



PANUI - NEWSLETTER - Return to School Term 1, 2023

Mai e te Tumuaki - From the Principal

Kia ora whānau

We hope you are all enjoying the last few days of the school holidays. School starts on Thursday, 2nd February at 8.55am. We are looking forward to having our students and whānau back and getting the school year underway. A special welcome to all our new students! We will get the chance to welcome new whānau to our kura with a powhiri later this term.

As a staff we have been busy working on developing a shared understanding of where we are headed this term and what Manaakitanga means to all of us. This term our focus is to build relationships not only with our tamariki but also their whānau.

It is going to be an exciting term, with lots of things happening! In Week 10 we are “Opening the Gates” so to speak and welcoming our community into our kura to showcase the learning that has happened across the term. This will look different in each syndicate. Keep an eye out for more information coming home later in the term!

This term we will also introduce whānau to a new Student Management System called LincEd Hero. Hero for short. It will be slowly introduced to you all over the next few weeks. Next week I will email out instructions for how you can access the Hero App and use it for absences. Hero is an exciting change for all of us as this will become our Reporting System and way of sharing student work and learning more regularly. You have already started receiving emails from the school using this system!

On a personal note, thank you to all our whānau who came in at the end of last term to share success stories about their time at Plimmerton and to also complement our team of teachers! Lots of you were very generous with words and gifts also! Those words and praise mean a lot to our staff, so please don't be shy in 2023 about letting me and our teachers know what a great job they are doing!

Can't wait to see everyone and those nervous/excited smiles on Thursday!



Staff at 'teachers only day' working on the concept of Manaakitanga.

Nga Mihi
Chris Steffensen, *Principal - Tumuaki*

Coming Events - to put on your calendar

Week 1

Wednesday 1 February

Meet the Teacher meetings

Thursday 2 February

Term 1 Begins - welcome back all students for 2023

Week 2

Monday 6 February

Waitangi Day - no school

Wednesday 8 February

Camp meeting for all parents going on Taupō camps - 7pm

Week 3

Monday 13 Friday 17 February

School photos

Week 4

Monday 20 Friday to 24 February

Taupō Syndicate camps at Kaitoke Regional Park

Thursday 23 February

Mana Sleepover

Staffing Update

Nau Mai Haere Mai to our three new staff members this year! We will also say Nau Mai Hoki Mai to Rebecca Courtney, Tash Wichman, and Kate Walker (from Maternity Leave) at different times throughout the year.



We welcome Loutje le Grand. Loutje (pronounced Lu-cha) is in Room 6 this year teaching Year 2 students and will be an invaluable asset to the Motuhara team. She has worked the past 4 years in Years 1-2 and brings with her energy, excitement, and fun!

"I am a highly passionate hardworking teacher that possesses an effective attitude and dedication to children's educational needs. My strength is to build strong relationships and to make sure my tamariki's needs and urges are met, so that they are in their best frame of mind to learn and succeed".



Holly Williamson joins the Taupō team in Room 15. Holly is a beginning teacher but don't let that fool you. Holly has an extensive background filled with study, travel, and even an association with Blockbuster films!

Holly is a wonderful addition to this team and is super excited to start with us! She also brings a huge amount of energy, compassion, and a go-getter attitude.

We look forward to seeing Holly grow as a teacher and are grateful to have her start what will be an incredible teacher career with us!



Julia Jones joins our Technology Specialist Team as our Foods Technology Teacher and will also oversee this area of our Kura as Team Leader. Julia has extensive knowledge of the Foods Area and Leadership experience, having spent the last 9 years at Newlands Intermediate and a number of years overseas.

Julia is a magnificent addition to our Kura and will bring her own flair and expertise to the 517 students that pass through the Food's room this year.

Principal: [Chris Steffensen](#)
Deputy Principals: [Rosemary Oxnam](#), [Jo Verran](#)

2023 Teachers and room numbers below:

Motuhara Syndicate (NE, Year 1 and 2)

Room 2: [Lisa Cowley](#)
Room 3: [Yvette Pierce](#)
Room 4: [Shannon Ferguson](#) Team leader
Room 5: [Loutje le Grand](#)
Room 6: [Lisa Cuttance](#)

Hongoeka Syndicate (Year 5 and 6)

Room 20: [Emma McClutchie](#)
Room 21: [Adie Dott/Rebecca Courtney](#)
Room 22: [Katherine O'Neil](#) Team Leader term 1
Room 23: [Steve Deluxe](#)

Mana Syndicate (Year 3 and 4)

Room 10: [Dianne Khan](#)
Room 11: [Brendon Cross](#) Team leader
Room 12: [Janelle Ymker](#)
Room 13: [Andrew Brown](#)

Taupō Syndicate (Year 7 and 8)

Room 15: [Holly Williamson](#)
Room 16: [Naomi Fairley](#)
Room 17: [Clayton Schimanski](#)
Room 18: [Andy Tate](#) Team Leader

Meet the Teacher Meetings

These are being held on Wednesday 1 February. If you haven't already booked a time to meet with your child's teacher, either in person or via phone, you can do so via this [link](#).

