

Initial Information Newsletter for 2023

Everything you need to know to help you settle easily into our 2023 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 23 new students enrolled for the beginning of 2023.

Welcomes:

We are pleased to be welcoming:

- **Ms Maria Oates** who will be taking on the **Maungatautari Syndicate Leadership** position. Maria comes to us from Peachgrove Intermediate School, where she was also a Syndicate Leader. Maria comes with extensive experience and is keen to get back into the primary school age group.
- **Mrs Natalie Toohey** comes to us from St Peter's Catholic School in Cambridge. Natalie was a senior teacher there and has taught in a number of schools, both here and in Australia. Natalie will be taking up our position of **Pirongia Syndicate Leader**.
- **Mr Luke Mitchell** will be joining our team in 2023. Luke is known locally and nationally for his abilities in swimming. Luke has been working part time at Tauwhare School, while still doing his swimming training. Luke will be in **Miro 13** in our Maungatautari Syndicate.
- **Miss Monica Redman**. Monica has been teaching in Pohutukawa 8 and Tawa 19 this year and we are very pleased to welcome her onto our team full time in 2023. Monica will have a Year One class in **Tawa 19**.
- **Mr Baxter Hills**, a past pupil of our school, will be using his degree and joining our team in the IT Support role for 2023.
- **Mrs Bridget Griffiths**, who has filled in for us a lot towards the end of 2022, will be joining our regular team of Classroom Release Time (CRT) relievers.
- **Mrs Adele Hickey** is also joining our team as an experienced Reading Recovery teacher. Adele will be focusing her whole time on taking reading recovery and literacy groups, thanks to some extra funding we have gained in this area.
- **Mrs Hendrika (Henni) Philipp** is joining our Before and After School Care Team, after her previous roles in social work.

Kahui Ako Within School Leaders (WSL):

Nicky Platje and Laura Grant will be our two Kahui Ako - Within School Leaders for 2023. They will be mainly focusing their inquiries and support for staff and students in the Literacy area. Mathematics may feature as well.

Farewell Mrs Bradding: Just as our year was coming to an end, Tamsin Bradding gained a specialist Science Teacher role at Southwell School. This is an exciting opportunity for Tamsin, with her science and nursing background. Tamsin has been doing part time classroom release cover, as well as filling in for us for term blocks when needed, while her children have been growing through our school. We will miss her kia maia - Can Do attitude, lovely smile and her incredible baking! Tamsin won't feel alone, as she is moving on in this new adventure with her two lovely daughters. We wish you all the best in this new stage of your career.

Our School Structure and Organisation 2023

Below you can see the school structure and staffing for 2023. Each year our structure looks slightly different, depending on Ministry of Education funding for staff and student cohort numbers. This year, we will again be having three clear syndicates with Maungatautari having Year 5 & 6 classes, Pirongia taking the Year 3 & 4 students and Taupiri will be taking the Year 0-2 classes. Within these three syndicates, the internal structures will look a little different this year.

In **Maungatautari Syndicate**, we will be having four base classes, with about 30-32 students in each. However, each day the students will work in five different smaller learning groups, with Mrs Annette Howard taking an additional literacy class. Mrs Christine Woolley will also be supporting during the mathematics time, with small group support.

Pirongia Syndicate will have five classes of Year 3 & 4 students and these will be divided into six each morning, Monday to Friday, with the support of Mrs Emma Goord and Mrs Lee Boyd taking classes for literacy and numeracy respectively.

Taupiri Syndicate will start the year with six classes to cater for the numbers we have. There will be two Year 2 classes, a Year 1 & 2 class and two Year 1 classes. We will be running a reception class again in 2023, which will transition our new students enrolling during the year. Mrs Platje will take this class and provide consistency for all of our initial enrollments. After a term or more, when children are showing they are ready to move on, they will be integrated and supported in the next class on their journey. Horopito 20 and Horoeke 21 will be used for the reception and transitioning classes, once our Administration and Leadership team move back to our renovated offices.

