

# SUMPTER BAUGHEN

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## Newsletter

Number 01

31 January 2020

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

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



Welcome to the 2020 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 second 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.

...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
12 Feb	ESOL trip to Waitangi
14 Feb	Tech starts for year 8 students (Hukerenui School)
10 Feb	Swimming Time Trials
18 Feb	Year 3 to 8 Swimming Sports
2/3 Mar	Parent Interviews
5 Mar	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
9-13 March	Year 7 camp to Auckland
18 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
20 March	Year 1 to 2 Swimming Sports
24-27 March	Year 5/6 Camp to Lonsdale Park - CAMP 1
30 Mar- 2 Apr	Year 5/6 Camp to Lonsdale Park - CAMP 2
8 April	Northland Swimming Champs - Dargaville (TBC)
9 April	Final day of term 1
28 April	First day of term 2

### Term dates 2019

Term 1	30 Jan to 9 April
Term 2	28 April to 3 July
Term 3	20 July to 25 September
Term 4	12 October to 11 December (to be confirmed)

For all your electrical needs

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## 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. 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.

You might be aware that, from this year, the government will meet the above costs in many NZ schools. Unfortunately, higher decile schools have been denied access to this additional 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 voluntary contributions are a small but significant part of our funding. While this is a voluntary payment, 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, parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements and how the school determines its budget priorities and manages its spending. You will find us accommodating and discreet. Our audited accounts are available via the school website.

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

As in 2019 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 (note: laptops and Chromebooks can be carried over to most high schools).** The contribution and fees request form 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. 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.

## Corona Virus

Any student who may be at high risk of exposure to the corona virus because they have recently been to China, or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, is to delay the start of their school year for 14 days after travel or contact. If concerned, unsure or have travelled overseas please contact Healthline at 0800 611 116 or your GP for medical advice.

### 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.

### School gates

The school gates help us to keep children safe. If you are entering, or exiting, the school grounds during school hours it is important to ensure you close these gates after you. If you are dropping a child at school after the morning bell please be aware that they may not be tall enough to open these gates on their own.

### Cellphones

We realise that some parents like their children to have a cell phone on them in the event of an emergency. If your child does bring a cell phone to school, please note that these must be dropped to the school office on arrival at school and picked up on departure each day. If you want to get a message to your child during the school day this should be channelled through the school office who will deliver the message to your child.



### 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 (class stationery lists are available from our office on request). Additional 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 2020. 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 Time Trials

If you are able to help with swimming time trials on the morning of Monday 10 February please let Paula (in the office) 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 please - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### 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 \$40 per family for the 2020 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 2020. No fence jumping please.

## **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.

## **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 Paula here at school. - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

## **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.**

### Friday Lunches

.. start next week. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday each week.

### Mrs Dorahy

... has been granted leave for 2020 commencing 17 February. Paula and Miranda will operate in the office until her return. Feel free to tell Mrs Dorahy how wonderful she is!

### 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.

### Scholastic

Scholastic magazines have been given to the children today. Orders need to be returned to the office by Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> February with cash or you can order and pay online for delivery to school.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### After School Care

If you think you would use our After School Care programme please contact Tracey on 021 127 1115 to enrol, or for more information.

### Stretching the finances

We try to keep cost as low as possible, to spend money wisely, to provide alternative payment options, and to ensure that every dollar we spend adds concrete value. We will go out of our way to customise time payment arrangements that work for you. Such arrangements are always confidential and our goal is to ensure that no child misses out for financial reasons. So PLEASE drop by and see Kevin or Paula if things are tough at the moment, we will come up with a plan that works for you.

### Finally

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. Lots on this year including a continued our focus on writing, a commitment to growing our PE and fitness programmes, a significant expansion of learning support programmes, specialist teaching of science and technology, a renewed focus on wellness and resilience, and major property developments in the pipeline. We will keep you posted. Be sure to drop by often.

Nga mihi  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them

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## Friday Lunch Menu!!

### **Snack Boxes**

– delivered with a juice box for \$6.00 each

A choice of

- ☐ Mini Hotdog & Chips
- ☐ Fish Bites & Chips
- ☐ Chicken Nuggets & Chips

### **Tasty Toppa's**

- delivered with a juice box for \$5.00 each

A choice of

- ☐ Lasagne Toppa
- ☐ Macaroni Cheese Toppa

Or **Simply a Hot Chip Box for \$3.00 each**

### **These Old Favourites are still on the Menu ...**

- ☐ Sausage Roll, Muesli Bar & a juice box for \$4.00
- ☐ Crispy Chicken Salad & a juice box for \$5.00



*Swap any juice box meal for a  
Flavoured Milk for just \$1 extra  
(Chocolate, Strawberry)*