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www.littlebizonline.co.nz
021 024 00635

Newsletter

Number 3

21 February 2025



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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

Thank you

... to those parents who are helping out with forthcoming Surf Life Saving programmes. We have had a huge response and this is very much appreciated.

A special welcome

... to Robyn McKegg and Delwyn Flower who join our teacher aide team this year. If you see them around the school please say hi.

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

Monday 24 February Surf Life Saving Room 1-4
Monday 24 February PSG Meeting about Trail Ride 6pm @ staffroom
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
Sunday 16 March Matarau School Trail Ride
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 11th of April. First day of Term 2 is Monday the 28th of April.

In brief

... Please stay clear of driveways next to or opposite the school
... Please aim for morning drop off sometime between 8:00 am and 8:45 am
... Non-bus children should be picked up no later than 3:30 pm please.
... If you do not yet use the school app maybe give this a go ... please contact Paula for further information.
... Children arriving at school after 9:00 pm must report to the office first please.
... Please advise your child's teacher next week if you do NOT want them to receive homework this term.
... 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)
... Please fully close the school gates after entry or exit.
... If you haven't already done so, please drop by to check medicine expiry dates.
... Please reduce speeds to 20kmh when passing a stationary bus.
... Please advise next week of any change in residential or contact details.

Garnet Motor Services

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H.M.E

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Cell phones

As you will no doubt recall, schools are required to have cell phone policies. Last year we asked parents to indicate ...

... if their child would be bringing a cell phone to school

... whether this would be on a regular or occasional basis

... whether their cellphone was necessary for medical reasons.

If we do not hear from you, we will assume the information provided last year still applies this year. If circumstances have changed, for example if they brought their phone to school irregularly last year and will be bringing it regularly this year, or if they will no longer be bringing their phone to school, or if they will be bringing a phone to school for the first time, please let Paula know next week so we can update our database. Our plan is to advise you from time to time the patterns of "hand in of phones" so you can reconcile these with your expectations.

Please double emphasise with your children at home that their phones **MUST** be handed in on arrival, they must not be left in their school bags.

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 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 materialized 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 the see Kevin.

Headlice Inspections

The school no longer does school inspections. This makes us very reliant on parents to ...

... check their children's hair regularly

... respond within 48 hours in the event of infestation

... advise us of infestation so we get a sense of the extent and nature of any spread (we keep individual notifications confidential).

So please get your routine established and be vigilant. We know the distress that repeat infestations can cause.

Hearing your child read

Please show an interest in what your child has done at school each day. If you have time, read to them, listen to them read, and spend time discussing what you/they have read. Research continues to indicate that reading from text (hard copy) as hugely more beneficial, in the development of reading and thinking skills, than reading from a screen. So... books with covers, and pages that turn, remain the **BEST** way to learn to read. If you need help hooking your child into home reading please connect with their classroom teacher.

No focus virtue this term

... we are working on morals via narrative this term and will spin focus virtues off this in term 2.

Bus Pick-up and Drop-off Times

Information on our bus routes can be found on our website or at: www.wntng.easybus.nz



ZONE SWIMMING SPORTS: KOKOPU SCHOOL Thursday 6th March 2025

Our Zone Swimming Sports, at Kokopu School, is on Thursday 6th March. This is an opportunity to compete against other swimmers from our zone and to qualify for the Whangarei Championship, which will be held on Wednesday 12th March.

If your child is selected after our time trials, the permission slip will go out on the caregiver app next week.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, Matarau Trail Ride returns home to Lovells farm on 16th March.

We are looking for volunteers to help us ensure the day runs smoothly.

Are you able to spare a few hours to help? There's no need to have any knowledge of trail rides, we are looking for help with registrations, cooking on the bbq and checking wristbands.

If you are able to help please fill out the form at <https://mataraufundraising.co.nz/matarau-school-trail-ride-2025-volunteer/> and one of the committee members will be in touch.



Netball

We are desperate for Year 7 & 8 Netball players. Please contact Stacey or get a form from the Office.

Hockey

If your child want to play hockey this season, please sign the permission form on the caregiver app asap.

Trouble settling?

Please contact 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.

Stretching the finances

Life can be expensive at times, and school expenses can simply add to the burden. So PLEASE drop by and see Kevin or Paula if things are tough at the moment, we will come up with a plan that works for you.

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.

Finally

The school is hugely grateful for the ways parents have supported our virtues programme over the years. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we will not launch into specific virtues until term 2, and these are likely to spin off some of the work we will be doing on narratives this term. We will be selecting specific narratives (often in picture book form) to identify the underlying morals, consider how these might be applied in our own lives, in our relationships with others etc. If you want to know more, please drop by and see Kevin.

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehella
PRINCIPAL

Sushi every Thursday
Ruatangata Café every Friday



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We believe breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and we'll now be providing Sanitarium Weet-Bix™ and Anchor™ Milk in a programme that is a partnership between Ministry of Social Development, Sanitarium and Fonterra, and has been running successfully nationwide for over 12 years.

Every Monday - Wednesday - Friday

from 8:15 to 8:45 in the hall.

For more information about the programme, you can visit www.kickstartbreakfast.co.nz