



Kia Ora!

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From the Desk of the Principal:

I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and a warm welcome back to another school year. We have some new families who have joined us this year and I am pleased to extend a special welcome to them. Our new students were formally welcomed at our Mihi Whakatau assembly yesterday morning.



Remember that our newsletter is sent home every fortnight but we also have a Facebook page which reports regular events and activities at school.

No activity fees - Once again I am pleased to announce that we will not be charging for any trips or shows this year.

Staff list 2026

AREA LEADER YEARS 4-6 Mr Steven Pickett		AREA LEADER YEARS 0-3 Miss Elise Gardner	
Room 1	Yr 5-6 Mrs Cushla Duggan (Senior Teacher)	Room 9	Yr 0-1 Mrs Tania Rodrigues
Room 2	Yr 5-6 Miss Tennille Gardner	Room 11	Yr 1-2 Miss Brooke Paulson
Room 3	Yr 5-6 Miss Jo Fruean	Room 12	Yr 1-2 Mrs Wendy Miller/ Mrs Roopa Gujral (Senior Teacher)
Room 4	Yr 4-5 Mrs Gillian Appleby/ Mrs Courtney Meares	Room 14	Yr 1 Mrs Arianne Manabat
Room 6	Yr 4 Mrs Bev Reader	Room 15	Yr 2-3 Mrs Crystel Suyo
Room 7	Yr 3 Mrs Harshada Duppati	Learning Support Co-ordinator Miss Leila Teo	
Room 8	Yr 2-3 Mrs Judy Simon		



Attendance - The Government has set a regular attendance target of 80% of students to be present for more than 90% of the term. We will be submitting weekly data from our school to the Ministry of Education and I will periodically report on our rates of attendance.

It is essential that the school is notified of any absences with an explanation given as soon as they occur. Unexplained absences are reported in our data as children being truant from school. A text reminder is sent to all caregivers if the school has not been notified. Please ensure that the office has your current contact details.

Cornwallis Picnic - Our whole school picnic at Cornwallis Beach is next Friday 20 February. Whānau are welcome to join us, however, space on the buses is limited so you will need to provide your own transport. If parents wish to supervise swimming and bring their togs to get in the water with the children it would be greatly appreciated. This helps us with ensuring a safe environment for everyone. Hopefully the weather will be fine!



Property Update - Over the break we had a new roof installed on our senior block and the middle school playground was replaced with a brand new one, as well as a new middle school sandpit.



These jobs went smoothly and the school is looking great as we start the year.

From the Desk of Mr Pickett:

Welcome back to all our returning and new families. Our wonderful teachers have been busy preparing for the term ahead. They have continued to strengthen their understanding of the new Maths and English curriculums and are well prepared to deliver them effectively to all students.

😊 Inter-school cricket is happening in the middle of the term, students in years 4, 5 & 6 are able to join a team. More information will come home next week with those students who have been selected



Free School Lunches - The Appresso catering company is our new free lunch provider. They are providing a range of healthy and delicious meals for all students. All dietary requirements are catered for and clearly labelled. The students have this meal at 11am each day to set them up for a successful day of learning.

Footsteps Programme - Every year, our students are lucky enough to experience the Footsteps programme. This programme teaches students key movement skills that help them to work in unison with their classmates. All students in Years 1-6 will be participating in 5 x 45-minute sessions from Monday 16th February until Monday 23rd March.

Water Safety Lessons - *New Zealand has a high fatal drowning rate compared to other Western nations such as Australia, Canada and the UK. For the past ten years, our rate has been 1.6 per 100,000 of the population. In comparison, Australia's per capita rate is 1.1, and Canada's is 1.3.* This information is taken from the Water Safety New Zealand website and illustrates the importance of all children learning basic survival skills for when they are in and around water. All Year 3-6 students receive funding for 4 x 1 hour in pool water safety sessions. These sessions are held at the Swimsation Pool in Te Atatu on Fridays starting February 27th. All students must attend these sessions. Learning these skills helps each child be more safety-conscious and aware of dangers when in or around water.



Coming Events:

Cornwallis Beach Trip	Friday 20 th February
Footsteps Programme	Starting Monday 23 rd February
Board Meeting 6.30pm	Wednesday 25 th February

Internet Banking – We are happy to receive school payments by Internet Banking. Please remember to use your child's name and reason for payment as your reference. Account Number is ASB 123051 0387085 00

Children Away From School? - If your child needs to be away from school, please contact the school office before 9.30am to let us know each day. You can phone on **827 2187**, email at admin@kelstonprimary.school.nz, text us on **0211647819** - or log an absentee on our website or Skool Loop App. Please give your child's first and last name, room no. and reason.