



Principal's News

Kia ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Ni Hao, Namaste, Bula Vinaka, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Kia orana, Mauri, Greetings.

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year. We are looking forward to seeing you all at our Whānau/Teacher evening on Thursday 7th March. This first meeting gives you the opportunity to find out how your child has settled into the new school year, but most importantly it is a time for you to tell us more about your child so that together we can support them to achieve their very best.

National Government 100 day Education Initiatives

- One hour of reading, writing and mathematics

With a change of government comes a new set of priorities. I mentioned the government's mandate regarding one hour of daily tuition in reading, writing and mathematics in my last newsletter. This initiative has received a lot of media attention, and the flier shared in this newsletter provides you with more detail. Rest assured, MCS has always prioritised the core subjects and continues to ensure we teach reading, writing and maths across the curriculum, as well as the one hour specifically dedicated to each subject.

- Attendance

In my last newsletter I also highlighted the importance of attendance. The Board have agreed to fund the following attendance initiatives to encourage parents to send their children to school regularly between the hours of 9am-3pm.

- At the end of each week, those children with 100% attendance will receive an ice block.
- At the end of each term, the names of children attending regularly, for 70% of the time will go into a draw to receive a whānau food voucher to the value of \$200 (one draw for the junior school, one for senior school).
- At the end of the year, the names of all children attending regularly, for 90% of the time, will go into a draw to win the ultimate prize – a chromebook.

When a child's attendance falls below 90% regular attendance, they are less likely to make expected gains in learning. Continual low attendance rates have a negative impact on progress. Let's work together to enable our tamariki to be the best they can be.

- Phones away for the day

All state schools are required to implement a phone rule that has student phones 'away for the day' as soon as possible in Term 1 2024 and no later than the start of Term 2 2024. The Government has introduced regulations to put this requirement in place. These can be found at: [Education \(School Boards\) Amendment Regulations 2023](#).

We already have a rule in school that requires mobile phones to be handed into the office at the beginning of the day. It is important that we consult with our school community if we make changes to policy or procedures that affect school rules. At the next Board meeting we will be updating our Digital Technologies Policy and Procedures to align with the new regulations. Our procedures will remain the same for mobile phones – **they must be secured in the office for the day if they are brought into school. This rule will also extend to smart watches with Bluetooth connection or downloadable apps.** Smart watches with fitness trackers are acceptable but unadvisable in school due to their appeal to other children. If you would like your child to wear a watch to school we would advise a traditional version – one that helps them to tell the time only!

Ngā mihi nui

Michelle Dibben
Principal

One hour a day of reading, writing and maths

What's happening?

Starting from Term 1 2024, children in Years 0-8 will be taught reading, writing, and maths for an average of one hour a day in each skill.

Daily teaching, along with a quality curriculum and good teaching practices, has been shown to improve children's progress and achievement.

What does this change mean for my child?

Many schools already spend an hour a day on reading, writing and maths, so this will not be a big change.

The new 'one hour a day' requirement has been designed to be practical and flexible. Schools will still be able to hold events like athletics days and school camps since the requirement is for an average amount of time each week.

What will the lessons look like?

The National Curriculum outlines what your child should be able to understand, know and do as they progress through their school years. Teachers will continue to use the curriculum and teach in ways that best suit the learning. This includes using things like active learning opportunities, group work, investigations, practice, and consolidation activities.

The 'one hour a day' requirement can be broken up into small blocks throughout the day. Your child's teacher will manage these to fit the needs of your child.

How you can help at home

To support the learning they do at school, you can help your child develop reading, writing and maths skills by:

- having your child read to you
- reading to your child and talking about books and stories
- encouraging your child to share what they think about a book (or video game, podcast, or movie), and being positive about the material they are reading, listening, or watching
- letting your child see you enjoy books, audiobooks, podcasts, games, movies, or videos in your first language
- encouraging your child to write, and talking with your child about what they are writing
- showing your child that you write for lots of reasons too, such as replying to an email, filling out a form, or writing an invitation or letter
- involving your child in activities where you use maths (for example playing games with cards or dice, grocery shopping, cooking, and DIY activities)
- encouraging your child to share how they solve mathematical problems (they may use different mental or written strategies to the ones you were taught)
- being positive about your child's reading, writing, and maths experiences, and praising their efforts.

