



Taitā Central School Newsletter

Ki te kotahi kākaho, ka whati: ki te Kāpuia, e kore e whati.
When we stand alone, we are vulnerable; but together we are unbreakable.

Vision

"Te tu pakari tahi, te whakamana i nga ākonga katoa."
Standing strong together – enhancing the mana of all learners



Ako tahi Tātou, Tipu tahi Tātou
Together we Learn, Together we Grow

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Bula Vinaka, Malo e lelei, Malo ni, Fakatalofa atu,
Namaste, Mingalaba, Kumusta, Marhaba, Sawatdee, Xin chào, Choum, Reap, Sour,
Assalamu alaikum, Hello, Greetings!

16 October 2025

16 Oketopa 2025

Principal: principal@taitacentral.school.nz

Number 16

Tekau ma ono

Term 4: Week 1

Wāhanga 4: Wiki 1

Office: admin@taitacentral.school.nz

Website: <https://www.taitacentral.school.nz/home>

Coming Events:

Mon 20th Oct – Niue Language Week

Mon 20th Oct – Board of Trustees meeting

Thur 23rd Oct – NZEI Strike Day – **School Closed**

Fri 24th Oct - Diwali Celebration Day

Mon 27th Oct – Labour Day Holiday – School Closed

Mon 27th Oct – Tokelau Language Week

Thu 30th Oct - Ki o Rahi Tournament – Year 5-6

Mon 3rd Nov – Swimming starts

Thu 6th Nov – Royal New Zealand Ballet (RNZB)

Tue 11th Nov – Children's University Graduation

To Action:

Important Dates to remember...

Thur 23rd October – NZEI Strike Day – School closed

Absence TXT Line: 022 351 2655 - Text child's first & last name, Ako/class, absence reason, sender's name

Kia ora e te whānau

Nau mai, hoki mai, Talofa Lava, Mālō e lelei, Bula Vinaka, Welcome back to the new term. We hope that everyone had a good break and spent quality time with whānau and friends.

We hope that you have had a chance to recharge and get ready for another busy, fun-filled term ahead. We have many exciting learning experiences and opportunities planned for our ākonga/students this term.

As we focus on the learning needs of tamariki, we encourage parents/whanau to be actively involved in their learning and strengthen the home/school communication. We are looking forward to some good weather as the term progresses so we can all get outside in the fresh air.

Attendance, Engagement, Achievement

Attendance is a shared responsibility Today's learners are tomorrow's leaders. Attendance is the first step to learning.

School is important for your tamariki/children to grow...you can support your tamaiti/child by helping them to...

- **Attend** – coming to school each day is a habit that tamariki and their families, whānau and aiga need to commit to.
- **Engage - developing a mindset for learning** - engaging in class and school learning experiences and activities and **developing social skills** - making and keeping friends, sharing and taking turns, and listening and respecting the ideas of others
- **Achieve** – tamariki/children are naturally curious, and learning is cyclical, it builds on the previous learning, Our tamariki/children who come to school each day and engage with their learning will have better achievement outcomes.

Our school-wide attendance data shows that we had a lower Regular Term 3 attendance = 49%, when compared to Term 2 = 52% and Term 1 = 63%. There was an improvement in our number of Chronically Absent ākonga/students in Term 3 = 15 (13%) when compared with Term 2 = 19 (17%), however it was still higher than Term 1 = 11 (10%).

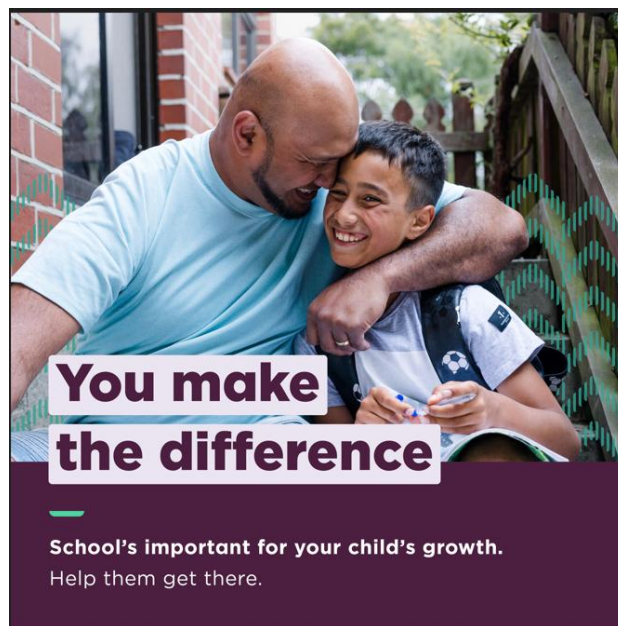
Term 3	Regularly attending	Irregular attendance	Moderately absent	Chronically absent
Number of students	57	24	20	15
Percentage	49%	21%	17%	13%

When we break down the ākonga/students who are Chronically absent we see that they are spread across all our year levels.

