

KIA MANAWANUI

Te Rāwhiti & Te Rā Pānui - 4 February 2022

Waitangi Day: this Sunday !!!

Remember: Monday is a public holiday



MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Kia ora koutou e ngā whānau o te kura o Te Rā, me ngā whānau o Te Rāwhiti hoki.

We have been blessed in so many ways this week! And at this time more than at any other time you might find that "counting blessings" is simply the best way to imbue the young generation whom we nurture with faith in the future and trust in the mysterious workings of the universe.



At this time we continue to be grateful for everything you are doing to make it easier for all of us working here at Te Rāwhiti and Te Rā: like automatically scanning and signing in (except for kindergarten drop offs and pick ups), wearing a mask (unless you are exempt), maintaining recommended distances when meeting others outside the gate, and only coming on-site if this is absolutely necessary, e.g. to settle your child in the morning ... all this goes a long way for us right now.

At our regular hui yesterday afternoon, our teaching staff shared with each other our "golden moments" of the first days back with the children. There were so many both from kindergarten and school! Unexpected silver linings of the changes were among them. For example, we heard about the instant and deep connections that new Class 1 children and their Class 7 buddies were able to form on the first day. The change to our usual pōwhiri and Class 1 ceremony meant that our tuakana and our teina could spend much more "quality time" together than usual. Class 7 really stepped up to the responsibility with great maturity and made all of us very proud!

Another "silver lining" is the number of outdoor lessons happening within our gardens and grounds. It is a joy to see the "classrooms without walls". I hope you enjoy the snapshots included in this newsletter. We are constantly reviewing our outdoor spaces with a view to improving and extending them, depending on the school's needs.

Wishing you all a wonderful Waitangi Day and long weekend,
ngā mihi mahana nā

Kerstin Wagner (Tumuaki)

"When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills."



Class 3



Class 4



Class 6

Waitangi Day - a message from our Kaiārahi Māori

Ngā mihi maioha ki a koutou i runga i ngā tini āhuatanga o te wā.

Rātau te hunga wairua ki a rātau, tātau te hunga ora ki tātau. Nā reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou – tēnā rā tātau katoa.

Recently, we received confirmation that of funding for the Te Pūmaomao Nationbuilding Workshops. These will be a cherished opportunity for staff and members of our two governance bodies to deepen the understanding of how to move forward on the journey of our "Waka Hourua" (bicultural education) that our school and kindergarten have committed to.

Waitangi Day can bring up mixed feelings around the role that the Treaty has played for our country. But it is also a reminder of the opportunity to keep engaging with the exercise of envisioning the kind of nation we want co-create together.

Especially at this time, this is also reminder that we are a resilient and creative nation, and that we can always find ways to build community, and bridges to each other.

Nāku me ngā mihi nā
Rongo Ngata



Class 3



Class 6



Class 5

From the Kindergarten: Welcome back Te Rāwhiti kindergarten!

It is wonderful to be able to warmly (very literally) welcome everyone back to Te Rāwhiti kindergarten this year and welcome also those new tamariki and whānau joining us. Some children will join their groups over the next week.

Kindergarten families should already have received a first update from both myself and separately your child's kaiako. If you haven't, please get in touch with your child's kaiako to check that we have the correct email for the class list.

We are looking forward to some changes this year. The first, most obvious one for those who returned this year, is that our kindergarten day now ends at 2.45pm. Please ensure you sign the **updated enrolment form** by the daily attendance register, so that we are compliant for our funding.

Further updates on changes that might affect you or your child will come via email and will be repeated also in the newsletter. The changes we are making are designed to ensure we are operating sustainably, which allows us to provide the best possible environment for our tamariki. Our staff are working hard to make changes whilst still holding a stable and routine daily, weekly and seasonal rhythm.

Please do ask if anything needs further clarification for you.

Lastly and on a practical note, please remember to send sun hats and changes of clothes for each child.

Ngā mihi mahana, nā



From the School: lots and lots of welcomes!

WELCOME TO CLASS 1

Nau mai haere mai e ngā tamariki o te Akomanga Tuatahi, me ō rātou whānau, ki te kura o Te Rā! A warm welcome to our Class 1 children and their families to our school, who were led through the Flower Arch on Wednesday morning. Kindergarten and school teachers accompanied them as they were welcomed by Aleka Beaumont and Luciana Howell-Kress.

A special thank you to Heeni Collins for her karanga. Kei te mihi ki a koe, whaea!