Working with your school

It can be helpful to share your child's interests, languages spoken at home, and cultural practices with their teachers, so they can be included in your child's learning.



Friday 1 March 2024

These students have been recognised by their class teachers for displaying our school value



Totara	Kowhai	Ti Kouka	Nikau
Mason	Salwa	Kaleah	Zoe
Ryan	Armaan	Genevieve	Aiyana
Max	Ayla	Hunter	Jessica
Puriri	Titoki	Rimu	Kauri
Kovy	Quinn	Tyrone	Pol
Udamveer		Banveet	
Esther		Benjamin F	

Road Safety



Thank you for keeping our children safe by walking along the footpaths and crossing at the lights. Keep it up

Important Dates

Thursday 7 March

Parent Teacher Interviews

Wednesday 13 March

MPSSA Cricket Tournament

Monday 18 March - Wednesday 20 March

Year 6 Camp

Friday 29 March

Good Friday—No School

Monday 1 April

Easter Monday—No school

Tuesday 2 April

Easter Tuesday—No School

Thursday 4 April

Senior School Tabloids

Kauri

Kauri Ngahere has been a hive of activity over the last 4 weeks! We have been enjoying getting familiar with our new class and learning all about our 2024 teachers and classmates. We are enjoying our refreshing morning swims in the morning and are enjoying being active on a Wednesday afternoon for our sports sessions. We have a lot of students who have taken up leadership roles within our class and school and these students have taken on these responsibilities with an excellent level of commitment and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to our upcoming Year 6 camp at Camp Adair and we are excited for our year together and we know it is going to be a good one!

Totara

We have had a fantastic first few weeks at "big" school! We have enjoyed seeing some familiar faces from our Kindy or Preschool and have started making new friends from within our class and out on the playground. We have been settling in and have started writing and reading, it is very exciting taking a book home each night in our book bag. The biggest highlight has been starting swimming last week and we are often asking how many days until we swim next. This week we start swimming in groups of children with similar confidence in the water and are learning how to be safe in and around water. We have welcomed new children over the past few weeks also. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our families both new to our school and those returning! We are so happy you are here and are looking forward to a year of learning fun.

Titoki

Warm greetings from Titoki. We are excited to be back at school and to be seeing old friends and to be making new friends too. With help from our teachers, school routines are being remembered. Our inquiry topic is to share information about ourselves with our classmates and to discover information about each other. There are many things which make us the same and many things which make us special and different too! Something which we all agree on is the importance of learning. This year we look forward to stretching our brains, growing our thinking, sharing our knowledge and challenging our ideas with our teachers and whanau. We look forward to a terrific learning year!

Nikau

Kia Ora! The students in Nikau have settled back nicely into school after the holidays. In week 3 we were lucky enough to be invited to take part in Kori Pūrākau, a dance workshop run by Atamira Dance Company. Oke gardens have been helping us to create worm farms, organise the greenhouse and plant vegetables. The students have been enjoying their morning swimming sessions in our school pool and are developing their stroke technique and learning some water safety skills.

Kowhai

We are super excited to be back at school and to be in Year 2! It has been wonderful to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones and to proudly show our families around our new learning space. With lots of learning happening, we are reminding ourselves to have a go, be brave, be curious and to respect ourselves and others. Swimming is a highlight of our day. With the warm afternoons, we just can't wait to get in! We are learning the importance of keeping ourselves safe around water and are already showing great improvements with our kicking and floating skills. We are so excited for the rest of the year and all of the learning and growing that we will do together!

Ti Kouka

Last week we spent a great amount of time investigating what a learner is, how we learn and that learning means that we can find things challenging at times. We unpacked the emotions behind those uncomfortable feelings and how we as learners can support ourselves and each other when being challenged. Your children may talk about 'being in the dip' or 'the learning pit'. The learning dip is the challenge we feel when we begin to learn something new. It can be difficult, frustrating and make us want to give up. Learning feels like this sometimes. From these initial conversations it has been great to hear our children reflect on their learning in all areas of the curriculum. The teachers are seeing growth in those students who participate in swimming. By swimming every day your child grows in confidence and skill set.