



Rototuna
PRIMARY SCHOOL
HE RAWE MO AKETONU - OUR BEST ALWAYS



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Dear Parents, Whanau and Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2018 school year. I look forward to working with you and your child(ren) to provide the best possible education over this year.

A special welcome to the more than 70 students and their families who have joined us this year. It is exciting to have you here and to have children enroll from New Zealand and overseas. We aim to work in partnership with you to help your children to be the best they can be.

Welcome to New staff

I have been pleased to welcome our new talented teachers. Welcome to Mrs Alie Rae, Miss Charlotte Donald, Miss Ashleigh Davis, Miss Caitlin Hazlehurst, Mrs Paula McLeod, Mr James Paul, Miss Danielle Loye, Miss Georgia Robb and Miss Courtney Mace. They are all looking forward to getting to know the children and parents of our school community.

We also welcome back Miss Jen Adam who has been travelling over the past two years. We advertised early to ensure we had the pick of the best teachers to join our team.

Staff List

Mike Sutton (Principal), Kylie Morris and Stacey Lawrence (Deputy Principals), Tina Anderson (Assistant Principal).

| Room | Class Level | Teacher |
|-------------|--------------------|--|
| Manuka | New Entrants | Hazel Woodhouse (Team leader) Claire Donaldson *Darnelle Robinson/Lauri Thorburn |
| 1 | Year 1 | Alie Rae |
| 2 | " | Anne Weir (Team Leader) |
| 4 | " | Susan Haworth |
| 3 | Year 1/2 | Jen Harvey |
| 25 | Year 2 | Sherrin Jefferies (Team Leader) |
| 26 | " | Bethany Mitchell |
| 27 | " | Jessica Fifield |
| 28 | " | Charlotte Donald |
| 29 | " | Karen Lovell |
| 5 | Year 3 | Briony Subritzky |
| 6 | " | Helen Foster (Team Leader) |
| 7 | " | Ashleigh Davis |
| 8 | " | Anupma Lall |
| 9 | " | Jen Adam |
| 10 | " | *Anna Parkinson/Lauri Thorburn |
| 11 | Year 4 | Caitlin Hazlehurst |
| 12 | " | Deanna Sewell |
| 13 | " | Stephanie Moloney |
| 14 | " | Alannah Orr |
| 15 | " | Karen Blunden |
| 16 | " | Anna Beveridge (Team Leader) |
| Totara | Year 4/5 | Paula McLeod |
| Rimu | Year 5 | *Andrea Stephenson/Natasha Stevens |
| 17 | " | Holly Mackie |
| 18 | " | Melanie Johnson |
| 19 | " | James Paul (Team Leader) |
| 20 | " | Danielle Loye |
| Tawa | Year 6 | Georgia Robb |
| 21 | " | Jaspreet Singh |
| 22 | " | Courtney Mace |
| 23 | " | *Jane Macqueen (Team Leader)/Vanessa Matai'a |
| 24 | " | Tracey Moore |

* This indicates that there is a shared teaching position. In the case of Darnelle Robinson, Anna Parkinson and Andrea Stephenson, they teach 4 days and the other colleague works on 1 day.

In Room 23 Vanessa Matai'a teaches 1 block every day.

Please note that where there is no classroom number but a hub name means that these classes are in the hub space except in the Manuka where there are 4 spaces and currently 3 teachers.

This makes it easier to find a class on the map at all entrances rather than adding numbers that would be out of sequence.

Learning Enhancement Team: Ngahuia Nuri, Julie Cowie and Mary Frewen.

Office Staff: Lyn Vroegh, Carmen Nasmith, Rochelle O'Leary and Delwyn Smith

Library Staff: Sharon Crawford and Selina Gulliver

Relieving Teachers: Kafula Olsen, Vanessa Matai'a, Steph Philburn and Julie Dons.

Caretaker: Ricky Epere

Calendar

Here are the key dates for February

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Tuesday 6/02 | Waitangi Day – National holiday. School closed |
| Friday 9/02 | 10:00am Celebration (Often called assembly in other schools) 11:30am Whanaungatanga Day (see note below) |
| Wednesday 14/02 | 3:00pm – 7:00pm Meet the Parent sessions (see explanation below) |
| Thursday 15/02 | 3:00pm – 5:00pm Meet the Parent sessions |
| Friday 16/02 | 9:00am – 3:00pm Football/Soccer skills session for year 3 – 6 |
| Thursday 22/02 | 1:30pm Flying Start preschool sessions begin |
| Friday 23/02 | 10:00am Celebration |

Meet the Parents

We value the relationship that we have with our parent community. We also value the knowledge that you have about your child(ren) and want to access that to help your child(ren) so we are changing things a little. Last year we had a really successful picnic to meet parents and children. This year we are having this much earlier. On Friday 9th February we invite you to join us at school. At 11:30am you can visit classrooms and see what is happening there.

