

Final Newsletter of 2020 & Information Update for 2021

Everything you need to know to help you settle easily into our 2021 School Year.

Kia ora koutou.

Firstly, a warm welcome to our new staff, students and families, we hope you have a very happy and successful time at our school. At present we have 39 new students enrolled for the beginning of 2021.

New Teachers

We are very happy to welcome the following teachers onto our team for 2021:

Shelley Howse: We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Shelley Howse will be joining us in the Taupiri Team for 2021. Shelley will be a Co-Syndicate Leader with Mrs Lisa Murray, as this team just grows and grows. These ladies will hopefully be situated in our new classrooms for the 2021 school year. Shelley is a long time Tamahere resident and has been an active member of the Tamahere Community Committee. She is presently a Junior Hub Leader at Hamilton East School.

Bridget Hawthorn: We are also very pleased to be welcoming back to our fold, on a full time basis, Mrs Bridget Hawthorn. Bridget is a talented teacher who has taught on and off at our school since 2007. Bridget has led Sport in our school for many years and has directed productions and Stage Challenge, along with her passion and talent in achieving success with our Jump Jam teams, at a national level. More recently, while looking after her young children, Bridget has supported us across all levels in the school with classroom release time and relieving. Welcome back Bridget! Bridget will be taking a Senior class in Maungatautari next year.

Staff Farewells:

We are sad to be losing three teaching staff members this year:

Mrs Carla Ballantyne: We are very sad to be farewelling Mrs Carla Ballantyne from our Maungatautari Senior Syndicate. Carla has been a wonderful teacher at our school for the past five years. During this time she has directed productions and championed Senior Jump Jam teams to National competitions and achievements. Carla has won a position at Cambridge Middle School for 2021 onwards. We wish Carla the very best with her new challenges and opportunities with this change of age level and school.

Miss Hollie Cooke: We are sad to farewell Miss Hollie Cooke who joined us this year for her first year of her teaching career. With 89 Year 6 students leaving, we will have one less senior class next year, although we have many more five year olds joining us. We are very pleased however, that Miss Cooke will be moving forward with many of our students to teach at Berkley Normal Middle School for 2021. Congratulations Hollie and thank you for all you have done for us and our students in 2020.

Miss Deena Parr: Another lovely staff member leaving us is Miss Deena Parr, who is heading south to be closer to friends and family. Deena has been teaching Year 2's in our Junior school and has won a position with another Year 2 class at Winchester School in Palmerston North for the 2021 school year. We wish her well as she completes her second year teacher certification process.

Our School Structure and Organisation 2021

Below you can see the school structure and staffing for 2021. Each year our structure looks slightly different depending on Ministry funding for staff and student cohort numbers. This year we will, as with some previous years, be again having three clear Syndicates with Maungatautari having only Year 5 & 6 classes and Pirongia taking all Year 3 & 4 Students. In Taupiri we again have the numbers to have three straight Year 2 classes and four Year 1 classes to start the year. Our Year 0 students will join us in cohorts at the start of each term and also, in line with the new legislation in mid-term intakes. Ministry mid-term dates are shown later in the newsletter. At this stage we are expecting to open a new class in Term 2, with Mrs Christy Paladin and another in Term 4 with Mrs Tamsin Bradding. We are still hoping that by Term 2 2021 we will have our two new classrooms and staff room on site ready to go. These classes will be called Horopito 20 and Horoeka 21. Our two newest classes will go into these learning spaces, with Mrs Lisa Murray starting in Harakeke 18 and Mrs Shelley Howse in Puriri 5.

Other staffing changes we have made:

Our staff is remaining steady as we head into 2021. All teachers will be remaining in the same learning Syndicates as for 2020, but a few have moved classrooms. Our Assistant Principal **Mrs Annette Howard** will be back with us full time following her University study leave and as part of her position she will be taking **Reading Recovery** in Ponga Iti. **Mrs Tamsin Bradding** will be taking our **Tamahere Tupu** transition to school groups on Friday mornings.

E Learning Devices

Our **Maungatautari** Seniors will be using their Ipads and Chromebooks as part of our Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD) programme. Our preference now is that students bring chromebooks and the school will provide the Ipads.

Year 3 & 4 students in **Pirongia**, may, if their parents feel they are ready for it, bring a chromebook to school to support their learning.

