

Diary Dates

Coming Up . . .

–Thursday 6th February **Waitangi Day Holiday** – SCHOOL CLOSED

–Friday 7th February **Kawakawa students home** from Odyssey

–Monday 10th February **Kawakawa students' day off** in lieu of Waitangi Day

–Wednesday 12th February **school accounts 1st instalment due**



Welcome to the following students and their families...

Tawhai – Alex Reyes

Kawakawa – Zeta Ford Robinson, Ana Zuijderwijk

Tāwari – Miki Hayashi, Jack Pearce and Reuben Kirk

Reminder:

NO HAT NO PLAY

Remember to pack your child's sunhat for school this term. During the summer terms 1 and 4 all

students must wear a sunhat with an appropriate sized brim if outside. Also please remember to apply sunscreen to your preschooler before school.



This Week

Welcome back

By Ava Szabo – Principal

Kia ora whānau

Welcome back to term one. I hope you had a fabulous Christmas and wonderful New Year, managing to spend some time with friends and family. I was lucky enough to travel to the Golden Bay area with my family. A beautiful part of the country that I highly recommend.

I saw many smiling faces at school this morning, children happily sharing their holiday news and catching up with old friends.

Our Kawakawa ākonga have now left for their Waitangi Odyssey flying to Auckland this morning. I know they will have a tremendous experience and we look forward to seeing them back at school in two weeks.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Samantha Hill, head teacher in Kauri class for gaining her Montessori AMI primary diploma. This is a huge achievement – well done Samantha.

I would also like to welcome Amber Bell, who is our new assistant in Tawhai class working with Carol this year. I know you will make her welcome. We have also interviewed for an assistant in Tōtara class and I will update you as soon as I have further information on this.

Below is some important information offered to parents and whānau from the Ministry of Education regarding the Coronavirus. As you may have seen in the media, the situation is rapidly evolving internationally.

- The specific nature of this new virus is currently unclear, however it appears that it is possible to have the virus at an early stage without showing any symptoms. This incubation period is currently considered to be up to 14 days.
- If your child is unwell they should not be at school. Please contact Healthline on 0800 611 116 or your GP for medical advice. Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages and they do have Mandarin and Cantonese speaking staff available.
- For children who may be at high risk of exposure because of travelling recently to China or close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, please consider having your child delay the start of the school year for 14 days.
- If your child attends school while showing symptoms, they may be required to stay at home by the Principal.
- Keep an eye on the [Ministry of Health](#) and [Ministry of Education](#) website for updates.

We encourage you to err on the side of caution if you suspect your child may not be well and seek professional advice. The health of our ākonga is a priority for us all.

I look forward to catching up with you all as the year progresses.

Ava

School Accounts to be emailed

School Accounts

Wā Ora accounts are moving to email. You can expect to receive your emailed account this week. While due dates for payment and instalment arrangements remain the same, there is a change to the bank account number for area school (primary and high school) payments, which must now be paid into the BoT account 12-3209-0438306-00. Please change this in your 'payee' internet banking settings. Preschool fees and after school care payments are still paid into the 'Council' account 12-3209-0438285-00.

If you have children in both the preschool and area school, you will receive an account for your preschool fees and a separate one for the area school. These invoices need to be paid separately – please DO NOT pay as one combined total. If you pay by instalment, you will need to set these up as separate payments, e.g. one for the preschool payment and another for the area school one.

You can still pay by internet, cash, cheque or eftpos (savings/cheque) at the office and in the future area school accounts will be able to be paid by credit card via Paystation (incurring a surcharge).

Instalment dates are as follows:

- 1st Instalment – Wednesday 12th February
- 2nd Instalment – Wednesday 26th February
- 3rd Instalment – Wednesday 11th March

Further information containing account numbers and payment options, is included in the attached 'Accounts Information Letter'.

Before/after school care bookings

Please let Sharon in the office know if you would like to book your child into before and/or after school care for a regular booking (same time/day, etc.). Please advise her of days by either emailing office@waora.school.nz or using the school app. Please note that if you have a regular booking but your child will NOT be attending for some reason, you MUST let the office know, as this affects staffing levels at BSC/ASC.

School Photos

School photos will be happening early this year on Friday 14th February. Information will be emailed shortly regarding the order process, which will this year be done online.

Who does what in Admin/Support

Please talk / email directly with:

Sharon office@waora.school.nz for

- notifying of late/sick/holidays/ appointments
- afterschool care
- general enquiries

Donna donna@waora.school.nz for

- any financial questions / subsidies
- changes to preschool afternoon arrangements
- Monday–Friday 8 am–12 noon

Emma emmaschrader@waora.school.nz

- for new enrolments/transitions

Jo joanne@waora.school.nz for

- appointments to see Ava

Relda relda@waora.school.nz for

- passwords for school website
- Wā Ora newsletter inclusions
- Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

Hayley hayley@waora.school.nz for

- BoT meeting minutes

Working bee letters

Keep an eye out for your letter detailing the date of your rostered 2020 working bee which the office will email to all school families in the next few days.

Please label all clothing and stationery

The start of the new year is a good time to name all items of clothing and stationery. Doing this also assists us to return named items to their rightful owners☺

Absences, late and appointments

If your child is going to be away sick or on holiday, or has an appointment in school time, you must notify our school office. You can do this via the school app, by texting 029 770 4286, by emailing office@waora.school.nz or by leaving a message on the absences answer phone 567 2377 before 8.30 am. If your child is away sick for more than one day, you must advise the office EACH day they are away. Also if you are picking up early or dropping off late, you must call at or text the office when your child is leaving/back.

Arts a Go Go! Performing Arts

Arts a Go Go! Performing Arts School for Kids is located Upper Hutt and has classes for babies right through to young adults, beginners to advanced! You are welcome to try a class before committing to the term! This term we have limited spaces available for small group singing lessons, creative writing, drama, preschool music, Irish dancing and musical theatre classes. For more details, please see www.artsagogo.co.nz, contact rachel@artsagogo.co.nz or call/text 021 144 1641.

Free tennis coaching

Evolve Tennis Coaching is relaunching at Mitchell Park Tennis Centre, 10 Mitchell Street, Lower Hutt with an Open Week from Monday 3rd– Sunday 9th February. To celebrate they're offering FREE group tennis lessons with their new head coach Adam from Sydney. To book a coaching session or find out more, visit evolvetenniscoaching.co.nz or text Adam on 020 4189 6028. All levels welcome, even complete newbies!

A great day out!

Thinking of selling your house?

Kia Ora. If, from your referral, we list and sell your home in the Lower Hutt area, we will donate \$500 to Wā Ora Montessori School. Contact us today for a no obligation appraisal. Supporting Wā Ora Montessori School. Jodie and Eugene Winterburn. Red Coats Professionals Lower Hutt. 022 462 0121 teamwinterburn@redcoats.co.nz.

Professionals

Supporting the Child Cancer Foundation for over 20 years.