At 12:00pm (noon) Children will join their parents for a picnic on the school field. Bring along some lunch and spend time with children. Teachers will circulate and talk. This will go until 1:00pm. We know that this worked last year because you could get time off work for lunch with the children. The second part of our process to get to know more about your children is a new approach. See the following message.

Meet the Parents: Part 2

Last year we trialed a different approach to engage with some Maori parents and it was very successful. We want to extend that to all parents this year so rather than have a meet the teacher evening we are holding meetings in classrooms with the purpose that you will share information about your child(ren). Teachers will listen and make notes so that they can work even more effectively with your child(ren). You will do most of the talking!!

**These meetings will be held on
Wednesday 14th February 3:20pm – 7:00pm and Thursday 15/02 3:20pm – 5:00pm.**

There are opportunities for parents to talk to the classroom teacher, so bring along all your information about your child(ren). The teachers may ask questions but will not be reporting/sharing their knowledge with you. This is not a session for children to sit in on.

If your child is in MANUKA interviews will ONLY take place on WEDNESDAY 14th February 3.20pm -7.00pm

If your child is in **Room 18 Mrs Melanie Johnsons** class or in **Room 24 Mrs Tracey Moore** class interviews will be held on TUESDAY 13th 3.20pm -7.00pm and THURSDAY 15th 3.20pm-5.00pm.

Please book these interviews at www.schoolinterviews.co.nz **School Code: nprdy** – a direct link is on the school app on the side menu under links ☺

Home Learning

Over the past few years parents have become used to change. We are working on setting up a new Home learning programme that will relate to the learning needs of the children. It will build on what we started in 2017 but with more information.

There will be a parent meeting on **Thursday 1 March** from 6:30 – 7:30pm where we will explain how it will work. Keep the date free for this important evening. The meeting will be held in the hall.

Sunsafer

New Zealand is experiencing a very hot summer. It is more important than ever that we practice sunsafer. Please put sunscreen on children before they leave home. We will have more in hubs to help children avoid sun burn during the day. If you want to use your brand, send it along with your family members.

The second point is that all children must wear a sunhat when outside. It has to be a brimmed hat (bucket or cricket) or a legionnaire style so that there is cover for face, neck and ears. Children without hats will not be allowed to play in the playground and will be confined to the shaded area by the hall.

Thirdly encourage children to drink lots of water during the day and please name hats.

Stationery

Thank you so much to the vast majority of you who have provided stationery from day 1. Kindo was available 24/7 from January 1 and the office has been very busy processing orders. This means that teachers can make a flying start to teaching and learning and also begin to set expectations for how to set out books.

Camps

This year we have Year 5 and 6 camps. The Year 6 camp is to be held on 12 – 14 March and the Year 5 camp is on 19 – 21 March. To help manage the cost we have reduced it to 2 nights away. The cost has reduced to \$220.00. You can start paying part of the costs to the Kindo account. Some parents have already started part payments before Christmas and we will be in touch regarding a refund for your overpayment.

If your child is in a composite class the children go to the camp with the older age group in that room. Miss Robbs class will go with the Year 6 group and Mrs McLeods will be with the Year 5 group.

Ice Blocks

The P.T.A will continue to sell lemonade ice blocks on Friday lunchtime. Costs are \$1.00 each. Often the new entrant and year 1 teachers collect the money and arrange the order to avoid young children having to queue. The office cannot provide change.

School App

You will have received a notice that we now have a school App to help keep you in touch. The newsletter will be sent to it, along with other notices. It will also allow access to the school calendar and our reporting site. Get onto it now.

Go to your App store

Search for: SchoolAppsNZ and download

Within that app search for Rototuna Primary School

Absences

We like to keep student absences to a minimum. If they are sick please ring the school and go to the absence line or send a message to the office via the school app to notify us.

If you do not supply a reason for the absence it will be identified as truant under the codes supplied by the Ministry of Education.

Arriving at School

The teachers are working around the school preparing for the day so if children arrive before 8:30am they must go to the covered court.

From 8:30am classrooms are open, teachers are present and parents and children are welcome to get organized for the day. We are concerned that a number of children arrive late. We accept that sometimes they have appointments before school and this is understandable. Our real concern are the regular late arrivals.

