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# Newsletter

## Number 22

### 13 October 2023



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

Phone (09) 433 5823 Email – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

Dear parents and whanau,

Welcome back to term 4. A very warm welcome to our new students and their whanau. We look forward to getting to know you. We have had a busy but fun start to the term and we are looking forward all the exciting things term 4 brings.

#### Thank you

- To those who helped, supported, attended our Calf Club event this week. Special thank you to Leon Harold!
- To our Calf Club sponsors, marshals, and judges.
- To those parents who have generously offered their time and expertise for our forthcoming senior camp (our camps would not go ahead without your support).

#### People of the week

- **Mrs Pol** who started work months in advance in preparation for Calf Club. THANK YOU!

#### Term Calendar

Monday 16 - Friday 20 October	Y7 Camp
Wednesday 18 October	Year 8 Debating competition
Friday 20 October	Ukulele group festival
Monday 23 October	Labour Day, NO school
Monday 24 October	BOT Meeting
Wednesday 1 November	Tennis singles tournament year 5-8
Monday 13 November	Art scholarship due
Wednesday 15 November	Poroti Athletics Day year 3-8
Wednesday 22 November	WPSSA Athletics
Monday 4 December	School Athletics day
Wednesday 6 December	Year 8 Poor Knights trip
Friday 8 December	Year 8 Leavers Dinner
Tuesday 12 December	Prize giving
Thursday 14 December	Colour Run
Friday 15 December	Last day (Full day)

#### In brief

- Art Scholarship information is available from Paula on request.
- Please continue to monitor your children's use of social media.
- Enrolment intentions for 2024 - please keep us advised of any change.
- Home gardens - please contact Mrs Burgin or Ms Gentil if you have questions.

#### Drink bottles - sun hats

Please ensure all children bring a drink bottle to school each day.

If your child has lost their school sunhat we have a limited stock available at the school office.



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**Art Scholarship (Year 4-8)**

Any questions please to your child's teacher. Art Portfolios are due 3:30 pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of November.

**School Trophies**

If your child received a trophy at last year's prize giving, please return it to school. Thank you to those who already returned trophies. We are almost there!

**Netball**

The Netball season is over. Please return your netball uniform to the Office.

**Sunblock**

Sunblock is at parents' discretion. Long lasting block is recommended. Clothes covering shoulders is also recommended for summer terms.

**Input to year 7 placement decisions**

Pathway decisions will be made some time in week 6 and 7. Parents of year 6 students, who would like to have input into these decisions, will shortly be invited to make an appointment with Mrs Donaldson. We anticipate these discussions will take around 20 minutes per child. If you would like the opportunity to have input into placement decisions, please let Katie know. [kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz](mailto:kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz) We will confirm appointment times in week 4.

**Electronic Newsletter**

If you are not on the school email-out list please email - [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz) - to be added & stay up to date with what's happening at school.

**Home Gardens**

Garden Diaries will be sent home early next week with children who have indicated they are participating. You may already be busy with making sure...  
 ... gardens are dug over and composted      ... all seeds are planted  
 ... seedlings in after Labour Weekend      ... pest control measures are in place  
 Any questions don't hesitate to connect, and remember to take a look at our Facebook page (a great source of motivation & creativity)  
[www.facebook.com/matarauschoolhomegardens](http://www.facebook.com/matarauschoolhomegardens)

**A few tips for planting out...**

Remember to 'harden' your seedlings off before planting out into the garden. This involves taking your seedlings outside to a shelter spot during the day, then bringing them back inside at night. Gradually build up so that they are then out at night. This process should take approximately a week.

When transplanting out (or planting into bigger containers), water with a something like a seaweed tonic afterwards. Some gardeners like to soak the pots in a bucket of this tonic before planting out, and some with water afterwards. Both methods work well. This helps with transplant shock.

Remember to put your stakes in early for plants like tomatoes and beans. This avoids the roots being damaged later on.

If you are running short on space - look at ways to grow things vertically. Cucumbers and pumpkins can grow upwards on frames. Lots of plants can also be grown in buckets and grow bags.

Please upload photos or share & receive gardening tips on our Facebook page if you can... [www.facebook.com/matarauschoolhomegardens](http://www.facebook.com/matarauschoolhomegardens)

### Spelling Bee Competitions

... are under way very soon. If you are keen for your child to participate, and they are a strong speller, please flick their teacher an email this weekend.

### Confirmation of Secondary School

If our year 7 and 8 teachers can assist in any way with secondary school decisions, or the transition to secondary school more generally, please make contact.

### Road Safety

- Please reduce your speed when passing the school
- Maximum 5kph in the carpark and bus bay.
- 20kph passing a stationary bus
- Pick up of students from the designated spots where possible.
- Walking or supervising your children across the road at drop off & pick up
- And NO PARKING ON YELLOW ZONES.



Many thanks.

### Attendance

Thank you for your commitment to getting your children to school every day (excluding sick days), and sending a clear message to them that school attendance matters. A recent review of our attendance showed that average attendance at Matarau School is around 90% and that is pretty good. We still have concerns about those children in the 75-80% and below attendance range and are keen to work with parents to lift the attendance of these children. Please let us know how we can help and we will put shoulder to the wheel too.

### Finally

What a fantastic way to start term 4! Our calf club is a really special opportunity to celebrate our rural character as a community. It was great to see so many families enjoying the day, connecting, and sharing in their children's successes. Congratulations to all children who worked hard getting their animal's ready which takes a lot of dedication. I am sure you will agree that the indoor exhibits were of a very high standard and the hall looked spectacular. Well done everyone and thank you for all your efforts! We wish our year 7 students safe travels and a fun filled week at camp next week.

Ngā mihi

Rachael Robertson  
ACTING PRINCIPAL