



Te Kura o Hau Karetu

He waka eke noa: *We're all in this waka together*
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17 February 2025

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Namaste, Kumusta,

A very warm welcome/nau mai haere mai, to all our new students Zayla, Rosie and Chevy who started last week in Te Waipuna, Te Pūao and Te Whanganui.



Stormy Weather - It certainly was stormy yesterday — you could say Tāwhirimātea was having a field day! We feel very fortunate that, while we experienced some surface flooding, our school suffered no damage. A huge thank you to our amazing staff who came in to ensure the school could remain open and running smoothly. In the end, it turned out to be a bit of a “storm in a teacup” — plenty of rain, but thankfully nothing more.

As we look ahead, we know we are likely to experience more extreme weather events in the future. Please be assured that if severe weather ever means we need to close the school, we will communicate this with you as early and clearly as possible. Your safety and the safety of our tamariki will always come first.

OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE - a note to parents

As you may be aware, the government are increasing the pressure on schools and parents to ensure students are regularly attending school. As well, we believe that regular attendance at school is important to your child's success and there is a clear connection between going to school regularly and doing well in the classroom. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It is important that you:

- phone on 045269552, or
- text on 0275269552, or
- email to: office@tehaukaretu.school.nz, or
- message on the Skool Loop app,

to confirm your child's absence and provide us with the reason.

We acknowledge that there are genuine reasons students may occasionally be absent. However, without regular attendance, your child will struggle to make progress. If your child is absent regularly, or for extended periods, we will reach out to you to discuss the situation.

We are committed to supporting your child to attend school. If you're having difficulty getting your child to school, you can ask for support by:

- Speaking with your child's teacher,
- Speaking with the Learning Support Coordinator, Steph Hoy,
- Speaking with the principal, Karen Wellington.

We can work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance.

More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents or caregivers is available on the Ministry of Education's webpage:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/education-professionals/schools-year-0-13/managing-students/student-attendance-guide-schools-and-kura>

We thank you for your cooperation. Please make a time with the principal, Karen Wellington, if you wish to discuss this further.

Lunches in Schools – slight delays: We are experiencing some hiccups with the timely delivery of lunches to classrooms while we manage our new lunch systems. Children are still being fed lunches, but it is likely a little later than usual. We are for the first time having to re-heat the meals ourselves, having been giving commercial ovens and dishwashers, but there are challenges to this. We are learning about the new systems and how things work. We want

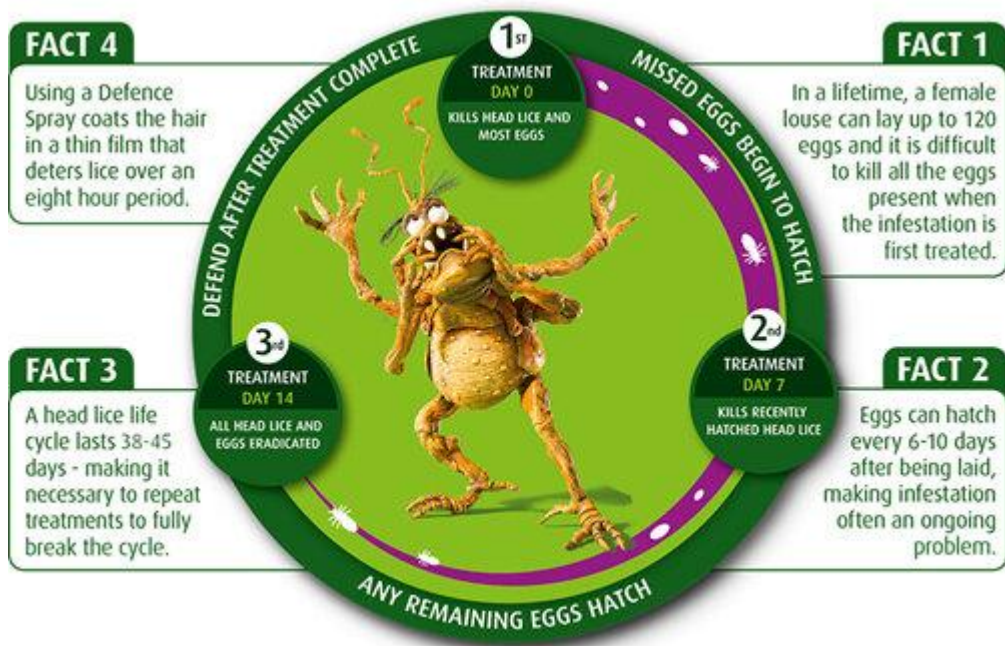
to thank all staff who are managing this as best they can. I would like to thank Trish and Lisa who are doing a marvellous job of getting our lunches out while working with equipment that is not ideal at the moment. As well, the lunches are delicious!



Introducing the Kindness Cup: Thanks to the LEGO Foundation, our school is being given a beautiful trophy, certificates and a LEGO set to award to a child who has shown kindness, empathy, care or service to people or the planet. The three children are presented with the trophy, certificates and a LEGO set at assembly in front of their peers each term for showing kindness too.

By acknowledging kindness, we are fostering a conversation within school, communities about what matters, and that kindness is worth celebrating and encouraging.

