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# Newsletter

## Number 1

### 7 February 2025



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

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

*Welcome to the 2025 school year.  
A special welcome to our new  
families.*

#### Thank you

... For getting stuck in to all of the necessary start of year things - children have arrived at school ready to go!

... Paula for investing many hours over the holiday period ensuring we are ready for audit.

... Mr Gardner-Lee for efforts over the break to get the school pool up and running and crystal clear.

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

Friday	14 February	Tech @ Hukurenui school Year 8
Monday	24 February	Surf Life Saving Room 1-4
Tuesday	25 February	Surf Life Saving Room 5 & 6
Monday	3 March	Surf Life Saving Room 7 & 8
Thursday	6 March	Kokopu Swimming
Friday	7 March	Surf Life Saving Room 9 & 10
Wednesday	12 March	WPSSA Swimming Year 5-8
Monday	17 March	School Interviews
Tuesday	18 March	School Interviews
Thursday	20 March	School Swimming Sport Year 4-8
Wednesday	26 March	Individual Duathlon
Thursday	27 March	Team Duathlon
Monday	31 March	Year 7 & 8 Adventure Day

Last day of Term 1 Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of February. First day of Term 2 is Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.

#### Caregiver app - Permission Slips & Notices

Please make sure you are connected to our School App. There are already permission slips published. If you enable notifications on your phone and also on the app, you will be notified when a new permission slip or notice is loaded. Please contact the Office if you have any difficulties getting on the caregiver app.

#### Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every second Friday, or via the school app and by email. On "in-between" Fridays electronic (reminder) newsletters are sent to all families. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website, school app and are emailed. Please check the newsletter each week to ensure you are up to date on events. If you have a particular preference for how you receive your newsletter, contact Miranda ([admin2@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin2@matarau.school.nz)).



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# H.M.E

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Chartered Accountants

Ph 09 438 3939  
sarahk@sumpters.co.nz  
www.sumpters.co.nz



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Jon: 021 444 401  
[jon@alldrainage.co.nz](mailto:jon@alldrainage.co.nz)

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Fuel for School

Thanks to the following local business or farm that nominated Matarau School. For every 100 litres of bulk fuel they purchased from Fern, 50 cents was donated to Matarau school.

Grimmer Contracting Ltd - Crew 703 Mangakahia Rd

Grass To Milk Limited

Alisha Tracey and Bevan Grant Harper

Morris Farms

DS and KL Campbell Partnership

Adairs Farming Limited

## Digital Devices 2025

The school prefers Chrome Books please as these fill our device needs better than ipads.

**Parents of children in years 5 and 6** should feel under no pressure to purchase devices for their children. While it is preferable for year 5 and 6 children to have their own devices, we can provide non-take-home devices for a limited number of children.

**We request that year 7 and 8 students** have their own devices if possible please (Chromebook 8 gb of RAM, or HB or ACER 8 gb RAM) but are very happy to work with parents where this presents a challenge. No child will go without a device.

We will continue to ensure that time on devices is not overdone ... our target is a maximum of 30% of learning time on devices.

We note that devices are on sale from this weekend. Please feel free to contact Scotty ([sdelemare@matarau.school.nz](mailto:sdelemare@matarau.school.nz)) or Katie ([kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz](mailto:kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz)) with any questions.

## 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.

## 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 2025. 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 three.

## 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. For those students that are on regular medication can you please come to the office to fill in a new Medication Form?**

## Bus Pick-up and Drop-off Times

Information on our bus routes can be found on our website or at: [www.wntng.easybus.nz](http://www.wntng.easybus.nz)

## More on buses

Parents are 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 yellow 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 please (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.

**Finally on this - It is critically important that you do not ever approach another person's child with the intention of reprimanding them. Please leave the investigation and consequences (if any) to us.**

## Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

Research indicates 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 - or device time - 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.



## 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. **Where possible holidays should be planned for term breaks.**

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.

## Social Media

Social media is having a very significant impact on young people - both positive and negative. On the negative side it can engender knee jerk reactions ... social media posts are instant (and not always thought through) and very public (and not easily undone).

At school we work hard to encourage productive dialogue and appropriate resolution (face to face) and will continue to do so. We have also had wonderful support from parents when we needed this.

On some occasions hard won gains at school (and home) have been subsequently undone by a child who has made a single injudicious post on social media.

We are inviting you to partner with us this year in promoting the best possible use of social media.

We would like you to consider implementing the following measures.

*Limiting your child's access to multiple apps (and accounts)*

*Limiting the amount of time they spend using apps*

*Regularly check your child's device(s)*

*Agree to let school know of social media breaches that may impact friendships (we will also commit to letting you know of any social media concerns that come to our attention)*

*Emphasising often that social media is never a place to settle scores or the thrash out complex issues.*

We have seen the damage that ripples when children vent on social media ... so please assist us by driving the message at home, by monitoring what is posted, and by implementing the steps above. Please let us know where we can help. We are willing to organize meetings at school to share best practise if there is interest (just let us know your needs and where you may be able to help).

