



PANUI - NEWSLETTER - Return to School Term 1, 2024

Mai e te Tumuaki - From the Principal

Kia ora whānau

Welcome back. What a special two weeks we have had already. We started the school year as a community with a first-day powhiri! We brought the whole school together to celebrate and reunite as one, welcoming the newest members of our school and reuniting with everyone else.

Thank you to the new whānau members who were able to join in the powhiri and, again, special thanks, awhi and appreciation to Moana, Mike and Patariki for speaking on the paepae and calling our guests on. I also want to thank whānau members from Hongoeka Marae who sit with us to tautoko/support on a termly basis. Your presence and support are much appreciated.

It has been a unique and fun start to the year as we work towards meeting the outcomes of our 2024-2025 Strategic Plan, focussing on forming relationships (whakawhanaungatanga) with classmates and kaimahi. The aim is to build strong relationships where everyone feels included, valued and safe to communicate their ideas in and out of class. The whakawhanaungatanga activities centre around our R.E.A.L values. In short, our updated values encompass the established values already in place but refine in more in-depth what we expect to see through learning and behaviours.

In a separate HERO post (next week) we will send home our Strategic Plan and a Consultation feedback letter from the BOT. This way, you can see first-hand the work that has gone into preparing this document and what you, as a Hapori (community) wanted to see in it also. It is an incredible opportunity for us to truly work in partnership and have our tamariki centred in all decision-making at our kura.

Speaking of community, a HERO post was sent home on Thursday, 31st January, explaining we have organised Filmmaker and Author Rob Cope to come and give a talk on the topic of "Keeping our kids safe online". Rob speaks with 20 - 30 thousand parents each year, so he knows exactly what works and what doesn't. We feel it is such an important issue that our expectation is we will see at least one whānau member from each family attending the evening. A babysitting facility will be in place for those of you who need your school-aged children supervised during this time (6-8pm).

LEARNING: As a staff, we came up with a learning focus for the whole year that can be broken down each term to support national, global or school-related events. The theme for the year is "**Beyond Me: Exploring a World Outside Myself**". Term 1 centres around "**Looking Within**", which is essentially having a deep understanding of 'me' as an individual (learning, behaviour, values and connections).

Lastly, we are weeks away from finalising some modernised school branding, so once completed, we will share this with everyone and begin to add some colour and branding around our space. Exciting times!

In the meantime, please feel free to stop by for a chat, email or make an appointment to see me if you would like to discuss anything further or to introduce yourself.

Nga Mihi
Chris Steffensen, *Principal - Tumuaki*

Coming Events - to put on your calendar

Term 1 - Week 3

Monday - Friday

School Photos - see flyer below for details

Term 1 - Week 4

Monday 19 February

“Keeping our kids safe online” talk

Thursday 22 February

Mana Noho/Sleepover

Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

Dates for the Term 1 Board meetings have been moved due to conflicts with school events. This term Board meetings will be held on the Thursday of Week 5 and Week 10.

Important Information for Your Child

Next week a summary of the important information held for your child(ren) will be sent home, this includes primary contacts, emergency contacts and medical information. This information must be correct/up to date as this is what we rely on in medical and civil emergencies. You will be asked to review and update this information and return the signed form to the school in the same week. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

School Issued Chromebooks for Years 5-8

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. These Chromebooks are issued to a student for use at school and are not taken home unless we are moving to learning from home. If you require a school-issued Chromebook please complete and return this [agreement](#).



Student ICT Responsible User Agreement

Every year we ask students and whānau to read and sign the [Plimmerton School Student ICT Responsible User Agreement](#). Please take the time to read and discuss this with your child so that they are clear on their responsibilities when using a device at school. Your child will not be able to use a chrome book at school until the form has been returned.

Cellphones 'Away for the Day' at School

You will be aware that there is new legislation and regulations prohibiting the use of cellphones at school. International research indicates some key challenges with having cellphones at school, such as being a major distraction for students learning. The new regulations are designed to ensure that learning for all students is maximised, while minimising any potential for distraction and cyber-bullying.



Students at Plimmerton School have always been required to keep cell phones in school bags with the sound turned down during school hours. From Monday 12 February, we will be adopting the approach of “away for the day”, meaning cell phones will be **handed in to the classroom teacher at the beginning of the day**.

At 8.55am teachers will collect all phones, put them in a class pouch and they will be locked away in the school office. At the end of the day, phones will be returned to the students.

If whānau need to contact their child urgently during the day, they can call the office and a message will be sent to the child in class.

We are in the process of refining and updating our current policy and will communicate it with parents later in the term.

Teaching Staff for 2024

You can email your child's teacher using the following address format: [firstname][first letter of last name]@plimmerton.school.nz (e.g. rosemaryo@plimmerton.school.nz).

