



Newsletter
Week 2
Term 1 2024
Leading Our Learning - Whai Akoranga

**Let's stay
on...
Together
Respectful
Adaptable
Creative
Kind**

Wednesday 7 February 2024

Kia Ora Parents, Caregivers, and Ward School Whānau,



We are starting to get our programmes up and running, it is fantastic to see the grounds looking in such good shape. A special thanks to Carla for all her hard work! I hope you were able to enjoy the sun and great weather to celebrate Waitangi day yesterday. This weeks newsletter contains most of the same information as last week as we look to consolidate the start of our year. I look forward to catching up with many of you tomorrow night.



Welcome/ Meet the teacher evening

On Thursday 8th of February we will hold a welcome celebration/ sausage sizzle at school from 5:30 until 7:00pm (approx) this will be a chance to catch up with classroom teachers, other parents and reconnect with the school after the summer break. Teachers will hold brief meetings in their classrooms to share expectations, programmes and answer any questions you might have. Note this is not a one on one about your child, this will happen at the end of this term, it is a general chat to get an overview of the upcoming term/ year.

Rockpool 5:40pm - 6:00pm

WavePool 6:05pm - 6:25pm

Reef 6:30 - 6:50pm.

Swimming

The children have been making great use of the Swimming Pool especially on these hot summer days. Thank you to all the families who have been making sure the children have been prepared and ready to get in the pool. I am very happy to say that Mrs Sue Murray will again be helping all three classes run swim lessons starting today. We are very lucky to have Sue volunteer her time, she does a fantastic job working with our tamariki in the pool.



Team AGM

This Friday (9th February) TEAM will be holding their first meeting for 2024 which also doubles as the AGM at MJs Cafe from 12:45pm. It would be fantastic to have some new faces turn up to join this amazing TEAM. The TEAM organisation plays a huge role in supporting all Ward tamariki with help funding a wide range of activities, resources and materials that the Ministry of Education just doesn't cover. They are an integral part of making us the successful school that we are. As with all voluntary organisations they can not operate without your support. We have some long standing members who

will be leaving us shortly as their children move through and away from school so it would be great to get as much support as possible.

Reef Assembly

Our first class assembly will be held on Friday 9th of February hosted by Reef Classroom. We are looking to have a slightly different format for class assemblies this year. Assemblies will start at 2:10pm and only include sharing from the “host classroom” rather than sharing from all 3 classes. There may still be occasions for other classes to share if they have done something particularly special. If this is the case classroom teachers will notify you ahead of time. As always all are welcome to attend these assemblies. Where possible we like to hold these every second week but sometimes school events can get in the way. All assemblies will be listed on the community calendar.

Website/ Communication

This year we are moving to a new website which is now live. Have a look by following the link [Ward School](#) The new site is run by the same people who run our Skool Loop app so it will link to notices and information posted on the app easily. The home page is easy to navigate and if you scroll down you can quickly see events that are listed on the school community calendar. The Skool Loop app is our preferred method of getting out important information to you. If you haven't downloaded it already I strongly encourage you to do so. When you sign up you can choose the groups you wish to belong to like classrooms, sports etc to make sure you are getting the information that is relevant to you.

<https://skoolloop.com/en-nz/parents/>

Teachers will also use our student management system (eTap) to send a weekly email to parents. This will be a short email that might include a highlight for the week and reminders/ notification for what is coming up. If you need to contact teachers an email is our preferred method of contact

Rock Pool - nicolec@ward.school.nz

Wave Pool - mbenseman@ward.school.nz

Reef - adalziel@ward.school.nz

Principal - principal@ward.school.nz

Staff are generally available to answer emails between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. Note teachers can not respond to emails during class times. If you are emailing outside of these times we do endeavour to respond as soon as possible but it may be the next day. If matters are urgent during the school day then please phone the office (03) 57 56837 and we will get the message to the teachers. Due to Privacy reasons we will not be able to give out personal details and cell phone numbers unless the staff member chooses to do so. You are more than welcome to pop in and see us for quick questions and queries but if you are wishing to discuss any issues in a bit more detail please make an appointment for an appropriate time.

Reminders -

Just a reminder that it is important that children come to school with the correct school uniform. Purchases can be made from the [Uniform Shop](#). We do have some second hand hats \$5 and sports tops \$10 for sale (limited numbers and sizes). We will be having a big push on hats for this term. Students must have a red wide brimmed or bucket hat to play outside in terms 1 and 4. We have talked to the children about “no hat no play” Students with out hats will be asked to sit under the big tree outside Reef in the shade. We will not have spare hats available at school. In the past they have been treated poorly and left in a number of random places but more importantly the sharing of hats is not a healthy practice and can spread bugs, especially headlice. So we ask that each student provides their own named hat. Since last year we no longer have sports tops available to borrow. As above we have a few for sale but we would like each student to have their own sports top available for sporting events and outside the school activities.

Last year we had an increasing number of students bringing noodles to school for lunch and asking for staff to add the boiling water to cook them. Unfortunately due to health and safety concerns, in

particular scalding burns, staff are not permitted to provide boiling water to students. Students may bring hot water in a thermos if they wish but it may be beneficial to look at alternative lunches.



Just for Laughs! (aka Mr Sangsters Dad Joke of the week!)

What do you call a pig that knows karate?

A Pork Chop!

Ngā mihi nui,
Aaron Sangster - Principal/Tumuaki

Together



Respectful



Adaptable



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Kind



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Important Term 1 Dates

| Date | Event |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Feb 8 | Wecome Celebaration 5:30 - 7:00pm |
| Feb 9 | Reef Assembly |
| Feb 23 | Ward/Seddon Swim Sports |
| Mar 1 | Wave Pool Assembly |
| Mar 6 | Rural School Swim sports |
| Mar 15 | Rock Pool Assembly |
| Mar 18-21 | Reef Camp - Spencer Park |
| Mar 24 | Flaxbourne Show |
| Mar 29- Apr 2 | Easter |
| Apr 3 | Athletics with Seddon School |
| Apr 9-10 | Parent Interviews |
| Apr 12 | Reef Assembly - End of Term |