## First Lunch orders on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February

Sushi

on Thursday

Ruatangata Café

on Friday



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www.lunchonline.co.nz

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Phone 0800 565 565

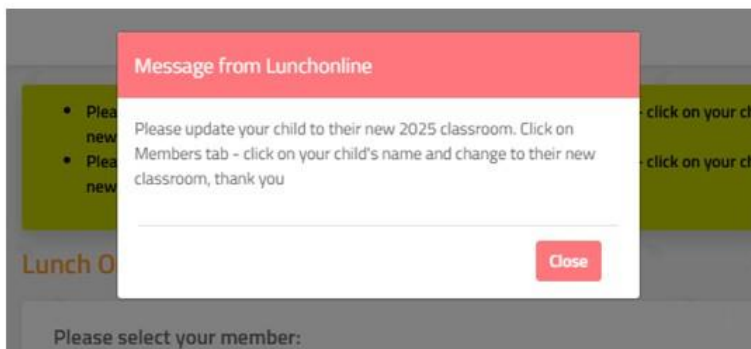
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## Lunch Online

### Pop Up Reminder / Change Classroom

When you first log on in 2025,, you will see a pop-up on the screen reminding you to change your child's classroom to their new room. This pop-up feature will also be used for any important notices. Please remember to update **your child's new classroom**.



### TO SET UP LUNCHONLINE ICON ON YOUR Iphone (like an app)

In Safari – go to our website [www.luncheonline.co.nz](http://www.luncheonline.co.nz)  
At the bottom center click on the icon showing a box with an upward arrow, this will give you a menu of options, scroll up and click on 'Add to the Home Screen' – click Add



### TO SET UP LUNCHONLINE ICON ON YOUR ANDROID PHONE (like an app)

In Google - go to our website [www.luncheonline.co.nz](http://www.luncheonline.co.nz)  
At the top right of the screen, there is a drop-down option, this will give you a menu of options, scroll up and click on 'Add to the Home Screen'

## Staffing for 2025

The Board is pleased to confirm 2025 staffing as follow...

Teaching staff	Support staff
Room 1a TBC ... likely start term 3	<b>Teacher Aides</b>
Room 1 Mrs Alexander	Mrs Crawford
Room 2 Mrs Milicich (Term 1) Mrs Wiegersma	Mrs Pol
Room 3 Miss Gentil	Mrs Hamilton
Room 4 Mrs Baker	Mrs Langley
Room 5 Mr Johnson	Mrs Ryan
Room 6 Mrs Jongkind	Mrs Ringer
Room 7 Mrs Ringrose	Mrs McKegg
Room 8 Mrs Burgin	Mrs Flower
Room 9 Snr Crump/Mr Delemare	<b>Information</b>
Room 10 Mrs Easterbrook	<b>Technology</b>
Room 11 Mrs Gunson	Mrs Sullivan
Room 12 Mr Pattison	<b>Administration</b>
Room 13 Mrs Donaldson	Paula Hannam
Learning Support Co-ordinator - Mrs Marvin	Mrs Pol
Learning Support - Mrs Walker - Mrs Gunson	Mrs Sinclair (accounts)
Release - Mrs Walker /Mrs (Clare) Ringrose / Mrs Broughton ?	<b>Caretaker / Grounds</b>
Mrs Waiomio	Mr Gardner-Lee
Te Reo - Whaea Jo Watts	
Music - Mrs Slykerman	<b>ESOL</b>
Reading Recovery / Junior diagnostics - Mrs Broughton	Mrs Pol
Deputy Principal - Mrs Donaldson	
Assistant Principal - Mr Johnson	

## Final Word

A huge thank you to staff, parents and students for a great start this week. We have enjoyed reconnecting with students, and they have certainly loved reconnecting with their friends.

We have a fantastic year planned, including further work in the areas of Science and Mathematics (including lots of hands on learning), fine tuning our instructional programmes in reading and writing, a special focus on narratives (as a vehicle for knowing ourselves, and others, better), thinking skills, and a big focus on our school library. At some stage soon we will set a time to share more detail with you.

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!

We look forward to seeing you often.

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL



**Te Mahau**

## Te Manawa Tahī Community Timetable



# WHANGĀREI

### Do you have concerns about your child?

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

Te Manawa Tahī is a learning support hub where you can talk to educational professionals about your child's learning needs. This is a free service.

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

Date	Hub Locations	Term 1 2025, Weeks 1 to 5
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Onerahi Community House, 130 Onerahi Road, Onerahi	
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dargaville Early Years Hub, 28 Hokianga Road, Dargaville	
	Whangaruru School, 9.00am – 10.30am, 2916 Russell Road	
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	







Te Mahau

Te Manawa Tahī  
Community Timetable



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

Date	Hub Locations	Term 1 2025, Weeks 6 to 10
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Bream Bay Community Trust, 10.00am - 12.30pm, 9 Takutai Place	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Te Kura o Otangarei School, William Jones Drive, Otangarei	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Children's Lighthouse Playgroup, 20 George Street, Hikurangi	
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St John Ōtamatea Ambulance Hall, Maungaturoto	
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Dargaville Early Years Hub, 28 Hokianga Road, Dargaville	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Ngunguru School, 9.00am – 10.30am, Te Maika Road	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	

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