Motuhara Syndicate (NE, Year 1 and 2)

Room 1: [Chelsea Jennings](#)

Room 2: [Janelle Ymker](#)

Room 3: [Natasha Wichman](#)

Room 4: [Shannon Ferguson](#) Team leader

Room 5: [Molly Baxter](#)

Room 6: [Evie Pierce](#)

Hongoeka Syndicate (Year 5 and 6)

Room 20: [Mackenzie Batchelor](#)

Room 21: [Rebecca Courtney](#)

Room 22: [Katherine O'Neil](#) Team Leader

Room 23: [Steve Deluxe](#)

Mana Syndicate (Year 3 and 4)

Room 10: [Dianne Khan](#)

Room 11: [Brendon Cross](#) Team leader

Room 12: [Grace Macrae](#)

Room 13: [Andrew Brown](#)

Taupō Syndicate (Year 7 and 8)

Room 15: [Kate Walker & Stana Moes](#)

Room 16: [Phil Morris](#) Team Leader

Room 17: [Demelza Murrihy](#)

Room 18: [Emma McClutchie](#)

Deputy Principals: [Rosemary Oxnam](#) and [Jo Verran](#)

You can email the Principal at principal@plimmerton.school.nz, the school office at office@plimmerton.school.nz the library at library@plimmerton.school.nz and the Board of Trustees at bot@plimmerton.school.nz.

If parents/whānau/caregivers need to contact their child urgently during the day, they should call the office on 233 8677 and a message will be sent to the child in class.

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 can do this directly via the Hero app or 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



Thank you for the great uptake of online stationery ordering. Every order earns credits for the school that go towards purchasing art and integrated topic resources. Please remember that we no longer sell school stationery from the school office, when your child's stationery runs low you will need to purchase additional books from OfficeMax or other retailers. The office can provide you with a stationery list for your child's class at any time.

Sunhats

In Term 1 all students need to have a named brimmed 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 under the verandah or in the library during break times.

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!



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 or snicket.

8:55am Bell rings for start of school
8:55 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

Term Dates, Holidays & Teacher Only Days

Term 1

Starts: Thursday 1 February
Waitangi Day - Tuesday 6 February
Easter - Friday 29 March - 2 April
Ends: Friday 12 April

Term 2

Starts: Monday 29 April
Teacher Only Day - Friday 31 May
King's Birthday - Monday 3 June
Matariki - Friday 28 June
Ends: Friday 5 July

Term 3

Starts: Monday 22 July
Ends: Friday 27 September

Term 4

Starts: Monday 14 October
Teacher Only Day - Friday 25 October
Labour Day - Monday 28 October
Ends: Wednesday 18 December

School Photos

Lisa Preston, of Lisa Preston Photography www.lisaprestonphotography.co.nz will be taking our school photos again this year. Student photos will be taken on Monday and Tuesday of next week as per the below timetable.

If you would like Lisa to take sibling or studio-style photos please contact her via 021 678 964 or email smile@lisaprestonphotography.co.nz to arrange - bookings must be made in advance.

Monday 12 February Class & Individual Photos Rooms: 1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11,12,13,20,21

Tuesday 13 February Class & Individual Photos Rooms: 15,16,17,18, 22,23

Wednesday 14 February: Catch-ups and pre booked Sibling and Studio-Style photos taken

For more information please see the flyer below or contact the school office or Lisa Preston directly.

Plimmerton School

Photography Days 2024



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dear Parents & Caregivers

Lisa Preston Photography will be taking our school photographs again this year.

CLASS PHOTOS - Landscape style , relaxed poses, taken indoors \$17

STANDARD PORTRAIT - 'Head' shot only. All children will be photographed in this style.

STUDIO PACK - Studio style with modern poses. Each child receives up to 5 images proofs.

Portrait/Sibling photos from \$13 each.

Studio and sibling sittings must be prebooked - emailing Lisa the day prior at the latest.

Proofs can be viewed online before purchasing. You do not need to pay in advance. Order forms will be sent out from the school after the photos have been taken and edited.



Monday 12 February

Class & Individual Photos

Rooms:

1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11,12,13,20,21

Tuesday 13 February

Class & Individual Photos

Rooms:

15,16,17,18, 22,23

Studio & Sibling

Wednesday 14 February

Catch ups, Studio & Sibling

TIMETABLE

Lisa Preston 021 678964

smile@lisaprestonphotography.co.nz

www.lisaprestonphotography.co.nz

Library Corner

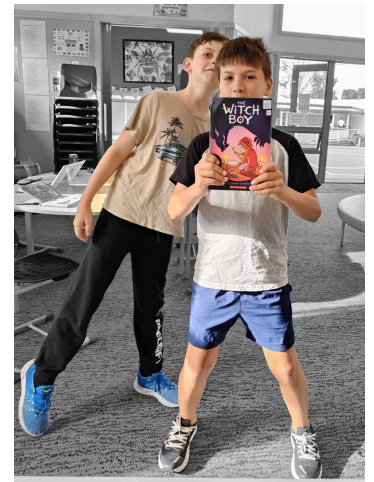
All our students have now had a visit to the library in 2024 - we have loved seeing them all and hope that they enjoy the selection of books that were purchased over the summer break.

This week's library discussions have included the Treaty of Waitangi, Chinese New Year, engineering and Willy Wonka. Our first student through the door for 2024 was Otis from Rm23... just lovely to see the enthusiasm (and thanks Arlo for photo bombing!!!).

Our book amnesty on returning lost books was a huge success!