Bell times

Before 8.30am teachers are busy preparing for the day and attending meetings and so are not able to supervise children. If you need to drop your child off prior to 8.30am Kelly Club operates in the Arts Centre from 7.30am.

At 8.30am a bell rings and children can then enter their classrooms. If they arrive before this bell they need to wait at the bottom of the drive.

8:55am Bell rings for start of school
9:00 to 11:00 am 1st Morning session
11:00 to 11:20am Morning break
11:20 to 1:00pm 2nd Morning session
1.00-1.10 Eating lunch
1:10 to 1:55pm Lunch break
1:55 to 2:55 pm Afternoon session
2:55 pm End of school day

Student Absences

If your child is unwell and will not be at school please advise the office as soon as possible (before 9am is preferable). You may leave a message on the school's absence line (04 233 8677 press 1), or you can email absence@plimmerton.school.nz the office will then notify your child's teacher.

Back to School Stationery

Please remember that we no longer sell school stationery from the school office. Your child's stationery will need to be purchased online via OfficeMax.

Time is ticking - if you haven't already done so please make sure you place your order to ensure you receive it as soon as possible. Please visit our [website](#) for more details and information about online ordering with OfficeMax.

OfficeMax makes it super easy with these great benefits

- Free delivery on orders over \$60*
- Pay now or in easy instalments – internet banking, credit cards, debit cards or pay in 6 weekly, interest-free payments with Layby*
- Price match promise – shop with confidence, if you find a lower price OfficeMax will match it*

- Beat the back to school rush – avoid queues and busy shopping malls by shopping online from the safety and comfort of your home or holiday spot.

* Terms & Conditions apply, see myschool.co.nz for details.

YEAR 5-8 CHROMEBOOKS

At Plimmerton School we are committed to developing our students’ digital competence. In Years 5 to 8 we integrate ICT across the curriculum allowing students to learn, create, share, and collaborate.

We are continuing a BYOC policy in Hongoeka and Taupō syndicates to ensure a good level of access to devices for our students. It is an option for parents to purchase a Chromebook for their child from Year 5 and up. Please don’t feel under pressure to do this. The school has a supply of devices that can be allocated to students or shared in senior classes. These Chromebooks are issued to a student for use at school and are not taken home unless we are moving to learning from home.

For parents who feel that their child is responsible enough to have their own Chromebook for home and school use, the Norrcom purchasing portal is available at this [link](#). Note - the passcode for the portal is plim09. There are several device options that are robust, fit for purpose, and good value. The cost for the devices is between \$295 and \$1020 including gst. There will also be options for Insurance, extended warranty, and other extras.

Orders will be delivered to the school office - you will receive an email to confirm your device is ready for collection. Your device will be connected to the school network as part of the purchase.

Please note, that if you purchase a device from elsewhere, it must be a chromebook, as these devices work best with the security and student safety measures in place at school. Unfortunately in the past, some salespeople have sold parents notebooks, and students have not been able to use these at school.



OUR SCHOOL PATROL NEEDS YOUR HELP PLEASE!

We have some fabulous adult volunteers signed up to help on the school crossing after school but we would love to have a few more volunteers to roster on. If you are willing and able to help out between 2.45 and 3.15pm about once a fortnight, then please contact [Rosemary Oxnam](#).

Sunhats

In term 1 all students need to have a named sunhat. The sun hat needs to provide protection to the ears, neck and face. Bucket hats, legionnaire caps or “cricket”- style hats are all suitable. Students without a suitable hat will be asked to remain in designated shade areas during break times. School sun hats are available at the office for \$18.

We also encourage students to drink plenty of fluid during this term; even bringing an extra water bottle can be a good idea. Keeping well hydrated helps prevent sunstroke, heat exhaustion and, most importantly, improves concentration!

2023 Term Dates, Holidays & Teacher Only Days

Term 1

Starts: Wednesday 2 February
Waitangi day - Monday 6 February
 Ends: Thursday 6 April (Good Friday 7 April)

Term 2

Starts: Wednesday 26 April
Anzac Day - Tuesday 25 April
Teacher Only days - Monday 24 April, Friday 2 June
Queen’s Birthday - Monday 5 June
 Ends: Friday 30 June

Term 3

Starts: Monday 17 July
 Ends: Friday 22 September

Term 4

Starts: Monday 9 October
Teacher Only Day - Friday 20 October
Labour Day - Monday 23 October
 Ends: Wednesday 20 December