The Year level with the highest number of ākonga who are chronically absent in Term 3 is Year 1 with 27% of students at school less than 70% of the time.

These ākonga/students are often reliant on their parents, whānau, aiga to bring them to school. Which we believe has the biggest impact on the attendance of these ākonga/students.

If your child does not arrive at school Erin will send out a text to you, we do this when we have not received a call or text from parents or caregivers that their child will be absent from school. We send the text to make sure your child is safe and that you and we know where they are.



Parking safely during morning drop off and afternoon pick up

Yellow painted lines mean – No parking at all times!

Blue painted lines mean - No parking between 8.30am - 9am and 2.45pm - 3.15pm. This is so that our Road patrollers can see clearly up and down the road.

Also please do not park across private driveways – we have been approached by someone who cannot exit their driveway after school on Churton Crescent because parents have parked their cars across their driveway.



Term 4 Sun Safety – Please send you tamaiti/child to school with a named sun hat

As a sun smart school, we aim to keep everyone safe from the sun, by wearing a sun hat when we are outside at playtimes, lunchtimes and sports times. **No hat – no play in the sun.**

All children are required to wear sunhats at school during Term 4. Please make sure that all children bring named hats to wear at school to help protect them from the summer sun. We do not provide sunblock in classes as some children have had reactions in the past. **Please put sunblock on your children before they leave home in the morning**



NZEI School Strike Thursday 23rd October 2025

A nationwide strike is planned for Thursday 23rd October. If this is confirmed, our school will be closed on this day. We are waiting for confirmation if the strike is taking place and expect to get this early next week. Once we have this information, we will share it with everyone.

As most of our staff are NZEI Union members, our Board of Trustees have made the decision to close our school for the day as we will not be able to maintain the required adult to student ratio to ensure that we meet the supervision and safety requirements.

Our staff understand the impact of our actions in attending this strike; however, they believe that we owe it to our ākonga and whānau to stand up for what we believe.

- **We are standing up for better conditions and support for our learners.** We employ 8 teacher aides to ensure we have a teacher aide in each of our classrooms, so that we can provide additional support to ākonga/students at Taitā Central School, however the majority of these teacher aides are financed by our school Board of Trustees rather than the Government and Ministry of Education.
- **Uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi** – we believe it is essential to protect te reo Māori as a taonga for our tamariki by reinstating funding for te reo Māori learning for education professionals.
- **Our learners deserve better** – we agree that the government mandated changes are fast, however we are keeping up with the changes to the English and Mathematics Curriculum. What we are struggling with are all the unknowns which the government have not made decisions about yet such as the new assessment and reporting practices.
- **We have skilled people in front of our ākonga**... our teachers/Kaiako and teacher aides / Kaimahi need to be able to focus on their core role of supporting your child's learning.
- **Defend quality early childhood education** - Make early childhood education accessible, affordable, culturally appropriate and high quality for all tamariki, by retaining 100% qualified teachers and pay parity, and by improving teacher: child ratios.

We are frustrated at being told things by the media rather than hearing about changes from the Ministry and Government. We need to be listened to - we are the professionals.



Term 4 Diwali celebration Day – Friday 24th October

During our Diwali celebration day our classes and teachers will work with Mrs Chawla during one of the learning blocks to make or create some of the following: painting pots, rangoli patterns, henna patterns on hands, making some simple sweets, making paper lanterns.

Parents, caregivers, please let us know if your child is not allowed to have Henna patterns put onto their hands – this may be due to an allergic reaction in the past or for personal reasons.

SCHOOL NEWS

New Enrolments – Nau mai, haere mai ki to kura o Ngā Hau e Whā, ngā mihi maioha - A warm welcome to our Taita Central School community: Welcome to Taita Central School. Keanu & Zayne Ako 4.

	P	Perseverance / <i>Whakapau Kaha / Onosa'i</i> - give it a go and keep trying, even when it gets hard.
	O	Outstanding / <i>Kei runga noa atu! / Matua <u>silisili</u> ona lelei</i> - always being the best that you can be.
	W	Whakawhanaungatanga / <i>Te toa takitini / So'otaga</i> - we come together as one.
	E	Empathy / <i>Aroha - Ngākau aroha / Lagona Alofa</i> - trying to understand how others feel.
	R	Respect / <i>Kiritau - Whakamana -Whakaute / Fa'aaloalo</i> - treating others how you would like to be treated.

POWER Values - Our value focus for Week 1 & 2 across the school was **Perseverance / Whakapau Kaha / Onosa'i** – give it a go and keep trying, even when it gets hard.

