

# Term 1 Week 1 : 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

## From the Principal

Dear Parents/Caregivers  
**Kia Ora Koutou, Nga mihi kia koutou**

Welcome to the 2018 school year. A very special welcome to our new students, who have all made fantastic starts at our school. We have an 'action packed' term planned and can't wait to share it with the children and our community whanau. Our inquiry focus is centred around the concept of 'Awhi' - helping and supporting. This is exactly the kind of culture we want to build at our school. Over the coming weeks, I will introduce our full staff to you, starting this week with our classroom teaching staff.

<b>Te Kete Wakahuia (TKW)</b> New Entrants and Years 1/2 Ruma Tahī and Rua (Years 1 and 2) Ruma Toru and Wha (NE)	Kete Leader - Mrs Griffin  Mrs Amy Guerin and Mrs Liz Longley Mrs Tracey Orr (Mrs Helen Griffin /Mrs Anna Blay - next NE class)
<b>Te Kete Pounamu (TKP)</b> Years 2 and 3	Miss Amanda Coley (Kete co-ordinator) Miss Andrea Caldwell Miss Jay Stella
<b>Te Kete Manawa (TKM)</b> Years 3 and 4	Mrs Priscilla Gifford-Moore (Kete Leader) Mrs Lynne Handcock Mrs Michelle Connell
<b>Te Kete Aronui (TKA)</b> Years 4 and 5	Mrs Carlee Hodge (Kete Leader) Mrs Laura Flaus Miss Hilary Salter
<b>Te Kete Tangaroa (TKT)</b> Years 5 and 6	Mr Reece Hawkins (Kete Leader) Miss Michelle Bisset Mr Sam Sloan

Next week I will introduce our 'all important' part time, support and admin staffing team, along with the leadership team.

### SICK LEAVE

Sadly I need to let you know that Mr Pouniu is on sick leave at the moment - for an as yet undetermined period of time. Drew has been diagnosed with cancer and experts are in the early stages of developing a suitable treatment plan. We are sure that as a community you will want to assist us with supporting Drew and his young family, so we are going to hold a 'Bow Day' on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Everyone who knows Drew will know about his 'signature' bow tie fashion. We hope that families will get into the spirit of 'Bow Day' and design bow ties, hair bows, waist bows etc - the more bows the better! We then request that each child 'donates as much as they can' for us to pass onto the Pouniu whanau - either cash, grocery vouchers or petrol vouchers. You will appreciate that being unwell is hugely stressful, being also unable to work brings immense challenges. In a very short period of time with us Mr Pouniu has established himself as a person of 'high energy', 'high integrity' and as having 'high expectations' of himself. The staff is additionally supporting the family in practical terms as best we can. We know that you will all join us sending loads of 'get wishes' to Drew!

### SUN SAFETY

Thank you for your support with sunhats. In addition, we strongly advise that the children have sunscreen in their bags to reapply at least once during the day (roller sunscreens are generally easier for the children to manage themselves). Teachers will endeavour to remind children to apply their sunscreen before the lunch break and/or before swimming.

### KETE NEWSLETTERS

Within the next week you will receive a newsletter that will give you more information about systems/routines/timetables that are specific to your child's 2018 learning environment. If anything remains unclear to you, please ask clarifying questions to either your child's whanau teacher or another teacher in the kete - we aim to keep you well informed, but sometimes forget that when you are new to our school system, lots of things are not familiar.

### LUNCHTIME LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

We aim to have the library open at lunchtimes every day. Some children like to have a quiet space to read and relax in their lunch hour. Having the library open requires a commitment from our student librarians AND we also rely on an adult to volunteer to support the librarians. Do you have a spare 45 minutes one lunch hour per week or do you know someone who might be willing to volunteer 45 minutes one day per week? Please contact Susan Janssen here at school or by email to: library@hokowhitu.school.nz

### POOL PARTY

Next Thursday evening (8<sup>th</sup> Feb) from 5 - 6.30 pm we invite **everyone** to come back to school for an informal event that gives parents/staff and whanau the opportunity to mingle and chat. It is also a chance for you to meet our Board of Trustees and PTA members. All Hokowhitu School children will have a ticket to receive a free sausage too. Bring the family, the PTA will be selling sausages, nachos and juicies for an easy meal option. The pool will be open for anyone wanting a swim and we will have some sports equipment out, so join the fun.