WELCOME TO ALL OUR OTHER NEW STUDENTS

Nau mai haere mai, a warm welcome to our community, also to the students who joined Class 3, 4, 5 and 7 at the beginning of this school year, and also those who arrived at the very end of last year.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COLLEAGUES

A few staff changes were already announced at the end of 2022, but we will repeat some of them here for our new whānau, and a couple of new additions:

- Natasha McLean is co-teaching Class 6 this term.
- Cat Hendra is our new Front Desk Administrator.
- Luciana Howell-Kress has joined us to support the Class 1 transition as teaching assistant for Aleka Beaumont.
- David Simpson, who was relieving in Class 7 throughout terms 3 and 4 has joined us for all of 2022.
- Amanda Bradley, who was relieving for handwork classes in our senior classes last year, is here to stay in this role, and is also leading the Class 3 outdoor classroom each Friday at present.

Ngā mihi mahana, nā

Kerstin Wagner (on behalf of the School Team)

COVID-19

Misinformation about COVID-19 Vaccination in Schools

It has been brought to the attention of the local schools that there are rumours circulating within our school communities in regard to children being vaccinated at schools. These rumours have no substance and are causing undue anxieties for many parents and caregivers. To clarify for our own community:

- There are no plans to run vaccination programmes for children at Te Rā School. The school board agreed a while back to not grant permission of our grounds or buildings being used for any form of vaccination.
- There is a story circulating that the government is organising a "vaccination bus" to turn up at schools and vaccinate all the children without parental permission. We have been reassured there are no such plans.

If you come across anyone who holds these concerns, please ask them to contact our office for reassurance.

Covid-19 information for school: updates only (existing information can be found on our website)

Heads up re **school sports** ... as a result of having moved into Red, we are reviewing whether, if any, interschool sports can go ahead. With most local schools indicating they will not go ahead with Touch Rugby, we believe it is the right thing to follow their lead. This decision could be an indication that we will need to make a similar decision for netball and hockey - we will keep you posted!

Besides the issue of managing the restrictions and more complex logistics of operating these in Red, there is also the issue of unpredictable numbers of staff and parents available to support these sports (team managers, coaches, transport, umpiring ...) over the next months.

For information about kindergarten and school, please remember to check the [Covid information page](#) and the [FAQ page](#) on our website.

*** We continue to work very hard to enable ALL children to attend school onsite regularly. ***

If there are barriers to your child's regular attendance, please continue to liaise directly with the class teacher in the first instance. Thank you.

Kindo Update

The pledge and disbursement amounts will be loaded to Kindo by the end of next week. If you have any questions about the amounts that are loaded to your Kindo account please email me at executiveofficer@tera.school.nz and I will be able to help you.

If you are a new family to our school, I will be sending you an email next week with how to get your Kindo up and running.

Reminders

Absences

Absentees can be notified to the office via School Apps or by leaving a message on the school absentee line. You can also text absences to the school cellphone (021) 295 8618. We ask that absences are notified before 9.00 am every morning.

The Ministry of Education requires us to code absences, so when you are advising that your child is absent, we ask that you provide us with the reason for the absence.

Dates

Remember to check the Diary of Dates below.

DATES 2022

Term 1

Wed 2 Feb - First Day Term 1 School

Thurs 3 Feb - First Day Term 1 Kindergartens

Mon 7 Feb - Waitangi Day

Thurs 17 Feb - School Board Meeting - 7pm

7 & 8 March - School Teacher PLD days (school closed for students)

Thurs 31 March - School Board Meeting - 7pm

Thurs 14 April - Last Day Term 1

Term 2

Mon 2 May - First Day Term 2

Mon 6 June - Queens BD

Tues 7 June - School Teacher PLD day (school closed for students)

Frid 8 July - Last Day Term 2

Term 3

Mon 25 July - First Day Term 3

Mon 29 Aug - School Teacher PLD day (school closed for students)

Sat 17 Sept - Open Day

Fri 30 Sept - Last Day Term 3

Term 4

Mon 17 Oct - First Day Term 4

Mon 24 Oct - Labour Day

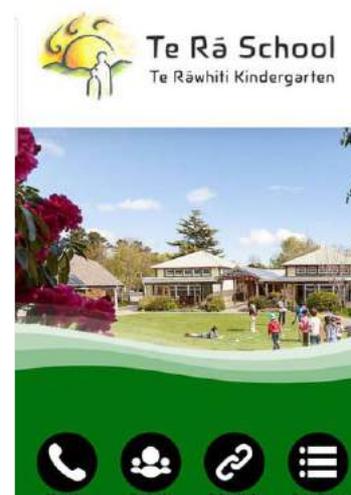
Tues 13 Dec - Last Day Term 4 Kindergartens

Wed 14 Dec - Last Day Term 4 School

Te Rā Waldorf School - School App

Available on:

PLAY STORE & APP STORE





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