Our 2021 Year 3, 4 & 5 students were provided with a letter and further information on BYOD on the last day of term. If you did not receive this, please go to the website www.tamahere.school.nz - homepage and click on the link at the top saying - 'Our Learning'. Next click BYOD. In here you will find everything you need to know about BYOD.

Maungatautari Syndicate 5 classes of Year 5 & 6				
Pukeatua Pod			Te Akatarere Pod	
Yr 5 & 6 Karaka 15	Yr 5 & 6 Manuka 16	Yr 5 & 6 Mahoe 17	Yr 5 & 6 Pukatea 14	Year 5 & 6 Miro 13
Miss Jacqui Murphy	Mrs Paula Dunton Syndicate Leader	Mrs Mandy Searancke	Mrs Bridget Hawthorn	Mr Tim Ross

NB names from the two other peaks on Maungatautari Mountain - Pukeatua = 753m and Te Akatarere = 727m.

Pirongia Syndicate - 5 classes of Year 3 & 4

Yr 3 & 4 Nikau 1	Yr 3 & 4 Kauri 2	Yr 3 & 4 Kowhai 4	Yr 3 & 4 Matai 11	Yr 3 & 4 Tanekaha 12
Miss Nicola Spence	Mrs Leah Mills Syndicate Leader	Miss Laura Grant	Ms Ann Marie Copponi	Mr Brendan Stephenson

**Taupiri Syndicate - seven classes to start the year
- four classes of Year 1 & three classes of Year 2**

Year 1 Pohutukawa 8	Year 0 Rimu 7	Year 1 Titoki 6	Year 1 Puriri 5 (Horoeka 21)	Year 2 Rata 9	Year 2 Totara 10	Year 2 Tawa 19	Year 1 Harakeke 18 (Horopito 20)
Mrs Hayley Smit	Mrs Christy Paladin (Term 2)	Mrs Nanette Lister	Mrs Shelley Howse Co-Syndicate Leader	Mrs Nicky Platje	Mrs Jennie Jarvis	Mrs Jo Metcalf	Mrs Lisa Murray Co-Syndicate Leader

In 2021 we will continue to operate the cohort system for our New Entrants who will have an 8-week induction before attending school as a group. The legislation mandates a mid-year cohort as part of the enrolment process. Our Tupu group who started in 2020 will continue with Mrs Stantiall and have extra time to transition into their new classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Regular Classroom Release Teachers

Mrs Tamsin Bradding Mrs Paula Greaney Mrs Gillian Stantiall Mrs Gail Weston Mrs Sarah Singleton	Ms Kat Karadshi Mrs Kerry Bennetts Mrs Margaret Daly Mrs Hayley Shaw Mrs Penny Gordon
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Leadership / Administration	
Principal	Miss Waveney Parker
Deputy Principal & Special Needs Coordinator	Mrs Lee Boyd
Assistant Principal	Mrs Annette Howard
Administration Secretary	Mrs Lisa Laurence
Financial Secretary	Mrs Lisa Boyd
Office Wiz	Mrs Heather Wilson
Librarian	Mrs Theresa Kewish
Caretakers / Property Managers	Mr Allan Wickens Mr Stuart Doran

Teacher Aides	Before & After School Care
Mrs Rosemary Dexter	Mrs Karen Taylor
Mrs Gillian Joe	Mrs Jeannetta Brough
Mrs Vicki Foden	Miss Courtney Cocks
Mrs Christine Woolley	Mrs Suzie Bolton
Mrs Emma Goord	Miss Amelia Platje
Mrs Jenni Clarkson	Miss Lauren Dexter
Miss Courtney Cocks	
Volunteers:	
Miss Mariette Poortman	

Music Tutors	
Mrs Gill Earwaker	Piano / Keyboard
Mrs Chris Young	Violin / Strings
Music House	Guitar, Ukulele and Drums
Mrs Kirsty Proctor	Vocal Tuition
Excite Music Academy	Guitar
Mrs Catherine Wallace	Flute, recorder, clarinet, sax and music theory lessons.

