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46 Kaka Street Whangarei

Tel : 09 438 7209

Newsletter

Number 1

10 February 2023



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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

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*Welcome to the 2023 school year. A special
welcome to our new families.*

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

16 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 - 26 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.

First School Lunch Order is on Tuesday the 14th of February.
You can put your order in online www.lunchonline.co.nz

Term Headlice Inspection

We are looking at having our term headlice inspection on Thursday the 16th of 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.



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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.

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 2023 - year 5 and up (NOT REQUIRED AT YEAR 4 IN 2023)

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.

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.

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.

Public Health Nurse – Boostrix and HPV Vaccines

Our public health nurse will be available in the staffroom at 3:00pm Wednesday the 15th of February to discuss the Boostrix and HPV vaccines with interested parents. Feel free to drop by. She will also show the following Youtube video clips. You can go into YouTube and search “immunisation year 7” or “immunisation year 8” and the videos will come up or click on the below links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuwcOyMjAzc> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNIKS9uQCQU>

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.

Scholastic

The new Scholastic Book Club is out. Please send all orders to the office or order online before the 24th February.

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.

Homework

.. information to follow within next week or two.

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.**

Bus Pick-up and Drop-off Times

A huge thank you for your patience as the bus company adjusts bus routes. Please note that there have been further changes and so please check these out at the link below. These changes have been motivated by our determination that you should have the best service possible within funding and resourcing limitations. Routes applying from Monday can be found at the following link, and so please take a look. These new routes provide improved overall drop-off and pick up-times for students overall.

Just as a precaution please check again on Sunday night in the very unlikely event of further small adjustments here or there. There is a possibility that the Church Road Bus may operate on existing Arrangements (not those posted at this link) until part way through next week.

Link for the buses: www.wntng.easybus.nz

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).

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).



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 a considered non-response can build resilience.** Remember, also, that when you question your child, there is a better than even chance that they will tell you what they think you want to hear. 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.

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.

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

Some of you will be aware that New Zealand has some of the poorest school attendance in the developed world. Schools have been asked to work diligently with families to determine, to the degree possible, that children are attending on every school day, unless there is a good reason for not attending. **If you think consistent and regular attendance might be a challenge for your child(ren), please contact Kevin, or your child's teacher, next week so that we can agree on a plan to overcome any barriers attendance.** The research seems pretty clear...regular attendance is a significant indicator of school and lifetime success, so let's do our best get children to school every day please, unless there is a very good reason for them not to attend.

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.

Final Word

A huge thank you to staff, parents and students for an amazing first week. We have loved reconnecting with students, and they have certainly loved reconnecting with their friends.

We have a truly awesome year planned, brimming with some new initiatives around student ownership, deep diving into the virtues programme, hands on science and technology, a focus on caring for our environment, and more. If you would like to know more about our 2023 initiatives, we are keen to set up an informal discussion to share what we will be doing, and to take any questions. So watch this space.

Finally, we want you to feel welcome when you visit the school. Feel free to ask questions, and let us know where you would like to be involved...and please tell us when we get something right as this encourages us...and we will do the same to you!

Let's together, make Matarau School a place where everyone matters, where we have each other's backs, where slip ups are tolerated, and successes shared as if they were our own.

We look forward to seeing you often.

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Community notices

PILATES

Classes commencing: Tuesday 24 January and Friday 27th January 9am.

Every Tuesday and Friday thereafter. At 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' Brigadeinvites 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**

AGES 9 TO 18

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2023:

28th Feb & 7th Mar From seeds to table: Basic gardening skills utilising recyclable materials

28th Mar & 4th Apr Tracking where your money goes: Reviewing your spending

2nd May Getting out of debt / Begin a savings plan

30th May Reviewing the need for insurance

20th Jun Afterpay / Scams / Online safety

WE ARE



Kamo Football

Our Players

Our Club

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CLUB?

Want to be part of a team that plays with passion, has fun, and improves together? Our Club is the perfect place for you. We offer access to top – notch facilities, talented coaches, and a partnership with the Ricki Herbert Football Academy.

Do not miss out on the opportunity to be part of an exciting pathway for young footballers at KAMO.

Registrations for the 2023 season are now OPEN!

To register please click on the link below.

- [Log in to MyComet | NZF \(analyticom.de\)](#)

Make new friends and have lots of fun, Be part of something SPECIAL.

Facebook Page:

[Kamo Soccer Club | Whangarei | Facebook](#)

[Contact Email: 123samtwalker@gmail.com](mailto:123samtwalker@gmail.com)

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 aaalexander@matarau.school.nz





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**
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- 3. Make a payment to have funds in your account before you order**
- 4. Select your lunch and place an order**

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