Maungatautari Syndicate - 4 classes of Year 5 & 6			
Pukeatua Pod		Te Akatarere Pod	
Yr 5 & 6 Karaka 15	Yr 5 & 6 Manuka 16	Yr 5 & 6 Pukatea 14	Year 5 & 6 Miro 13
Miss Brooklyn Dunn	Ms Maria Oates Syndicate Leader	Mrs Bridget Hawthorn	Mr Luke Mitchell

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 Kawakawa 3	Yr 3 & 4 Matai 11	Yr 3 & 4 Tanekaha 12
Mrs Natalie Toohey Syndicate Leader	Miss Laura Grant	Mrs Jasmine Saussey	Ms Ann Marie Copponi	Mr Brendan Stephenson

Taupiri Syndicate - six classes to start the year								
Year 2 Titoki 6	Year 2 Totara 10	Year 1/2 Pohutukawa 8	Year 1 Rimu 7	Year 1 Tawa 19	Reception Year 1 & 0 Rata 9 → H20	Term 2 Year 0 Horoeke 21 or Puriri 5	Term 3 Year 0 ????	Term 4 Year 0 ????
Mrs Nanette Lister	Mrs Kat Karadshi	Mrs Hayley Smit	Mrs Shelley Howse Syndicate Leader	Miss Monica Redman	Mrs Nicky Platje	Mrs Christy Paladin		Mrs Jacqui Murphy -Curtis

In 2023 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. See dates further down in the newsletter.

Regular Classroom Release Teachers	
Mrs Gillian Stantiall Mrs Sarah Singleton Mrs Amelia Meertens	Mrs Bridget Griffiths Mrs Kerry Bennetts Mrs Gail Weston

Leadership / Administration	
Principal	Miss Waveney Parker
Deputy Principal & Special Needs Coordinator	Mrs Lee Boyd
Assistant Principal & Kahui Ako Across Schools Leader	Mrs Annette Howard
Admin Team Leader/Financial Secretary	Mrs Lisa Boyd
Administration Secretary	Mrs Lisa Laurence
Administration Secretary	Mrs Angela Jenkins
Office Wiz	Ms Heather Wilson
Librarian	Mrs Theresa Kewish
Caretaker / Property Manager	Mr Allan Wickens
Assistant Caretaker	Mr John Ball

Teacher Aides	Before & After School Care
Mrs Rosemary Dexter	Mrs Trisha Soloman
Mrs Vicki Foden	Miss Sarah Gibbs
Mrs Christine Woolley	Mrs Hendrika (Henni) Philipp
Mrs Emma Goord	Mrs Angela Flexman
Miss Courtney Cocks	Miss Rebecca Brown
Mrs Gillian Joe	Miss Phoebe Letcher
Volunteers:	Miss Adria Wither
Miss Mariette Poortman (Volunteer Teacher)	Miss Sarah Ramlan

Music Tutors	
Mrs Gill Earwaker	Piano / Keyboard
Mrs Chris Young	Violin / Strings
Music House	Guitar, Ukulele, Drums, Keyboard, Bass Guitar and Singing
Mrs Catherine Wallace	Flute, recorder, clarinet, sax and music theory lessons.

Board of Trustees	
Owen Culliney	Presiding Member
Buddy Annals	Property / Iwi Liaison
Fraser Hodgson	Property / Personnel
Liz Donovan	Community / Sponsorship
David Palmer	Property
Jim Mercer	Finance
Sharon Calvert	Personnel / Health & Safety
Hilary van de Molen	Community / Sponsorship / Personnel
Annette Howard	Staff Representative / Health & Safety

PTA Leaders	
Louise Mercer	Chairperson
Kristyn Thomas	Vice-Chairperson
Alice van der Heyden	Treasurer
Frances McKenzie	Secretary
Julie Koekemoer	Pumpkin Night Coordinator
Kristyn Thomas	Ball Coordinator
Callum Malcolm	Golf Day Coordinator

School Dates for 2023

TERM	START DATE	END DATE	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
1	Wednesday 1st February	Thursday 6th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitangi Day (observed) - Monday 6th February • Friday 7th April – Sunday 23rd April (Includes Easter)
2	Monday 24th April	Friday 30th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANZAC Day - Tuesday 25th April • Kings Birthday - Monday 5th June • A Teacher Only Day will be held on Friday 16th June (Fieldays Friday) • Saturday 1st July to Sunday 16th July (includes Matariki - Friday 14th July)
3	Monday 17 th July	Friday 22nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 23rd September to Sunday 8th October
4	Monday 9 th October	No later than Wednesday 20 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Day – Monday 23rd October

Teacher Only Days

Fieldays Friday on June 16th - in 2023 this day will involve all 9 of our schools across the Hillcrest Kahui Ako participating in the same Professional Learning.

We are expecting more Teacher Only Days to be issued by the Government. Details on when are not yet finalised.

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.

On the last day of 2022 Year 3, 4 & 5 students were provided with a letter and further information on BYOD. 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 and in here you will find everything you need to know about BYOD.

Stationery Packs for 2023

Available online from today.

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 Thursday 19th January 2023** to ensure delivery before school starts on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

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 of \$60.00. Our school receives rewards for all stationery purchases made through OfficeMax.