Board of Trustees	
Jeremy Waters	Chairperson / Personnel / Property / Health & Safety
Owen Culliney	Personnel / Communication / Legal
Ian Potter	Personnel / Property / Health & Safety
Liz Donovan	Community / Sponsorship
David Palmer	Property
Jim Mercer	Finance
Sharon Calvert	Personnel
Andrea Dunseath Pending successful selection	Maori Representative, Community, Personnel, Legal.
Annette Howard	Staff Representative

PTA Leaders	
Mike Calvert	Chairperson
Leah Shallcrass	Treasurer
Amyliz Lonsdale	Secretary
Julie Koekemoer	Pumpkin Night Coordinator
Howard Baker	Golf Co-ordinator

School Dates for 2021

TERM	START DATE	END DATE	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
1	Tuesday 2nd February	Friday 16 th April	Teacher Only Days will be held on 28th and 29th January Saturday 17 th April – Sunday 2 nd May (Includes ANZAC Day 25 th April)
2	Monday 3 rd May	Friday 9 th July	A Teacher Only Day will be held on Friday 18th June Saturday 10 th July – Sunday 25 th July
3	Monday 26 th July	Friday 1 st October	Saturday 2 nd October – Sunday 17 th October
4	Monday 18 th October	No later than Monday 20 th December	We are expecting to finish on the 16th or 17th of December.

Teacher Only Days

Over the next three years, the Government has given all schools an extra eight Teacher Only Days above what we normally use. This was part of the Teacher negotiations and was given to reduce teacher workload and give separate times for Professional Development, so teachers have more time in their workdays. The impact though will land on our families and we do apologise for that. We will try and link some days with the Middle and High schools where possible and also weekends. In 2021 we are planning to take two of the eight extra days.

We will be taking our usual Fieldays Friday Teacher Only Day and linking with our Hillcrest Kahui Ako Schools, to learn more about the Maori History in our area linked to Ngati Haua. This will be on **Friday 18th June 2021**.

The dates and topics for our other two Ministry of Education (MOE) Days have not yet been finalised.

Stationery Packs for 2021

Available online now.

Ordering your stationery pack online:

Go to: www.myschool.co.nz/tamahere

Follow the prompts to complete your order.

You must place your order **BEFORE 21st January 2021** to ensure delivery before school starts on Tuesday 2nd February 2021.

The school office does not hold a large amount of stationery, so we will not be able to supply packs directly for your child. Please note that if you do not know your child's class at this stage, please purchase a stationery pack for the year level appropriate.

Tip:

Take advantage of the free delivery by "buddying up" with another family to ensure your order is over the minimum spend. Our school receives rewards for all stationery purchases made through OfficeMax.

School Donations / Activity Fees and Other Costs in 2021

At Tamahere Model Country School there are two different donations/fees that help support learning.

The school depends on School Donations to fund operations, facilities and learning to the high standard expected by our families. Many additional facilities and opportunities are only provided to students due to the extra funding generously paid through the School Donations.

You may have heard that the government started to pay school donations of \$150 into many schools starting in 2020. Decile 10 schools have been left out of this option, as the Government knew it would disadvantage our schools and put us further behind.

Understanding the real need for School Donations:

The Big Picture and Government funding:

- Tamahere Model Country School is considered a Decile 10 by the Ministry of Education and School Funding by the Government is determined by this decile rating, of which 10 is the highest.
- If we were a Decile 1, the school would receive approximately \$990,000 in Government funding per year.
- The reality is, as a Decile 10 School we receive approximately \$550,000 per year, around 50% less than a Decile 1 School.
- We have to try and make up the difference in this funding to be able to offer the facilities, teaching and support staff and resources that we all want our tamariki to enjoy and benefit from, in order to offer them the learning opportunities we want them to have.
- School Donations and various fundraising initiatives by our wonderful school community, are the two main sources of funding to supplement what is provided by the Government.

What that means for Tamahere Model Country School:

- The Board of Trustees chooses to fund additional teacher time.
- The Board of Trustees chooses to match government-funded teacher aide time.
- The School owns a number of buildings over and above Ministry owned buildings, including the library and After School Care block, that we are responsible to maintain.

- The School is over 135 years old and the infrastructure continually needs replacing, maintenance is high and there are immense challenges to keep pace with exceptional growth in the role.
- Unfortunately, when operating funds are tight it's the additional-curricular spending that suffers.

Where does your School Donation go?

Your School Donation is added to the School's budget to support our learning programmes. In the past year School Donations have allowed us to fund an additional teacher, provide additional teacher aides in classrooms, and maintain school buildings and grounds. As well, sports equipment, books, musical instruments and materials for artwork are all school items paid for by your School Donation.