The Kindness Cup is made possible and generously supported by The LEGO Foundation. As a Kindness Cup school, we receive LEGO sets for our school and have access to LEGO educational activity resources. Schools who actively participate in the Kindness Cup programme have access to workshops with LEGO Play Heroes and are invited to participate in Build the Change days with the whole school!



Nits/Kutu – not only did the children return to school this year but so have nits! We have provided some interesting facts for you about nits, which explains why treatment can't just be a one off – that it needs to happen often. We have nit treatment and combs at school – please let the office or your teacher know you need some. You can also get nit treatment on prescription from your GP. Nits can survive in chlorinated water, though, they usually “freeze” in the water, so they're inactive. If you have a swim cap, or make sure your child has their hair tied up, this will help to prevent them from catching nits. Please check and treat your

child's hair. It doesn't take all day to treat your child's head - please try to do the treatments at night or in the morning so your child can attend school. A useful video link is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9y6c3Opr9w>

Thank you so much for your support in this.



Raffle tickets – we are running an Easter and Mother's Day Raffle combined this year. Tickets will be on sale in Week 5, on the 2nd March. We are fundraising for the netball courts and our senior camp. Any quality items for the Easter and Mother's Day Raffle would be gratefully received. Tickets will be drawn on Thursday 2nd of April at assembly. Thank you for your support.

Important Notices & Reminders:



Peanut-Free School: We are now a **peanut-free** school. This is due to a severe peanut allergy affecting one of our students. Even the smell of **peanuts** can cause this student to go into anaphylaxis, which is life-threatening. We ask that no peanut products are brought to school, including peanut butter and foods containing **peanuts**.

We understand that this may require some extra care when preparing kai and snacks, and we really appreciate your support and understanding. This is an important way we can work together to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone in our school.

Note that when a packet says, “may contain traces of nuts”, this is considered safe for this student, so you can continue to provide kai that has that note on the packet. Our school lunches do not contain peanuts.

Please note that we are not talking about all nuts. Only peanuts.

School Alert System: Please be advised that we are soon going to be using a system called the **School Family Alert**. The purpose of this system is to help us take extra special care of your child if a significant incident occurs at home and if Police have attended. It is not about judgement, blame, or anyone “getting into trouble”. The school is **not informed of details**, and no action is taken by authorities as a result of the alert itself. We will receive an alert that let's us know

your child may have had a difficult experience and might need additional understanding, reassurance, or support while they are at school. This could look like checking in with them, offering extra pastoral care, or being mindful that they may be feeling unsettled.



Swimming – Term 1: We are swimming until about week 5 – this could extend to week 6 if the weather stays warm. Long hair must be tied up. Your child’s class swimming schedule is outlined below — thank you for helping us make the most of this important life skill.

SunSmart School: As a SunSmart school, we ask for your support in ensuring children come to school each day with a named, full-brimmed sunhat. Wearing a hat during Terms 1 and 4 helps keep our tamariki safe while they are learning and playing outdoors.



Slip



Slop



Slap



Seek



Slide



Stationery: Thanks so much everyone for getting your stationery sorted. 99% of children had their stationery in the first week – it’s a record!

Fundraising: As well as continuing to fundraise for our netball courts, we also have our senior camp for our Year 5-7 students, that we are fundraising for this year. We’ve already started a collection for our Easter and Mothers’ Day raffle (combined) and will send out raffle tickets over the next few weeks for you to sell please.

If anyone is keen on being part of our PSG fundraising group, please let Roseanne or Rachel know at the office, and we’ll put you in touch with Whaea Jewel who is our PSG leader. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER



Volunteers: We are always very keen to have people support us with regular volunteering, particularly for our Breakfast Club which operates from 8am-9am each day. If you able to give us an hour of your time each week, please let us know. We can put you to work either reading to children, doing breakfast club service, or support students with their

mathematics, depending on your availability. Please advise Roseanne or Rachel if you’re available for volunteering. Thank you.

Ngā mihi nui,
Karen Wellington
Tumuaki/Principal

Important Dates and Events:



Week 5	Sea Week – 28 th Feb – Raffle tickets go on sale. \$2 each. \$10 for a book of 5.
Week 6	Goal setting 9 th March – all parents and children to meet with their teacher to set goals for the year. You will be able to set a time for these interviews in a few weeks.
Week 9	School finishes on Thursday 2 nd April at 3pm for the two-week holiday.
	School returns for term 2 on Monday 20 th April.

Swimming Timetable

Times	Mane	Turei	Wenerei	Taite	Paraire
9-9.45	LS Group	LS Group	LS Group	LS Group	LS Group
9.45-10.30	Te Waipuna	Te Waipuna	Te Waipuna	Pōtiki	Pōtiki
11.30-12.15	Te Pūao	Te Pūao	Te Pūao	Te Hikuwai	Te Hikuwai
12.15-1pm	Te Awa	Te Awa	Pōtiki	Te Awa	
1.45-2.15	Kapa Haka	Te Whanganui	Te Whanganui	Te Whanganui	Te Whanganui
2.15-3pm	Te Hikuwai	Mataamua	Mataamua	Mataamua	Assembly