Thank you so much for your support with encouraging your children to find these taonga. I will now start purchasing replacement books for the library for those books that weren't returned, so if you do find any of these lost books, you can either keep them or elect to donate them to the library. If you could please settle your 'lost library book' charges on your Hero account, I would appreciate it as this money goes towards replacement books.

We ran a summer dashboard over the holidays which was full of reading ideas, read-alouds, puzzles and a competition. Not a lot of entries for our competition but we were delighted with these photos from Ezra (13) and Aria (12). The idea was to take photos over the summer of students enjoying some holiday reading. Ezra and Aria - please come to the library to collect your winning prize.



Students will have brought home issue 1 of Scholastic Book Club. Issue 1 orders must be made by Monday 19th February (not Friday as previously advertised). Orders must be made online. The school office will not accept orders.

Simply log-in to mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz and click ORDER in the top menu (or REGISTER first to save your details for next time). You then select **Plimmerton School** and your **child's class**. Add your child's first name and last initial, and the item numbers from the catalogue. If you have any problems, either see Sarah in the library or contact scholastic at bookclub@scholastic.co.nz; phone: 0800 266 525. All orders will be sent to school for collection and will be delivered to the classroom. If you are ordering books as a gift and would prefer to collect them from the library, then please let me know and I will set them aside for you. Thank you for your support.

The library currently has book bingo for our Y5-8 students and a Chinese New Year colouring-in competition for our Y1-4 students. The colouring-in competition closes on Thursday 15th February whereas Bingo will run for the first two terms of this year. The idea of Bingo is for students to read up to 25 diverse books based on predefined criteria (for example, they may be asked to read an Adventure or Historical Fiction book). Once they complete a row or column of 5 books, then they come to the library to receive a chocolate.

Please take time to check out our library catalogue - <https://nz.accessit.online/PLM03>. My aim this year is to add genre, subject search tags and book summary information for all middle and senior fiction books. I am currently working my way through senior fiction so this will hopefully provide our senior students with information about the plot and genre of our senior fiction collection to help them when they are selecting their next book to read.

Happy reading,
Sarah

Join the PTA

The PTA is always looking for new members so please think about joining this dedicated group of parents. Meetings are held monthly in the staffroom. If you would like to know more about the PTA or offer your help at future fundraising events please email the PTA at pta@plimmerton.school.nz



Community Notices



KELLY SPORTS TERM 1 - BACK TO SCHOOL SPORTS!!

Kelly Sports is back for Term 1 with our fun and exciting classes!. Kelly Sports encourages children to have fun, build confidence and to give sport a go.

We believe that sport and physical activity has so much to offer young people; it improves fitness, develops communication skills, team work and gives them a place to channel their energy.

Back to School Sports (Years 0-4) - Thursday's 3.05pm-4.05pm - The sports we will focus on this term are: Athletics, Ultimate Frisbee, Turbo Touch and Dodgeball.

It's a great way to try new sports, learn new skills and improve ability. We use games & drills to teach game sense and team play. Your child will learn the basic fundamental skills for all sports - throwing, running, jumping, striking, balance and many more - all while having a great time!

Sessions start on Thurs 15 Feb 2024 and runs for 8 weeks. For full details and to enrol into our programmes visit www.kellysports.co.nz email adminwgt@kellysports.co.nz.

Want to play football?



Registration for **PUKERUA BAY SOCCER CLUB** for players aged 4 to 14 is now open:

- Registration closes 20 March 2024. Register today!
- Super low fees: \$55 for 4 - 6 year olds, \$90 for 7 – 12 year olds, \$100 for 13 & 14 year olds!
- Family discounts available!
- Practices potentially in Pukerua Bay and/or Plimmerton (or wherever most suits the team).

To register visit www.pkbsoccer.nz or email pkb@pkbsoccer.nz - let's get you playing football in 2024!



- Did you make plans earlier this year for 2024? Perhaps you were thinking you might like to find a new challenge, learn new skills, get fit or make new friends. Perhaps you wanted to find new ways you could contribute to your community.
- Have you considered joining the Plimmerton Volunteer Fire Brigade? We do an important job in keeping our community safe and we're looking for more local residents to join our team.
- We're stronger if our team reflects the communities that we serve. We welcome women and men of all cultures, ages and educational backgrounds.
- On average our brigade attends around **120 call-outs** each year. As well as fires, we respond to motor vehicle accidents, medical incidents, weather events and other requests from people in need. We also undertake promotional activities and work to help make our communities safer.
- We provide extensive training to ensure our volunteers can save lives and respond to emergencies while getting home safe and well. We train every week on a **Wednesday** night, during which we refresh and learn new and transferrable skills and continue to build a supportive team spirit that extends beyond our brigade.
- If you've been looking for something different and like the idea of helping others, giving back to your community whilst being part of a fantastic team please join us at the station for an information evening, **7:30pm - 8:30pm on Tuesday 20 February**. We will be glad to meet you and to discuss what it takes to volunteer with us. If you have any questions email us at plimmerton@fireandemergency.nz
We look forward to meeting you soon.



fireandemergency.nz/volunteer

VAFEB24