



# TE WAOTU SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## Issue 1: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Our vision:

To build confident and resilient life-long learners.

### Our mission (how we will achieve our vision):

Teachers will empower students to be active learners who work in partnership with the teacher.



Teachers will ensure students know what they are learning, when they have been successful and where they are going to next.



Self and peer assessment is a routine step in the learning process.



Success criteria are most effective when great examples of work are used to show what quality looks like.



Teachers will use the learning progressions in the curriculum in order to confidently work with a diverse range of students.



The school recognises the influence of the home and will endeavour to build and nurture learning focussed partnerships with parents and whanau.

### Our values:

Kindness, respect, honesty, responsibility, courage.

### Our houses:

Haszard, Simmonds, Barnett, Rongowhitiao

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to school and especially to our new students-Scarlett Heke, Kobi and Amber Long, Silas and Luca McNaught, J'Von Whaiapu, Archie Mardell, Charlie McBeth, Rinav Patel, Eli Christensen-Batson and Anna Elliott. It's lovely to have you all join the Te Waotu team! It will be a busy time ahead in Room 1 too because over the course of the term we are expecting more enrolments.

The atmosphere at school has been lovely-both within classrooms and in the playground. It was great to see the children reconnecting with friends and picking up where they left off last year with playground games!

We are expecting a number of new children this term. It can be hard making new friends, especially when walking into classes with friendships groups already well established. Teachers will be supporting all children to get to know one another and feel welcome in their new classes but it would be great if you could talk with your children at home about ways they can help:

- ❖ Be friendly and welcoming: encourage your child to approach new children with a smile and a friendly greeting. Something as simple as saying hello can make a big difference in helping new students feel accepted.
- ❖ Include them in activities: encourage your child to invite new children to join in games, group activities, or conversations during breaks and free time. This helps them feel like they belong and will support them to make friends.
- ❖ Introduce them to others: encourage your child to introduce themselves to new students and help them meet other classmates. This can help new students expand their social circle and feel more connected to their peers.
- ❖ Be with them during breaks: playing times can be intimidating for new children, so encourage your child to invite them to sit or play with them. This provides an opportunity for new students to feel connected during this unstructured time.
- ❖ Be patient and understanding: adjusting to a new school can take time, so encourage your child to be patient and understanding with new children. Remind them that it's important to treat others with kindness and empathy. Sometimes, new children may feel overwhelmed and they can help by lending a listening ear, offering words of encouragement, and providing support during challenging times.
- ❖ Communicate any problems with teachers: encourage your child to speak up if they witness problem behaviours towards new students. Creating a culture of kindness and standing up for others helps ensure that all students feel safe and supported at school.

It's been wonderful reconnecting with both children and parents today and I hope that you all have an awesome first week back!

## TEACHER PLACEMENTS

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Teachers and their levels are as follows:

|        |            |                       |
|--------|------------|-----------------------|
| Room 1 | Year 1/2   | Mrs Cara Randall-Hunt |
| Room 2 | Year 2/3   | Miss Anna-Blair Hunt  |
| Room 4 | Year 3/4   | Mrs Sandra Hamilton   |
| Room 5 | Year 5/6   | Mrs Inge Wilbers      |
| Room 6 | Year 6/7/8 | Mrs Sarah Topping     |

## POOL KEYS

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Now that school has started back the pool is closed for use outside of school hours. Keys now need to be returned to the school office.

## THANKYOU!

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A special thanks to the following people who have helped us out over the holiday period:

- Owen and Michelle Saunders, and James Heke for maintaining the school pool. Their commitment to looking after this involved maintenance of this area along with monitoring the water quality. We are extremely lucky to have this space so well looked after.
- Brad Clifton (our caretaker) for his attention to our school grounds leading into the start of school and also for his work improving aspects of the junior and senior playground.
- Basique Cleaning for their extensive holiday clean and the attention paid to our carpet and lino surfaces.



## SWIMMING

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We'll begin swimming next week, running for approximately the 4-5 weeks.

We have increased the time available to each class when using the pool and this means classes may not swim daily.



Each class teacher will have a swimming timetable that identifies their swimming days and they'll share this information with you. On swimming days, please make sure your child comes to school with their togs and a towel. A bag to put clothes into while swimming and wet gear when finished is also really useful.

It is an expectation that all children participate-swimming is just like any other subject. If your child cannot swim they need a note for the time that they cannot participate.

If you have any questions then please contact your child's teacher.

## KAPA HAKA

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Next week kapa haka will start. This is an opportunity open to students in Years 4-8. I appreciate that some families would like to have younger children participating and this is something I can talk with Matua Kauri about once we have the group underway.

One thing we ask is that children who participate, commit right through until the end of the year. To support this, we allow children to attend a few sessions before confirming their involvement. With the allocation of roles and positions it is important that the group has stability-especially with this year being a Culture Fest performance year. Please talk with your children if they are interested in participating, especially the commitment required of them.

## SCHOOL HATS FOR THIS TERM

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This term the children are required to wear hats while outside because it's that time of the year when we need to be mindful of sun protection. The children should all have their black bucket hats but if any have gone missing, the office have them in stock and they can be purchased for \$12.



## **YEAR 4/5 OVERNIGHT STAY**

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This is planned for 29th February-1<sup>st</sup> March. The children stay overnight at school in tents and then follow this up on Friday with a day of activities. More information will be sent home soon.

If this is something you would like to attend as a parent helper then please contact the office to get Police vetting underway. This is a process that can take 3-4 weeks for results to come back to us so get this started early.

