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# Newsletter

Number 01

5 February 2021 020



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

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

Welcome to the 2021 school year. A special welcome to our new families.

### 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.

... Wayne Deeming for repairs, modifications and improvements to our netball and basketball hoops. Much appreciated Wayne!

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

8 Feb	Waitangi Day Observed Holiday
12 Feb	Tech starts for year 8 students (Hukerenui School)
15 Feb	Surf Life Saving Trip Y8
19 Feb	Surf Life Saving Trip Room 1 & 2
22 Feb	Surf Life Saving Trip Room 7 & 8
23 Feb	Individual Duathlon
24 Feb	Team Duathlon
25 Feb	Swimming Time Trials
1 Mar	Surf Life Saving Trip Room 5 & 6
4 Mar	Year 3-8 Swimming Sports
5 Mar	Junior Swimming Sports
8 Mar	Surf Life Saving Trip Room 3 & 4
8 Mar	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
9/10 Mar	Parent Interviews
12 Mar	Surf Life Saving Trip Y7
19 Mar	Surf Life Saving Trip Room 9 & 10
16 April	Final day of term

### Term dates 2021

Term 1	3 Feb to 16 April
Term 2	3 May to 9 July
Term 3	26 July to 1 October
Term 4	18 October (Final day to be confirmed)



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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**

A reminder that school contributions and events fees are being paid by the Ministry this year, so you will not receive a donation request. We hope that this has enabled you to stretch the finances just that little bit further this year. Please note that there are a very small number of exceptions to this rule ... the school will still need to levy a fee for camps and senior technology fees.

## **Voluntary Donations**

When we consulted last year, some parents indicated that they would still like to make a donation to the school in lieu of non-participation in fund-raising events, or to support other children to attend camps, buy school T-shirts and hats etc. The school has NO expectation that parents make such donations, and is not explicitly asking for these. If, however, you would like to make a tax deductible donation for purposes similar to those stated above, you are entitled to do so. Please give Paula a call if this is your intention. These funds will be set aside from other funds so that they are used for the intended purpose.

## **Corona Virus**

At this stage New Zealand is in a comparatively good position with respect to coronavirus but things can change quickly. Please remain vigilant over coming months. Err on the side of caution, and remember that we have a duty of care to keep each other safe. Consequently please ...

1. Do not send sick children to school
2. Especially do not send your child to school if they have a cold, cough, running nose, fever, or other flu like symptoms.
3. Have contingencies in place in the event that you are asked to pick your child up from school
4. Keep your child at home for at least 48 hours post final symptoms
5. Keep the school advised of any matters which have the potential to impact widely.
6. If you visit school, please sign in and out from the office (with the exception of a relatively quick drop off or pick up)

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.

## **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 **Baigents** 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 2021. 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 Thursday 25 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 2021 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 2021. 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. Advice 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**

A school wide headlice inspection has been scheduled for **Thursday 11 February**. 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. Thank you in anticipation.

### **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.

### **We would be especially grateful to hear from parents able to help with ...**

... preparation of Monday lunches (beans and noodles) ... from around 11:30 to 12:45. Not too onerous but a good fund-raiser. Please give Paula a call if you can help. Even if we roster you.

... people able to cover library books, freeing our librarian for other tasks. This can be at any time that works for you and you can even take books home.

### **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.**

## 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, and thoughtful non-response can build resilience.** 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

The new scholastic book club is out. Please send all orders to the office or order online by 26<sup>th</sup> of February.

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

Research has that the following simple actions have a very positive impact on learning ...

.. **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 Paula 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.

### Swimming Lessons 2021

In past years Cristina Robles has taken swimming lessons after school. Cristina is well qualified to take swimming lessons and these lessons have been popular in the past. Cristina will take lessons on Mondays and Tuesday starting from 9 February running over an 8 weeks period at a cost of \$200 per student. If interested please phone Cristina on 021464300 or email her at [swim1deep@gmail.com](mailto:swim1deep@gmail.com). Cristina is happy to answer any questions you might have and to provide you with more information

### 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.

### Lunches

Lunch orders need to be in by 8am by Thursday morning. You can order online [www.lunchonline.co.nz](http://www.lunchonline.co.nz) or ring 0800 565 565. The following new product(s) will soon be available on your Menu:  
Nachos with Sour Cream & Cheese \$8.05                      GF Raspberry & Coconut Chocolate Slice \$5.15

### 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

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.

### School sponsors

A huge thank you to our school sponsors. We will be in contact with you soon to confirm whether or not you will be on board again in 2021, and to suggest some changes to the way we do things, hopefully changes that work to your advantage. **Parents ... please use our sponsors, and recommend them to others, as often as you can.**

### 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, technology and music, a renewed focus on wellness and resilience, and major property developments finally about to happen. We will keep you posted.

Be sure to drop by often.

Nga mihi  
Kevin Trehella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

