TĀNEATUA SCHOOL

Tāneatua He Ariki, He Tohunga, He Tangata, He Urururu Whenua

Term 1 2025 : Panui 1: 5 February 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back - I hope you all enjoyed a happy holiday and some quality time with your children over the school holidays and that you were able to create some happy and memorable experiences for and with your tamariki!. We have eased quietly back into kura over the past few days.

It has been lovely to catch up with the kaiako, kaiawhina and tamariki and to see them so engaged in their learning already. This year, like all New Zealand schools we are focusing on structured approaches to literacy and numeracy, in both English and Te Reo. Most of the learning doesn't look much different for our tamariki, however the scope and sequence of learning is something that is a little new for our teachers. They have been working hard over the holidays to upskill in the different programmes we will be using. A massive thank you to the kaiako and kaiawhina who have gone the extra mile in their own time after school and at our teacher only days leading up to the start of school.

- **Teacher Only Day - THIS FRIDAY**

As you know, Thursday is Waitangi Day and a public holiday. The following day, Friday, February 8th, 2025 is a Teacher Only Day and kura will be closed for instruction on Friday. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL!**

(THIS TEACHER ONLY DAY CLOSURE WAS COMMUNICATED AT THE END OF 2024.)

- **School Hours**

We have noticed that some of our tamariki have been arriving at school as early as 7.30am. This is not appropriate as there are no adults onsite to provide supervision - it is unsafe for your tamariki to be here unsupervised. Please do not send or bring your child to school before 8.00am - at this time, they can attend Breakfast Club and there are staff available to supervise and help in the case of an emergency. All tamariki should be at school by 8.50am, ready to start the school day.

- **Bus/Van Transport**

We are required to maintain accurate bus and van records for health and safety purposes. This means that if arrangements for your child are different on a particular day - ***whānau (that is a parent or caregiver) MUST let us know of the change BEFORE 2.30pm.*** We will not change arrangements on the say-so of your tamariki - we must hear from you. This is to keep them safe and to keep the lines of communication clear. Please phone or email through any changes as early as possible in the day.

Our vans also run to a specific route and timetable. There are set pick-up points and times - if your child is not at the pick-up point, at the appointed time, the van will wait for 2 minutes and then continue on it's route. This is not a "door-to-door" taxi service.

Our van is currently full and we are not taking any new passengers at this time.

- **Attendance**

Last year we started a drive on attendance and there will be an even bigger push on to have all our tamariki attending school regularly. Regular attendance is considered anything above 90%. This means that a child needs to be present for more than 90% of a school term. In a regular 10 week term, a child missing more than 5 days of school does not meet the requirements of regular attendance.

From next week, our attendance officer will be following up on unjustified and unexplained absences. Repeated or extended absences will be reported to the Attendance Service in line with the requirements of the Ministry of Education.

We understand that there can be a number of circumstances that prevent you from sending your tamariki to school. **PLEASE** - communicate with us and let us know - we may be able to help in some way so that your child is at school and getting the best opportunities for learning.

- **Phones**

As many of you will know, we have been having problems with our phone line - incoming and outgoing. This is as frustrating for us as it is for you! But the good news is that we have a partial fix and you can now call in to the office. *Please remember that you will get the answerphone first - please listen to the message and select "0" for reception.* The technicians are continuing to work on our system to restore our full service. Thank you for your patience.

- **Triathlon**

Our sporting events start again next week, Thursday 13 February, with the EBOP Triathlon in Opotiki. We have had great interest from the tamariki for this event so ask for your support with transport on the day. There is a notice coming home where you can let us know if you are able to help!

- **Swimming**

Our pool re-opened today - yay!!!! With the very hot weather, it has taken some time to balance the water and get it ready for swimming - thank you Matua Pin for working hard on the pool for us! Most classes will swim every day so please ensure that you send swimming togs and a towel every day!

Enjoy the rest of your week whanau…nga mihi…

Na, Terrianne (Acting Principal)