The 2021 School Donations are:

- \$240.00 per child for the school year
This is just \$60.00 per child per term (or pro-rata depending on enrolment date)

Activity Fees

Activity Fees are the second contribution and this covers specific costs related to cultural, academic and sporting activities that we undertake throughout the year, e.g. bus costs, visiting acts and entry fees.

The Activity Fee does not include camp costs or end of year trips.

This fee alleviates the need to constantly ask parents for small amounts of money during the year.

To ensure our students can enjoy the various activities throughout the year that extend and support their learning, we kindly request that all Activity Fees are paid by the end of Term 2 please:

- \$45.00 - Taupiri Junior Syndicate
- \$60.00 - Pirongia Middle Syndicate
- \$70.00 - Maungatautari Senior Syndicate
- (or Pro-rata depending on enrolment date)

Swimming Pool Levy

The Swimming Pool Levy is \$20.00 per child per year. This money contributes to the ongoing maintenance of the pool facilities. The Vela Pool Complex, which opened in November 2017, allows us to offer increased swimming opportunities for our students, significantly above the level that was possible with the old ministry provided pool.

Seesaw

Tamahere School uses Seesaw, a digital portfolio that gives your child a safe place to record what they're learning at school and share that with you. The cost for Seesaw is \$5 per student for the year, which covers the licence cost for the programme.

Cyber Safety

School Manager - Family Zone

As a school, we have implemented a school and class manager system called 'Family Zone' that provides our school and families with increased digital awareness, education and safety. This system has many benefits for both the school and our families. Teachers and parents have greater options to manage children's devices and the ability to set these up for safer learning and monitor this with increased ease and visibility. The beautiful feature of Family Zone is that parents also have the option to set security and management boundaries in their home with any device tool that connects to the internet (including phones, laptops, ipads, xbox, netflix..) to the level that a school can in their school environment. There are several options available to families, which can be found on the website link listed below. We will be sending home further information about this portal in 2021. <https://www.familyzone.com/nz/families>

Vela School Pool News

We are trying to make community access easy for 2021. Anyone may pay and follow our lifeguard and cap rules over the summer holiday period and weekends during most of Term 1. Families can enjoy using the pools between 3.00pm and 7.30pm, Wednesday to Sunday from the 6th through to 31st January 2021. (except for Thursday 28th January when the pool is closed to the public). Then all weekends in February and March 2021, from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. Just pop down and pay individually or get a discount with a concession card.

Cost for Passes and opening times are as follows:

Community Use Concession Card Cost:

\$5.00 - one-off swim entry

\$45.00 - 10 swims (\$4.50 per swim)

\$65.00 - 20 swims (\$3.50 per swim)

Non-swimmers free

Community Use Concession Card Open Hours:

Pre Christmas:

Closed from now until to 6th January 2021.

Post Christmas:

Holiday Season:

Open Wednesday to Sunday 6th - 31st January 2021 from 3.00pm - 7:30pm.
(Excluding Thursday 28th January when the pool is closed to the public.)

(Closed Monday, Tuesdays and Public Holidays)

School Term:

All weekends in February and March 2021 (3.00 - 7:30pm).

One-off Swim Entry

Same dates apply as community use concession card

Hamilton Aquatics Swim School held at Tamahere School Vela Pool



Start: February 2 2021

Levels: One - Five

Lesson days: Tues | Wed | Thurs

Potential: To do 2 lessons twice a week

Duration: 9 weeks

Price: \$144 per child

Location: Vela Pool Tamahere

Its@hamiltonaquatics.nz

www.hamiltonaquatics.nz



Before/After School Care

For 2021 the hourly rate will continue to be \$7 per child for After School Care. After School Care goes through to 5:45 pm daily. We have a \$10 per session charge for Before School Care. This is a 7.00am until 8.00am service. Capped rates will continue to be used to keep overall costs at reasonable levels for our families.

Automatic Payments

You may wish to set up an Automatic Payment to spread the School Donations and Fees across the school year. Payments can be made to the account below (please note your child's name in the reference field):

Tamahere School

12-3152-0070140-00

Please note you will be notified/invoiced early in Term 1 for the School Donation, Activity Fee, Pool Levy and Seesaw subscription.

Did you know you can apply for a tax rebate from the Inland Revenue Department for your voluntary school donations?

You may be able to get a rebate of up to one-third of the voluntary school donations you have paid if you:

- have earned taxable income
- lived in New Zealand at any time over the tax year
- are an individual (not a company or partnership for tax purposes), and
- have paid voluntary donations to a state or state-integrated school

Please contact Lisa Boyd in the School Office to make payments, set up automatic payments and for information on how to apply for tax deductions.