### SWIMMING

Where possible, classes swim daily while the weather is suitable. PLEASE ensure togs and towels are in bags EVERY day. A note (or email to the teacher) is required if your child is unwell and unable to swim (as teaching swimming skills is part of the New Zealand curriculum).

You may have seen that the covers have now been installed at the pool and the work is almost complete on the solar panelling too - **IF YOU ARE A KEY HOLDER THIS MEANS YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO COVER THE POOL WHEN YOU LEAVE IF YOU ARE THE LAST ONE THERE IN THE EVENING.** It is also imperative that children are supervised to ensure the covers are not stood, sat, leaned on or played with - we do not want our precious water heating tools damaged in any way.

### ASSEMBLY

School assembly is scheduled for next Friday starting at 9am. Mr Hawkins and Miss Coley's whanau classes will be on the stage sharing with us. Everyone is warmly welcomed to our fortnightly assemblies - the children love an audience.

### SCHOOL ARRIVAL

We know that getting back into school routine can take some doing, but urge you to ensure that the children are not arriving at school either too EARLY or too LATE. Due to meetings and teacher preparation the children are not allowed into corridors or classrooms before the 8.30am bell. Early arrivers need to wait quietly by the noticeboard until the bell rings.

Arriving late to school (i.e. after 8.45am) means that the children are not ready for learning when the bell rings at 8.50am for the start of the day. Late arrivals into class disrupt the learning of everyone else too, so please try to support your child to be here on time. Thanks in anticipation of your help.

### EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM YEARS 4-6 CAMPS : 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Separate notices will have come home with all the Year 4-6 students giving the specific details around this year's EOTC programme for our more senior learners. I would like to make a special mention of our amazing PTA who worked so hard last year to raise funds. This has enabled a fantastic subsidy on the camp fees for every child **and** thanks also to every single family who supported the PTA by buying raffle tickets, pies, juicies, calendars, lunch orders etc over the last year.

School will be closed next Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> February for Waitangi Day. This is a public holiday.

Nga mihi  
 Lin Dixon  
 Principal

## Achievement Awards

### Te Kete Wakahuia

A huge welcome to: Hank, Lily, Micah, Rei, Ruby, Charlotte, Eden, Jack and Nixon. Have a great time learning at Hokowhitu School!  
 Connor For having a positive attitude towards everything you do!  
 Yasmeen For having wonderful manners in the classroom!  
 Ruby-Rose For writing our rules neatly.  
 Harry For being kind and helping clean our classrooms.

### Te Kete Pounamu

To all of TKP - Well done on a great start for 2018!

### Te Kete Manawa

Olivia, Riley J, Congratulations on being a Week 1 TKM leader.  
 Brooklyn, Taimoor, Congratulations on being a Week 1 TKM leader.  
 Amelia, Crystal S Congratulations on being a Week 1 TKM leader.  
 Jason, Emily, Liam Welcome to our school!  
 Peyton, Mohammed Welcome to our school!  
 Maleipo Welcome to our school!

### Te Kete Aronui

Welcome back! You have made a great start. A TKA newsletter was sent home yesterday explaining about TKA. Remember, if you have any questions, ask any of the staff in TKA.

### Te Kete Tangaroa

Leejun For making a great start to the year and being proactive in his learning.  
 Mahee For being a supportive and welcoming TKT classmate.  
 Juan For enthusiasm in class.  
 Arapata For fantastic motivation when writing and completing your work.  
 Will For stepping up into your leadership roles and completing these without being asked.  
 Anisa For setting yourself some excellent goals in your letter to self.  
 Sihui Showing the 'V' in strive by being helpful and welcoming to everyone in our kete.  
 Madeleine For showing the 'S' in strive by stepping up and showing great initiative.

## SCHOOL CLOSED

**TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
 for  
**WAITANGI DAY**

## TERM CALENDAR

With this newsletter comes the Term 1 calendar outlining this term's main events (accurate at the time of publication). Please pop it somewhere easy to refer to on a regular basis or alternatively enter the key dates into your own calendar

## PTA Meeting

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
 in the staffroom - 3.10pm  
 Everyone welcome...the children can play in the playground.  
 Afternoon tea served!