

# Whānau Kiwi Newsletter



Term 1 2026 · [www.tps.school.nz](http://www.tps.school.nz) · (09) 489 6339

## The Team



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## Kia ora and welcome to Term 1 2026!

A special welcome to our new learners and families, it was lovely to meet some of you at our recent Mihi Whakatau and TPS Family Picnic. We hope you enjoy your time at Takapuna Primary. We are pleased to welcome Tracy Stephen who has joined the Kiwi teaching team this year.

Our Kiwi teachers meet every week to plan exciting learning opportunities for all of our Kiwi classrooms. Each classroom offers a similar learning experience, with special adjustments to fit the needs of each class. In New Zealand, teachers are trained to support students at various levels across the curriculum, rather than focusing on only one year group. This approach allows us to give the best possible support to every learner, with a strong focus on providing high-quality teaching and learning for all our tamariki.

## Key Curriculum Areas

This term we will initially focus on settling our learners into their new classes, getting to know their teachers, peers and school routines. Our **Inquiry** will focus on the New Zealand Histories curriculum. We will explore who we are and learn about how both we and the Tangata Whenua (the Māori people) and our families came to New Zealand. **Maths** will focus on building basic skills and learning how to conduct a statistical investigation. During **Literacy** time we will work on building a strong knowledge of letter sounds and patterns, which we can use when we read and write. We will use picture books to grow our vocabulary and our understanding of the stories we read.

This term we will be learning **Water Skills** in our school pool. At Takapuna we follow the Water Skills for Life programme. You can read more about this programme [here](#). Water Skills for Life focuses on how to be safe in and around water. Your child's teacher will have shared their swimming day with you. Water Skills are a compulsory part of the Takapuna Primary School curriculum. As a school we think it is very important that children and adults learn how to be safe in and around water. We are also aware that for some of our learners being in the water is a very new experience. If you or your child are unsure about any of this, please come and chat as we would love to work with you on this so that time at the pool is a positive experience for all.

## Reminders

- A friendly reminder that all learners need their hat, book bag and drink bottle every day.
- It would really help us out to have the Reading Log filled in each day,
- If your child is late, please go to the office to sign them in before coming to class.
- Please let us know if your child is away. You can record any absences through the school Hero app.

# What's Happening This Term

## Key Dates

Please check the school calendar regularly. Click [here](#).

## Reminders

For any last minute changes going to Kelly Club or pick ups please contact the office as teachers often do not get the opportunity to check their email during the day.

**Please check HERO regularly** for school communications and important notices.

**It is important that your child is at school by 8:50 am at the latest.** This gives them a chance to prepare for the day. It also helps them to develop their ability to manage themselves by putting away their belongings and completing any morning jobs.

## School Hours/Absences

**School hours are 9 - 3pm**

- Learners can be at school from 8:30am.
- If your child is absent please contact the office.
- For appointments during school hours please sign your child out at the office before collecting them.
- Please let your child's teacher know if they attend Kelly Club

**Week 5 Tuesday 3rd of March - Give it a Go Ripa**

**Week 7 Culture Week Tuesday 17th of March: Culture Parade begins at 9:15am**

**Wednesday 18th of March: Shared Lunch Friday 20th of March: Culture Assembly**

**Week 8 Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th of March: 1-1 Parent Interviews**

**Friday 27th of March: TPS Tryathlon**

**Sunday 29th of March: Shore to Shore**

**Week 9 Wednesday 1st of April: Last day of school for Term 1**

**Thursday 2nd of April: Teacher Only Day (no school)**

**Monday 20th of April: First day of Term 2**

## Home Learning

We would suggest keeping any home learning light and short (around 15 minutes). The priority would be reading the school reader or discussing the letter sounds they have been learning about this week. Reading a picture book together, sharing about our day and working together on chores or everyday tasks help oral language and basic maths skills. You are welcome to talk to your child's teacher for more personalised advice.

This is a sample of what a Kiwi class' timetable might look like.

	Monday - Rāhina	Tuesday- Rātū	Wednesday - Rāpa	Thursday- Rāpare	Friday - Rāmere
9.00 - 9.10	Karakia, Rārangī ingoa				
9.10 - 9.30	Writing	Reading	Writing	Writing	Assembly Week 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9
9.30 - 10.00					Free Writing
9.50- 10.00	Top Up - Kai timatima (snack)				
10.00 - 10.30	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Swimming
10.30 - 11.00					
11.00 - 11.30	Morning Tea - Kai iti				
11.30 - 12.00	Phonics	Te Ao Māori	Phonics	Reading	Maths
12.00 - 12.30	Reading		Reading		
12.30 - 1.00		Library		Kiwi Kapa Haka	Publish Poem
1.00 - 1.50	Lunch - Wā tina				
1.50 - 2.00	Rārangī ingoa / Kia tau				
2.00 - 2.10	Handwriting				
2.10 - 2.50	Inquiry	Writing	Te Reo	Physical Education	Art
2.50 - 3.00	Tidy up - Wā whakapai and Karakia Te reo - Kiwi Waita Home time - Wā kainga				

## Kiwi Team Overview Term 1

Term 1 2026									
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
Maths	Setting up Maths for Success			Statistical Investigation and Literacy		Number: Number structure and Operations			Measurement - length and mass
Inquiry	The Past is Connected to My Present We are learning how the Tangata Whenua and our families moved to New Zealand.								
Mitey Integrated	Integrated through Inquiry, Reading, Writing								
Reading	HFW recognition, letter recognition, phonics skills, comprehension strategies: predicting, visualising, making connections, summarising Ready to read phonics- Better Start Colour Wheel books.								
Writing	Writing Entertain, Persuade, Inform about ourselves, family, friends, school, Mitey								
Arts	Cubism Portrait					Print Making			
Te Ao Maori	In Te Reo we are learning counting to 10 and 20 in te reo, basic instructions, classroom items.								