The New Zealand Falcon (Karearea) is our mascot for our values.

Term 3 Week 10

Friday Assembly. Ngā mihi to Pohutukawa Block and our hosts Izzy, Nia-Grace, Sitina, Katniss and Faith. Visuals Faaeteete and Toby.

Congratulations to our Ako Award Winners:

Ako 1: Xavier & Haare

Ako 3: Malia-Rosa & Neerev

Ako 4: Nadia, Arieta, Laukau & Tulikimoana

Ako 7: Prezz & Eduard

Ako Waru: Ata, Layan & Aaru

Akomanga Māori: Tia & Pohutukawa Akomanga Māori tamariki

Congratulations to our Principal Award Winners:

Ako 1: Panapa - for showing us your awesome PE skills at the KPMG Sports Day and helping us win two games of Floorball. Tino pai rawa atu! I am so proud of you!

Ako 3: Ellie for working confidently and trying everything. It is so lovely to see your positivity.

Ako 4: Tia for giving things a go and showing perseverance during the KPMG Sports Day.

Ako 7: Jacob for putting in extra hard work for Te wiki o te Reo Maori week, and completing your tasks. Well done for taking charge of your own learning, and showing the POWER values. Tino pai!

Ako Waru: Londoni for your positive attitude, always giving things a go and encouraging those around you to make better choices. We appreciate all your hard mahi and your care for others including all the adults, always checking in and making sure we are okay.

Ako Iwa: Victoria for being a positive role model in our akomanga, supporting those around you and being an awesome friend.

Special Nomination: Sitina (A8) for stepping up and showing the POWER values at our tuakana/teina session. You showed positive leadership and whakawhānaungatanga towards your 3 teina that you were working with and encouraging them with their mahi. Ka mau te wehi, keep up the good mahi Sitina.

Congratulations to our 4 Road Patrol Winners:

Cren (A7) Nyla (A7) Noah (A9) Tyson (A8)

Congratulations to our KPMG Sports Day Shining Stars:

Leon (A4) Alex (A4) Galo (A1) Panapa (A1) Mirai (A1) Sia (A3) Lorenzo (A3) Iriana (A3) Suntroyden (A3) Niko (A3) Finn (A3) Carlos (A7) Ata (A8) Irene (A8) Londoni (A8)

Congratulations to our netball teams:

Pulse: Emma, Irene, Ata, Aaru, Bella, Kristina, Eliana, Tepaula & Faith

Ferns: Nesta, Warren, Sitina, Izzy, Evatyn, Faaeteete, Emperor, Londoni & Nia-Grace



Mural Project

This term we have a group of 15 Year 4, 5 & 6 ākonga/students working with local artist Amy Burrell for 6 weeks to create a new mural which when finished will be placed on the end of the whareroa/hall facing Churton Crescent.

Our Design Brief: *Our goal is for this group to create a large scale piece of art for their school grounds to welcome their community and celebrate who they are as a school. This work will be carried out alongside a group of students who will be driving the research and concept development. Our aim is to create an impressive, collaborative mural that is unique to Taitā Central School*

*Amy's aim is to create... **Art that connects with your audience, tells your story or transforms your space.***

<https://amyburrell.com/>

Amy is a local artist who has completed art works for schools - Amy has been working with schools throughout the Hutt Valley creating artwork to brighten up their grounds. Local history, Maori legends, wildlife, important people, cultural traditions and designs are some of the themes featured in these works.

Art can transform your space to connect with your community, make them feel welcome, excited, safe or that they are in the right place. With 18 years experience as an illustrator and designer Amy has started working with our local Hutt Valley community on large scale murals in both interior and exterior spaces.

Term 4 Topic – Wai / Water

Our Term 4 topic from our Taitā Central School Local Curriculum which is based on the 4 elements is Wai / Water.



Tangaroa

Ko ahau te awa, ko te awa ko ahau (I am the river, the river is me) - looking at our independence with and connection to wai.

Whakatauki

Ko te wai te ora o ngā mea kātoa - Water is the life giver of all things

Value: - Kaitiakitanga - Kaitiakitanga invites people to form and maintain relationships with the environment in which they live. Iwi and hapū are restoring their environment and culture and using traditional ideas about kaitiakitanga in the modern world.

Te Reo Māori Phrase of the Week.

To increase the use of Te Reo Māori at Taitā Central School we are continuing our Te Reo Māori phrase of the week. All our Kaiako/teachers and Kaiawhina/Support staff are trying to make sure we use this phrase throughout the week. You may hear your tamariki using these phrases at home.

The phrase we have been using in Weeks 9 & 10 was... *Tangohia tō pōtae* / Take off your hat *and Whakamaua tō pōtae* / Put on your hat.