Fundraising achievements

Huge thanks go to our PTA and their dynamic fundraising teams who sadly in 2020 were hamstrung by COVID in their attempts to hold Pumpkin Night, Quiz Night and school discos. Congratulations to the Golf Day committee for an outstanding event that raised over \$19,000 towards our playgrounds. In 2021 we will continue to fundraise to achieve our playground improvements.

Property

We are hoping that the Ministry will be building two new learning spaces, a special needs toilet and staffroom for us in early 2021. The old staffroom will create space for a bigger sick bay and much needed meeting rooms to be used by learning and speech specialists, court appointed child lawyers, psychologists, etc.

Music & Kid's Clubs

We have a variety of music and other extracurricular opportunities available for 2021. Itinerant tutors visit our school offering lessons in guitar, ukulele, piano, drums, singing, violin to name just a few. Classes are also offered in Gym, Spanish Lessons, Drama and Singing and a full list can be viewed on our website www.tamahere.school.nz - Go to Key Information → Kids Clubs).

If your child is continuing lessons or you wish to enquire about your child starting up with a tutor, please contact them directly using the list on our website. (As noted above).

Camp Dates

- **Maungatautari Camp** for our Year 5 & 6 Students will be at Waihi Beach in 2021. This camp is split over two weeks due to the space available at the Camp. Camp 1 will happen in Week 7 of Term 1 from **16th - 19th March**, Camp 2 will be in Week 8 from **23rd- 26th March**. For further information on the Senior camp please click [here](#).
- **Pirongia Camp** - for our Year 4's camp will be held at Finlay Park on the shores of Karapiro from **25th-28th May 2021**.

Police Vetting:- All parents wanting to be a parent helper on one of our camps need to be police vetted to be considered. Please pop into the Office with two forms of photo ID and sign a form. The cost to process this is \$10.00. This can take a few weeks to process so you need to be in early.

New Entrant Cohort Entry

In 2021 we will continue to operate the cohort system for our New Entrants who will have an 8 week induction before starting school as part of a group. This structured support and entering as a group is providing a great platform of support for our newest learners entering our school.

Official Ministry Cohort Entry dates for our New Entrant families:

2021 School Dates	Start Date	*Cohort Mid Term Date	End Date
Term 1	Tuesday 2 February	Monday 15 March	Friday 16 April
Term 2	Monday 3 May	Tuesday 8 June	Friday 9 July
Term 3	Monday 26 July	Monday 30 August	Friday 1 October
Term 4	Monday 18 October	Monday 15 November	No later than Friday 20 December

*This date is the mid-point between the start of term and the start of the next term. Children will be able to start school in cohorts but only after they have turned 5. There will be 2 entry points per term, one on the first day of term, and one at a mid-point during a term. Only children over 5 will be able to start school on the first day of term, or at a mid-point during a term.

School Uniform

We look forward to seeing all our students proudly wearing their correct school uniform in 2021. Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly named. If you do find that you need to purchase new items of uniform before the start of term, our school office will be open from 27th to 29th January, between 9.00am - 3.00pm.

Please remember that our TMCS wide brim or bucket hats are compulsory during Term 1. The school holidays are a great time to organise for children's names (first name and first letter of surname) to be embroidered on the back of their school hats. This costs only \$8.00 each! Not only is this an extremely competitive price, but the investment in purchasing only one hat and eliminating the need for several replacements, more than pays for itself. This is not just for brand new hat purchases but existing hats too!

To make an order please bring your child's hat to the school office with your \$8 payment (or order a new one for a total of \$28). This can take between 1-2 weeks, so please order as soon as possible.

Holiday Office Hours

Our administration team will be starting their well earned break from Friday 18th December. The office will reopen on 27th January 2021 between 9.00am - 3.00pm. We invite families to purchase uniform items at this time and ask new families to finalise their enrolment details, if they have not already done so in this week (including providing all necessary documentation), prior to the first day of school on Tuesday 2nd February.



**We hope you all have a wonderful holiday
and a very happy Christmas/ *Kirihimete***

Te Harinui

Kia pai to hararei
May your holiday be wonderful

Stay safe - Slop /Slop/Slap /Use the app & wash hands!!!

We look forward to seeing you all on 2nd February 2021.