time spent in front of devices and we will continue to monitor this moving forward. We will set a date shortly to assist parents with setting up of devices, to review safety and security matters, and to talk about some of the amazing apps we are using to accelerate learning. So watch this space.

### **And from last year's newsletter in case you missed this**

*... we are inviting parents (for children years 5 to 8), to opt for laptops or chromebooks. In order to save you money longer term we suggest that, if your child is heading for KHS, you might like to consider chromebooks, if WGHS or WBHS then a device of your choice. To keep your costs as low as possible, whatever your choice, we will make it work at our end. If your child already has an ipad that you would like them to bring to school, you are more than welcome to do so. We are however now preferring laptops and chromebooks, as these fill our device needs better than an ipad.*

### **Have your residential / contact details changed?**

... if so please let Helen know.

**If you formerly resided out of zone, and are now residing in zone, we are particularly keen to hear from you.** In zone children generate more funding ... which means more and better resources for students. So please let us know next week if your children were balloted into the school initially and have moved into our zone since then.

### **After School Care**

If you think you would use our After School Care programme please contact Kim 021 066 3806 to enrol, or for more information.

### **Spellathon Money - Seniors**

Year 7 & 8s who haven't returned their spellathon money from the end of last year, need to bring this money to the office early next week so money owing for camp balances can be advised. Thank you.

### **Finally**

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. There is always plenty to get excited about. While the "3 Rs" remain a priority, we will continue our focus on writing, try to create some real excitement about books, work further on deepening learning through Multiple Intelligences and thinking skills, increase fitness levels and PE skills across the school, and also gets some environmental education programmes up and running. More to follow on all of these things as the term unfolds. Be sure to drop by often.

### Finally, finally..

A dad dropped by this week to say that his New Entrant son has been telling all who ask that ... "no, he is not a school boy now, he is a Matarau boy now." How cool is that!

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

**SUMPTER  
BAUGHEN**

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## School Lunches

**Wednesdays** - STARTs Week 4 - 20 Feb 2019 - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce.

Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

**Fridays** - \$4.00 - Hot Mince or Mince & Cheese Pies, Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar) or a Butter Chicken Wrap and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00. \$4.50 : - Ham or Chicken Salad Wrap or \$2.50 - Cup of Chilled Watermelon or Pineapple. Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday. Term orders welcome.

## 2019 MATARAU COUNTRY FAIR

9am – 1pm 23 FEBRUARY 2019

There will be numerous stalls - plants, cakes, white elephant, books, and clothing for starters. There will be auctions and raffles. There will be games, rides & much fun to be had at our Country Fair!!

Could you please ask family & friends if they are having a clear out could they please donate to our school any quality items that would be suitable for the clothing, book or white elephant stalls, (please NO tv's, computers, electronic devices or car seats).

*Please bring into school from Monday 4th Feb & take to the hall stage, before 9am or after 3pm (as there is a class in the hall during school hours).*

*If you need help with transporting please contact Jenny on 021 729 536*

Do you have any contacts who would be willing & able to donate auction or raffle items?

*Room 3 would like donations of groceries for the grocery hamper raffles.*

*Please bring items to the school office from Monday.*

Can you help?? - spare a few hours either in preparation, sorting, collecting, on the day co-ordinating a stall, ride or game?

If so please contact Jenny.