

Newsletter reminders and updates

Term 1 Week 2

A very special thanks

... To Mel Williams for her sterling work treating and overseeing our school pool over the Christmas break. Mel did this for free, enabling the school to remain open for users right through the break. Thanks also to Blue Laurenson who also helped out.

... To those parents who have given their time over this week to assist staff to tidy the school grounds after the recent storm.

Term Calendar

Term dates

23 February	Headlice Check
21 February	Surfing Y7
24 February	Kokopu Swimming Y5-8
27 February	Beach trip Room 5 & 6
2 March	School Swimming Sports
3 March	Beach trip Room 7 & 8
6 March	Beach trip Room 3 & 4
7-8 March	Parents Interview
10 March	Beach trip Room 9 & 10
15 March	WPSSA Swimming
16 March	Enviro Day
20-24 March	Camp Y7
21 March	Surfing Y8

Term dates

6 April Final day for term 1 - 24 April Commencement of term 2

Term 2 24 April - 30 June

Term 3 17 July - 22 September

Term 4 9 October - TBC

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.

Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School- 24 February

Zone Swimming Sport is fast approaching. Normally we would send swimmers who had qualified in swim trials here at school but this will not be possible this year. This year we will open this event to those children who wish to attend, with a special encouragement to our stronger swimmers. Children who express interest have received a consent form. If your child has not brought a consent form home, and you would like them to attend, please let their teacher know no later than Tuesday (21.2). Children will travel by bus or with parents if indicated. Any general questions to the school office or Mrs Donaldson please.

School Swimming Sports - 2 March

We will shortly be timing children for our school swimming sports. Children will be encouraged to participate in this event but it's not compulsory. If you are very keen for your child to participate in the school swimming sports, **please let their teacher know** next week and they will send a little extra encouragement in their direction.

Exemption for off site learning

On occasion we receive a request for a child to spend some (limited) instructional time off site (an example would be piano lessons). In such a situation, the school is then required to consider whether the benefits accruing from the child of attending this class outweigh the loss of instructional time here at school. Approval may be given for a term's duration subject to review at the end of each term. Review enables us to meet with parents to ensure that the anticipated gains have materialised and that the child is still doing well in class. So, if this is something you are considering, or there is a prior arrangement you would like to roll over, please email or drop by to see Kevin.

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.

Term Headlice Inspection

We are looking at having our term headlice inspection on Thursday 23 February. We desperate need more parent helpers so if you think you can help, please call Paula urgently. It will only take approx.. an hour of your time.



Matarau School Lunches

Titoki Store Lunches every Tuesday

Sushi every Friday

(Cut off time for Sushi orders - 10pm the day before)

It's simple; all you need to do is register at

www.lunchonline.co.nz

and follow 4 easy steps to get started

1. Register an account
2. Add member/s including your name and delivery location
3. Make a payment to have funds in your account before you order
4. Select your lunch and place an order

Phone 0800 LOL LOL

Phone 0800 565 565

info@lunchonline.co.nz



Scholastic

The new Lucky Book Club folder is out. You can place your order online or return your order form with payment to the office before **24th February**.

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.

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.

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.

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- Office products Depot, Commerce Street Whangarei (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 2023. 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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

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

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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.

Vaping

A reminder that schools nationwide are cracking down vaping. The Board has a zero tolerance for vaping. If someone in the family, or extended family, uses a vaping pen, please ensure this is kept in a secure location away from children, and if a pen goes missing, track it until it is found. The Board will move quickly and decisively if a child brings a vaping pen to school.

Attendance

If your child will not be at school, it is critical that you advise the school office please, including citing a reason for the absence. As every absence is coded and reported to the Ministry it is important that the information we send them is accurate.

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 2023

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

Thanks for your support during this somewhat challenging week. Hopefully we get to enjoy some sun this weekend.



Hangi
Only \$10

**Date: Thursday 16th March
(after our enterprise day)**

- now that's a tasty, mess free dinner!

**Pick up from outside the
staffroom at 5pm**

**ORDER VIA THE ORDER FORM YOUR CHILD WILL BRING HOME EARLY IN WEEK 3.
ONLINE PAYMENTS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED: MATARAU SCHOOL:
12-3093-0239515-00 REF: HANGI**

**This is a fundraiser to support future Matarau
School environmental projects.**

Enviroschools is coming to Matarau...



Supported by ECO Solutions and The Northland Regional Council.

Please.....save the date...
Thursday the 16th March 2023

9am – 5pm

Whānau day here at Matarau School- “Waste Wise”

We are super excited to Launch our Enviroschools journey with an Enviro Expo!
This event is for our students, families, and community to get together and experience sustainable initiatives such as chemical-free cleaning products, beeswax wraps, zero-waste lunch box ideas, papermaking, soap-making, and planting.

We will also have

- Market stalls
- Car boot sale- book a station 3-5pm
- Sustainable enterprise products made and marketed by our students
- Hangi for sale
- Shared kai for morning tea

So there will be lots of goodies to take away and fun to be had for the whole family. We hope you can all make it, so please book it into your calendar.

Sustainable communities act in ways that nurture people and nature, now and in the future, to maintain the health and viability of our environment, society, culture and economy.

A meeting will be held Thursday the 16th of Feb for parents who are keen to help start our Enviroschools journey. 3.15 in the staff room. Afternoon tea and hot drinks provided...Please come and share ideas together and help make this event one to remember!

Any queries please email Anna Alexander on aalexander@matarau.school.nz



Community Notices

PILATES

Every Tuesday and Friday 9am - Ruatangata Hall. All levels catered for. Beginners welcome.

Come to one or both sessions. Whatever suits you. Excellent qualified tutor. \$15.00 session.

Further info : Ph Rhonda 0210526094

Girls' Brigade ...invites you to join a fun, inclusive group for girls and young women aged 5 to 18 years, who want to make the most out of life. Joining a GB company is a great way for girls to make new friends and enjoy activities that challenge and nurture their growth in a safe and supportive environment. You can find out more at <https://www.girlsbrigade.nz>

There are two Girls' Brigade Companies in Whangarei, meeting on Thursday nights. Our first enrolment night for the year is 16 February:

1st Kamo Company meets from 6.00 - 7.30pm at St John's Golden Church, 149 Kamo Road, Kensington, contact Kerry 021 0230 4000

OR 2nd Whangarei Company meets from 5.30 - 7 pm at Hope Whangarei Church, Hunt St, Whangarei, contact Sue 021 260 0792