School Donations / Activity Fees and Other Costs in 2023

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 since 2020 the government now pays school donations of \$150 per child to most schools. We are not eligible for this, based on our Equity Funding Level.

Understanding the real need for School Donations:

The Big Picture and Government funding:

- Tamahere Model Country School has an EQI funding level of 368, decided by the Ministry of Education and School Funding by the Government is determined by this EQI rating.
- If our EQI level was higher, the school would receive approximately \$990,000 in Government funding per year.
- The reality is, for our school's EQI rating, we receive approximately \$550,000 per year, around 50% less than the highest rated schools.
- 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 Koromiko 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 2023 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. We have had to put our activity fees up by \$10 per Syndicate for 2023, due to increased prices in almost all areas.

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:

\$65.00 - Taupiri Junior Syndicate

\$80.00 - Pirongia Middle Syndicate

\$90.00 - 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 management 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.

<https://www.familyzone.com/nz/families>

School Bus Arrangements for 2023:

Our school bus operator is Go Bus. To make sure that the start of the school year goes as smoothly as possible, please familiarise yourself with the information below.

As always, please either stay with your children while they are waiting for their school transport in the morning or keep in contact with them, to make sure that they are picked up safely. *If the bus arrives at school prior to 8.00am, your child is required to go to Before School Care. (Please note - there is no charge for bus children to attend BSC.)*

Eligibility For School Transport Assistance:

We often get questions about whether students qualify for school transport assistance i.e, a place on a school bus.

The Ministry of Education has three criteria that students must meet in order to qualify for school transport assistance. They are:

1. The student must attend their closest state or state-integrated school
2. The student must live more than a certain distance from the school:
 - o Years 1-8: at least 3.2 km
 - o Years 9-13: at least 4.8 km
3. There must be no suitable public transport options

The Ministry of Education has a handy [video](#) on their website, which helps explain the eligibility criteria for school transport assistance.

If you would like your children to catch the school bus, you will need to contact the Go Bus School Coordinator, Lynda McInroe by emailing Lynda.McInroe@gobus.co.nz to confirm their eligibility and then email the school office reception@tamahere.school.nz, so that your child is included in our afternoon bus roll.

Responsibility Of Caregivers:

To ensure a safe environment for bus loading and unloading, caregivers should:

- not park in bus bays
- adhere to the speed limit (20 km/h while passing a stationary school bus on either side of the road)
- try to eliminate the need for children to cross the road
- ensure that children get to and from the bus stop safely
- teach children to not run across the road

Tamahere Vela Pool Swim Lessons in Term 1 2023:

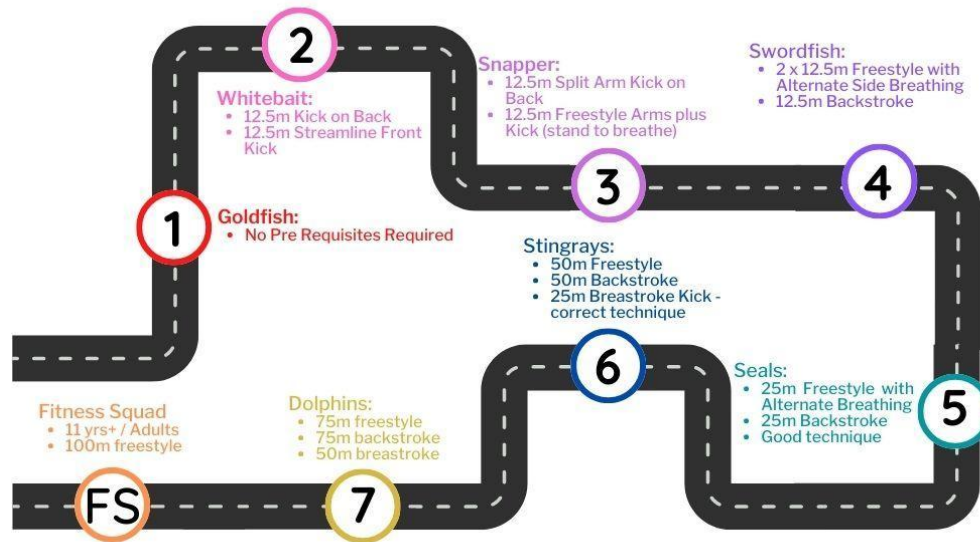
Rachel Challis, a past parent of our school and fantastic swimming instructor, will be taking swimming lessons at our Vela School Pool complex during Term 1 2023. Rachel's swimming programme will dovetail with St Peters Swimming School and allow us a smooth transition later in 2023. She is also running a holiday learn to swim programme and during morning training sessions for 11 years plus community members may also join in.