Children who arrive after the bell at 9:00am must report to the office, sign in and collect a late card and ensure that we know they arrived. This is for their safety. Attached to the newsletter is a sheet to show you the amount of time that could be missed by arriving late on a regular basis.

There are big social issues in arriving late. Children miss out on getting organized for learning, and catching up with friends. They also miss vital notices or instructions to start their learning. Lateness also distracts the teachers from their work with other children, so that is unfair to classmates too.

Lateness and regular absence will result in you getting a letter from us and a request to discuss the issues. If absences continue we can refer the family to Attendance Services.

Travel

We encourage healthy habits in getting to school and advise children to walk (with friends/family), scooter or bike if they have the skills. Bikes and scooters should be chained to a fence or stand.

We also encourage children to walk to the Countdown carpark to meet parents and help decrease the huge congestion around the gates. For younger children we have a teacher who walks them up to the carpark. Children who want this support assemble at the flagpole at the front of school. They usually get to the Countdown carpark by 3:15pm. If parents are not there we bring the children back to the office for pick up.

Please encourage healthy habits and independence in your children.

Holiday

Next Tuesday 6th February is Waitangi Day

International and English Second Language Students

We are very fortunate to have a number of students who are learning English as a second language. Beginning in Week 3, we are offering FREE English support lessons with Eva Xu, one of our support staff. She will work with a group of children. Lessons will be available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 3.05pm – 4.05pm. They will be in a room in Kahikatea and children will be able to wait in the small room accessible from the front of Kahikatea.

Although lessons will be offered on three days it is likely that, because of numbers, your child may only be involved on one or two days. Your flexibility is appreciated with days and times but please let me know if you are unavailable on one of those days.

If you would like to enrol in these lessons please email jcowie@rototunaprimery.school.nz. I am responsible for the ESOL programmes at Rototuna Primary and, together with Eva Xu, will oversee the programme. Enrolments need to be received by THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY.

Julie Cowie

School Band

If you attended the Band evening in 2017 and your child has decided to join we now require your forms to be returned to the school office by FRIDAY 2 February. This is for tuition and for instrument hire.


Tyler Trenwith

Tyler will be teaching music to all who are interested in bass or drums, from beginner to rock star! Bass and drums are great instruments to build a foundation of music theory, rhythm and feel. Lessons can be group or individual with varied price! Contact me at trenwith@gmail.com with your child's name, age instrument, level and group/individual preference.

Have a great start to the year

Kind regards,

**Mike Sutton
Principal**



**Rototuna Primary School
now 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 'Rototuna Primary School' to find your school's app.

School Apps NZ schoolappsnz.co.nz

School year

On average of 4 terms of 10 weeks / 40 weeks / 194 days (not including holidays)

| Present | 90% | 80% | 70% | 60% | 50% | 40% | 30% | 20% | 10% |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Average of days present in a year | 175 days | 155 days | 135 days | 117 days | 97 days | 77 days | 59 days | 39 days | 19 days |
| Absent | 10% | 20% | 30% | 40% | 50% | 60% | 70% | 80% | 90% |
| Average of days absent / year | 19 days | 39 days | 59 days | 77 days | 97 days | 117 days | 135 days | 155 days | 175 days |
| Average of days absent / term | 4 days | 9 days | 14 days | 19 days | 24 days | 29 days | 34 days | 39 days | 44 days |
| Average of days absent / week | ½ day | 1 day | 1½ days | 2 days | 2½ days | 3 days | 3½ days | 4 days | 4½ days |

School day

Time not at school, e.g. lateness, leaving early, missing periods etc: based on a 6 hour school day

| Time missed per day | 10 minutes | 20 minutes | 30 minutes | 40 minutes | 50 minutes | 1 hour |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Average per week | 50 minutes | 1 hour 40 minutes | 2 hours 30 minutes | 3 hours 20 minutes | 4 hours 10 minutes | 5 hours |
| In days: | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Average per term | 8 hours 20 minutes | 16 hours 40 minutes | 25 hours | 33 hours 20 minutes | 41 hours 40 minutes | 50 hours |
| In days: | At least 1 school day | At least 2 school days | At least 4 school days | At least 5 school days | At least 6 school days | At least 8 school days |
| Average per year | 33 hours 20 minutes | 66 hours 40 minutes | 100 hours | 133 hours 20 minutes | 166 hours 40 minutes | 200 hours |
| In days: | At least 5 school days | At least 11 school days | At least 16 school days | At least 22 school days | At least 27 school days | At least 33 school days |