

Newsletter reminders and updates

Term 1 Week 2

Term Calendar

22-25 February	Camp Year 5/6
2 March	Individual Duathlon Event
3 March	Team Duathlon Event
13 March	Trial Bike Ride
7/8 March	Parent/Teacher Interviews
8 March	First meeting of BoT for 2022
14 March	Mid-point cohort entry
24 March	Hearing and Vision Testing
4-8 April	Year 7 Camp
14 April	Final day for term 1
2 May	Commencement of term 2

Term dates

Term 2 ... 2 May to 8 July

Term 3 ... 25 July to 30 September

Term 4 ... 17 October ... TBC (possibly 14 December)

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.

Best wishes

... to our year 5 and 6 campers for next week. If you have any questions in the run up to camp please email your child's teacher or Mrs Burgin on rburgin@matarau.school.nz

Individual and Team Duathlons

... are fast approaching ... 2 and 3 March respectively. Plenty of time to practice in advance. More to follow.

Trouble settling?

Please contact Mrs Robertson (rrobertson@matarau.school.nz) or Mrs Marvin (jmarvin@matarau.school.nz) if your child is taking a while to settle, or if they just need a little support. We have an amazing pastoral team and they love to help out.

Year 7/8 Immunisations - HPV & Boostrix

The public health nurses who run the school-based vaccinations for HPV and Boostrix, have been seconded to help with the Covid-19 response which could delay and potentially suspend the normal roll out of these vaccinations in school. They have encouraged parents/caregivers to take their children to get vaccinated by their GP when possible.

Masks for visitors

A reminder please that masks are to be worn by all visitors to the school. Visits are for drop off and pick up and otherwise by prior appointment please.

Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

To please 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.

Covid Mitigation protocols ... masks, mandates etc

These were emailed to families before commencement of school and have been posted on our facebook page. Please note that we can expect changes as the pandemic unfolds, but you will be advised of these as early as we can. We are happy to answer questions at any stage, and remain committed to placing you front and centre as decision maker for your child.

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.

Digital Devices 2022 - year 5 and up (NOT REQUIRED AT YEAR 4 IN 2022)

We prefer laptops and chrome books, as these fill our device needs better than an iPad, but whatever your child has we will work with. Parents should feel under no pressure to purchase devices for their children ... this is your call ... we will do our best to provide as many shared (non take home devices) as we can.

We will continue to ensure that time on devices is not overdone, there will always be plenty of time for learning and interacting in a variety of ways.

Collecting children early

With current covid restrictions, parents are strongly discouraged from entering the school unless they have an appointment (and then masks and sign-in at the office are a requirement please).

If you wish to collect your child early please ...

... .phone the office (not your child's teacher) when you arrive and wait outside the **side gate**

... your child will then be collected from their classroom and brought to you (this means they don't miss too much schoolwork)

Please allow time, when collecting your child, for the office staff to locate them and for them to collect all their belongings. (Classes may be on the bottom field, in the library, computer suite etc.)

Thank you so much for your co-operation ... you have been truly amazing.

Junior pick up

Just a gentle reminder that children departing early (2:40) should be picked up from the top carpark rather than the bus bay at the end of the day. This way we can supervise them all the way to you and be sure they are safe.

Corona Virus ... Omicron etc.

Please 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)
7. **Advise the school urgently if you or your child have covid or are close contact.**

If concerned, unsure, or have travelled overseas please contact Healthline at 0800 611 116 or your GP for medical advice.

If you would like information on the covid vaccine for children please email Paula on admin@matarau.school.nz (we have a number of hard copies we can send home on request).

Senior Study Hour (Years 7 & 8)

Senior Study Hour operates 3:00 to 4:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Children may attend anywhere from 1 to 3 of these weekly sessions. If you would like to register your child please do so by contacting Mrs Donaldson on kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz.

Cell phones

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.

Homework

Home Learning is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights home learning a week (around 20 minutes each night), with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason, or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing home learning. **If you do NOT want your child to receive home learning, please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board, please set a regular time and place, and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue, by getting routines well established.

(Although the research is a little inconclusive, we believe that regular home learning routines lead to better performance, a better preparation for secondary school, and better longer term outcomes for a good number of children).

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 2022. 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.