## **2024 SENIOR CAMP**

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This year we are heading to Blue Mountain Adventure Centre (Raurimu) and is planned for 18-20<sup>th</sup> March.

Our goal for camp is to strengthen relationships amongst the children through providing shared and challenging experiences that develop tolerance, co-operation, and leadership. Activities on offer in support of this include rafting, rock climbing, and abseiling.

Our aim is to have a maximum cost of \$250 to attend-through the generosity of the SSG and Board this is the subsidised amount. In order to support all families with children attending, we are happy to put plans in place for those who wish to pay off the camp fee in instalments, and thanks to the SSG we offer further financial support for families with multiple children attending.

If this is an experience you would like to help at, please contact the office to get Police vetting underway. This process can take 3-4 weeks for results to come back so get this started early.



## **2024 STATIONERY LISTS**

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Stationery lists will be sent home in the first week of school.

All stationery items have been selected to help with our goal of teaching the children to set out their work neatly and to raise the standard of book work across the school.

To help us achieve this we ask that books are purchased through the school. The school does not make any profit on the selling of stationery-all prices shown for stationery reflects our purchase price.

Stationery can be paid for using cash or via internet banking and will be sent home once payments have been confirmed.

Please be aware that the bucket hat and smart shirt are compulsory items if you don't have them already.

## **IGNITE ARTS ACADEMY-MUSIC LESSONS (MUSIC IN SCHOOLS)**

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These will begin in the second week of term for those who have registered. Just use this link to register:

<https://www.ignitearts.co.nz/registration/>

For students in Years 1-2 Ignite the Beatz programme has been designed specifically for them. Each term the student gets to try two new instruments. It is designed to be a yearlong programme, but students can enter and exit at the beginning of any term. At the end of the programme, the students would have had a good feel for a variety of instruments which would give them an indication of which instrument they would like to continue with.



## BUS CHILDREN

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Any new users of the bus need to contact the office in advance. We need a chance to pass on details to the Putaruru Bus Network co-ordinator to ensure that your address is safe for stopping. If it is not suitable, they will suggest another drop off or pick up point to use.

It is important that if your child is not going on the bus that the office is informed by 2.45 pm. If for some reason, your child needs to catch a different bus then please contact the school. It is important that we are part of the decision making process about this since we are responsible for all children on the buses and the smooth operation of this service.

All bus children need to wear their safety vests. This is something we encourage to help keep the children visible and safe.

While on the bus children need to stay in their seat at all times. Once the bus has come to a stop, then children are allowed to stand and exit. Children are required to follow the instructions of the bus monitors and bus driver at all times.

## SCHOOL APP

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Te Waotu School has a School App.

Go to the App Store on your Apple or Android device and search 'SchoolAppsNZ' to download the app onto your device. Then search 'Te Waotu School' to find our app.

Your login details are generated by the school and sent in an email to the email address shown on the enrolment form.

If another family member wishes to have access to the app also, please contact the school office so we can add in the extra people-we will need to be provided with their name and email address.

Once this is set up please remember to sign up to *School News* for all school updates, and the relevant classrooms and sports teams for your child.

**For existing users, now is the time to update rooms and events you wish to receive information about. Just head to the three bars at the top left of the home screen then go to alert subscriptions.**



## OUR SCHOOL DAY

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Children are welcome to arrive at school from 8 am. This is when our first bus arrives. Our school day starts with fitness at 8.55 am. Please make sure children are at school by this time. The day is structured as follows:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 8.55-9.05   | Whole school fitness                    |
| 9.05-10.05  | <b>First learning session</b>           |
| 10.05-10.15 | Brainbreak                              |
| 10.15-11.15 | <b>Second learning session</b>          |
| 11.15-11.35 | Morning tea                             |
| 11.35-12.35 | <b>Third learning session</b>           |
| 12.35-1.10  | Lunchtime play                          |
| 1.10-1.30   | Eating time (this is our reverse lunch) |
| 1.30-3.00   | <b>Afternoon learning session</b>       |

It is important that parents collect children as near to 3 pm as possible. To allow all teachers to attend meetings and prepare lessons, we are keen to minimise the number of children at school after 3 pm.

## TUCK SHOP

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This will not be open and will start up once we have appointed student leaders and trained them.



## SCHOOL ACCOUNT DETAILS

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If you are wanting to pay for anything via internet banking our details are: 03-0418-0096222-000. In the particulars section just enter your child's name and reason for the payment in the reference section.

**Note: Please be aware that the School Support Group have their own bank account details if your payment needs to be made to them.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> February:                        | First day of school                                       |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> February:                       | Swimming starts<br>Ignite music concert                   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> February:                       | Ignite music lessons start                                |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> February:                       | Meet the teacher and family picnic at school (evening)    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> February:                       | Year 7/8 immunisation education session                   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> February:                       | Senior school swimming sports                             |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> February-1 <sup>st</sup> March: | Year 4/5 overnight stay and activity day                  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> March:                          | Interschool swimming sports                               |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> March:                          | Interschool swimming sports postponement day              |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> March:        | Senior camp at Blue Mountain Adventure Centre (Years 6-8) |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March:                          | Year 7/8 immunisations                                    |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March:                          | Good Friday-school closed                                 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April:                           | Easter Monday-school closed                               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> April:                           | Easter Tuesday-school closed                              |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> April:                          | Final day of Term 1                                       |



## NOHO ORA MAI

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*Sandra, Sarah, Cara, Anna-Blair, Inge, Trish, Hildegard, Nadia, and Ryves*

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