Bookings are now open for Swim Lessons at Tamahere Vela Pool for Term 1, 2023 (Tuesday 7th February to Thursday 6th April).

If you are interested in swimming lessons for your child (or yourself!), please:

1. Decide on the correct level using the diagram below (these are the same levels as St Peter's Swim School)

WHAT LEVEL IS YOUR CHILD? PRE REQUISITES REQUIRED FOR EACH LEVEL



2. Email your child's name, age, your contact phone number and a request for a preferred day / time to: swimtopialessons@gmail.com

3. You will receive a confirmation email, with all the details that you need to get started in Week 2 from Tuesday 7th February.

The cost is \$18 per lesson paid per term.

Any questions, don't hesitate to contact Rachel Challis via email or phone 021 201 4953.

Before/After School Care:

Like everyone in the country we have been hit with increased costs. We want to maintain the care that we provide for your children and to do that we have to increase the charge. As from February 2023, the After School Care hourly charge will increase to \$8 per hour – capped at \$80 per week for 1 child, \$160 per week for 2 children and \$210 per week for 3 children. The capped rates give parents a discount if children attend more than 10 hours a week. After School Care goes through to 5.45pm daily. There is a late fee penalty payment charged for children left after 5.45pm – \$10 for the first 15 mins and \$25 after 6.00pm.

TAMAHERE SCHOOL POOL
TERM 4: NOV 21ST TO DEC 15TH
TERM 1: FEB 7TH TO APRIL 6TH

SWIMMING LESSONS

ALL LEVELS \$18

NOTHING BUT THE BEST QUALITY LESSONS FOR YOUR CHILD!

- 15 YEARS SWIM TEACHING AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE
- EX PROFESSIONAL TRIATHLETE
- MOTHER OF TWO

To Book Please Contact:
Rachel Challis
swimtopialessons@gmail.com
 021-201-4953

Before School Care charges will not be changed at this stage. We have a \$10 per session charge for this 7.00am until 8.00am service.

Fee Structure BSC:

- \$10 per day per child
- One child per week capped at \$40
- Family capped at \$100 per week

Sorry, we are not OSCAR subsidised.

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 have run successful and happy events such as: *Pumpkin Night*, *Quiz Night*, *An Afternoon with Sir Graham Henry & Guests* and *Golf Day*, which have all raised significant funds towards our new playgrounds. Thank you to everyone involved in coordinating, leading, organising and supporting these great events. In 2023 the money raised will support our budget and allow for extras to be achieved. It will mainly be going towards providing shade areas and adding blinds and curtains to classrooms for safety and glare reasons.

Property

Over the holiday break work will continue with the redevelopment of our Administration block. Painters will also be onsite as part of our school wide exterior painting.

Security

Our school will be locked over the holidays. This is due to the increased vandalism and crime happening in the area. On Friday 16th December, our school was broken into in the evening and the thief was caught carrying a TV out of our gates in daylight hours! Thank you to our great police for your amazing work here. Sadly for our families and positive members of our community, the poor behaviour of a few spoil it for the rest.

Music & Kid's Clubs

We have a variety of music and other extracurricular opportunities available for 2023. Itinerant tutors visit our school offering lessons in guitar, ukulele, piano, drums, singing, violin to name just a few. Classes are also offered in gymnastics, Bricks4Kidz, and tennis. The 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 2023. For this great camping experience we need to split our seniors into their two different pods to fit into the camp accommodation. Pukeatua Pod will be on camp in Week 8 from **March 21st - 24th** and Te Akatarere Pod will be on camp in Week 9 from **28th to 31st March** For further information on the Senior camp please click [here](#).
- **Pirongia Camp** - our Year 4's camp will be held at Camp Raglan from **10th-12th May 2023**.

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 2023 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:

2023 School Dates	Start Date	*Cohort Mid Term Date	End Date
Term 1	Wednesday 1 February	Monday 6 March	Thursday 6 April
Term 2	Monday 24 April	Monday 29 May	Friday 30 June
Term 3	Monday 17 July	Monday 21 August	Friday 22 September
Term 4	Monday 9 October	Monday 13 November	No later than Wednesday 20 December

*This date is the mid-point between the start of a 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.

School Uniform

We look forward to seeing all our students proudly wearing their correct school uniform in 2023. 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 on Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Tuesday 31st January, between 9.00am - 2.00pm.

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 Wednesday 21st December 2023. The office will then be open on Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Tuesday 31st January 2023, between 9.00am - 2.00pm only. 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 (including providing all necessary documentation), prior to the first day of school on Wednesday 1st 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

Keep Safe!

We look forward to seeing you all on 1st February 2023.

