



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

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

Thursday 1 February 2024

Kia Ora Parents, Caregivers, and Ward School Whānau,

Welcome to 2024! I hope you all had fantastic and relaxing holidays. It has been awesome to see the children back at school today. There is always great nervous energy and anticipation for the year ahead. Teachers have been working hard over the break to get their classrooms up and running and some fantastic programmes planned. I am very excited to get in to this term and I look forward to catching up with everyone over the coming weeks.

First Day



Fantastic to see the children back in the classroom!

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 without 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.

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.

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. Details will follow when the change over is completed. 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 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 at an appropriate time to do so.



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

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A Gummy Bear

Ngā mihi nui,
Aaron Sangster - Principal/Tumuaki

Together



Respectful



Adaptable



Creative



Kind



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Important Term 1 Dates

Date	Event
Feb 1	School Starts
Feb 6	Waitangi Day
Feb 8	Wecome Celebaration 5:30 - 7:00pm
Feb 9	Reef Assembly
Feb 23	Ward/Seddon Swim Sports
Mar 1	Wave Pool Assembly
Mar 4	Ward/Seddon water fun day!
Mar 6	Rural School Swim sports
Mar 15	Rock Pool Assembly
Mar 18-21	Reef Camp - Spencer Park
Mar 24/25	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