School Swimming Pool

The school pool was booked for some major repairs and a repaint last year. Due to covid lockdowns, labour shortages, MoE process requirements, and a backlog of work, we have waited in a long queue with others. We thought we finally had this booked for January, but this has been moved to February, so fingers crossed. We are pushing to have this done as soon as possible and will keep you posted.

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

Please check your children's hair weekly, and respond promptly in the event of infestation. We will resume inspections when circumstances allow. Thank you.

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.

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.

Guitar Lessons

If interested in after school guitar lessons please phone Vangie on 021 188 3251, or email killalea@outlook.com during the month 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.

Lunches

Remember you can order a nice warm lunch every Thursday or Friday Sushi. Orders need to be in on the day before 8am. Please visit the website www.lunchonline.co.nz for ordering.

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.

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.

School Direction for 2022

Kevin is available by appointment (or google meet) to talk about the direction of the school this year, and is happy to speak with individuals or groups. Writing, science and technology, and student wellbeing (including growing kindness and resilience) are topics of special interest to us this year, and so drop by to chat, or tap your child's teacher on the shoulder if you want to know more.

Final Word

Thank you for the many ways in which you have contributed to a fantastic first couple of weeks. Let your child's teacher know if your child is taking a wee while to settle or if we can help in any way. Again ... best wishes to our campers and thanks to those who have worked long and hard to make camp happen.

Community Notices

Piglets for sale

Saddleback XLarge white piglets. 3 Boys and 3 girls available \$120 each. Phone Jenny 027 3258617

House for rent

Tudehope Road, a modest 3 bedroom cottage on 2ha . No garaging , looking for around \$430 pw. Short or long term tenants. If anyone is interested either email me (bernardcrosbie@hotmail.com)or call me on 02102555456

NZ Football

Nz Football have designated the month of March as Girls & Women's Football Month, where the female game will be promoted extensively right around the country. With the FIFA Women's World Cup due to be played in Australia and New Zealand in 2023, this is an ideal opportunity to give girls and women a chance to experience the wonderful game of football ahead of that amazing event.

As part of this promotion, NRF will be running a Girl's & Women's Twilight programme at Tikipunga Sports Park on Monday evenings, 5.00 to 6.15pm from Monday 7th March to Monday 28th March. Games will be 5-a-side, on small pitches, aimed at fun and enjoyment in a relaxed, safe, non-judgemental environment and it's **FREE!** (See attached documents for more details).



Te Manawa Tahī
Community Timetable



WHANGĀREI

All hubs are open from 9:00am until 12:00pm unless otherwise stated.

If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional wellbeing, or behaviour, Te Manawa Tahī have specialists available so you can discuss your concerns directly with them.

This is a free service and each site will be identified by a Te Manawa Tahī flag.

Date	Hub Locations	Term 1 2022
Thu 17 Feb	Ministry of Education Office 24 Kaka Street, Morningside, Whangārei	
Wed 2 Mar	Whānau Focus Centre 61 Victoria Street, Dargaville	
Thu 10 Mar	Ministry of Education Office 24 Kaka Street, Morningside, Whangārei	
Wed 23 Mar	Bream Bay Community Trust (10:00am to 12:30pm) 9 Takutai Place, Rukākā	
Thu 31 Mar	Ministry of Education Office 24 Kaka Street, Morningside, Whangārei	

Drop into a hub or make an appointment by phoning **0800 5248 4256** or emailing TT.Support@education.govt.nz.

AGES 9 TO 18

CODING LESSONS



CODING**NZ**

Coding NZ Lessons

- Learn coding languages to create technology.
- An expert tutor is online to help during lessons.
- 1 hour per week at 4pm, 5pm or 6pm weekdays.
- Try a free trial lesson at codingnz.com

DREAM11

**SUPER
SMASH**

KFC

NORTHERN
BRAVE

FESTIVAL DAY

**9:30AM
TUESDAY
22 MARCH**

**Kensington Park
Whangarei**



Our Year 5 & 6 Whangarei Festival Day is a great way for schools that have been learning how to play to show off what you can do!

Come and show your whanaungatanga through the sport of cricket where fun is our number one outcome.

For further information please contact

**Rob Geaney or Liam Jones - Junior and Youth Development officers
021481696 or 02108334455**