START OF 2026 DATE

Our start date for 2026 is Wednesday 4 February. We will have staff only days on the days before this.

Lucky Book Club

All children have been given the brochure for Scholastics Lucky Book Club Issue 7 . If you wish to order please do so by putting completed order form & money in an envelope and hand it in to the school office. **LAST DAY FOR ORDERS IS TOMORROW FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER BY 9AM.**

Community News

New Zealand Measles outbreak I Information for Parents

Get ready NOW - be prepared before Measles arrives in our communities.

The recent measles cases in Auckland / Northland is a reminder of how easily measles can enter New Zealand and disrupt school communities.

Why are we concerned about measles?

Measles is a very serious illness and it spreads much faster than COVID-19.

Immunisation, with two doses of the measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, is the best way to prevent measles within the community. Immunisation is free for tamariki aged under 18 years old regardless of their visa or citizenship status is) and adults who were born on or after 1 January 1969.

Two doses of MMR protects almost everyone who gets vaccinated.

If there is a measles case at our school, pupils, and staff not protected from measles will need to stay away from school until the measles risk has passed.

- www.immunise.health.nz/about-vaccines/nz-immunisations/measles-mumps-and-rubella-mmr-vaccine/

- Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 if you have symptoms and need advice

Whakatauki

E rere kau mai te Awa nui mai i te Kāhui Maunga ki Tangaroa

The great River flows from the mountains to the sea

Ngā mihi maioha - warm greetings

Whaea Shell / Michelle Picard and Taitā Central School Staff

Tel: 5677214

Taitā Central School – Te Kura O Nga Hau E Wha

Ako tahi Tātou, Tipu tahi Tātou – Together we Learn, Together we Grow

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Measles – what you can do NOW

Get ready NOW - be prepared before Measles is in our communities

Ensuring your tamariki are immunised against measles will prevent them getting sick and will help to ensure they don't miss learning opportunities; and for older rangatahi ensure they don't miss arts and sports tournaments, NECA school exams, the school ball, or other important activities later in the year.

Why are we so worried about measles?

Measles is a very serious illness and it spreads much faster than COVID-19.

What is measles?

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness spread through the air by sneezing and coughing. **Measles can be serious with one** in three people developing ear infections, pneumonia, or diarrhoea. Severe cases may require hospitalisation.

It usually takes about 10 days from contact with the measles virus to become unwell. The first signs are a high fever and runny nose, cough, and red eyes. About four to five days later the rash starts on the neck and face and then spreads over the body in the next days. People are infectious from four days before the rash develops to four days after.



Protect your tamariki and whānau

The best prevention against measles is to ensure everyone in your family (born on or after 1969¹) has had two MMR vaccinations.

To check whether you have been vaccinated, contact your doctor, nurse, or healthcare provider. If you're unable to find out if you have been vaccinated, it's recommended you get vaccinated as soon as possible. There's no risk in getting extra MMR doses – it's important to know you've had two doses.

¹ People born before 1 January 1969 are considered immune to measles as they grew up when measles occurred frequently in the community.

Vaccines are **free** for

- tamariki under 18 years old (it does not matter what their visa or citizenship status is) and
- Adults who were born on or after 1 January 1969.

What is considered 'fully vaccinated' for tamariki?

Age	Immunity
0 to <12 months of age	Not immune – not yet vaccinated
12 months to 15 months	One documented dose of MMR = fully immunised for age
Over 15 months	Two documented doses of MMR = fully immunised for age

What about adults?

Adults are considered protected if they have had doctor diagnosed measles or two doses of a measles vaccine (MMR) after 12 months of age. Measles immunisation has occurred at different ages since introduced in NZ in 1969. The following table will assist adults to determine if they are protected.

What year were you born?	Are you protected?	Recommended action
Adult born before 1 January 1969 in NZ	Yes, you are assumed to be protected as measles was common in NZ at this time.	No action required
Adult born between 1969 and 1980 (inclusive) in NZ	Probably not – as only 1 dose of measles vaccine was offered at 10 months of age. The vaccine is less effective if given before 12 months of age.	Get a second MMR vaccine
Born between 1981 to 1990 in NZ	You are protected if you had 2 measles vaccines.	Check if you have had 2 measles vaccines. If in doubt get a second MMR vaccine.
Born between 1991 - 1996 in NZ	People born 1991 to 1996 may not have had a second measles vaccine. This was when the second measles vaccine (MMR) was changed from 11 years to 4 years. Children aged 5 to 10 years at this time were offered catch up MMR vaccine through schools but uptake and coverage was not high.	Check if you have had 2 measles vaccines. If in doubt get a second MMR vaccine.
Born in NZ from 1997	You are protected if you have had 2 measles vaccines – previously given at 12-15 months of age and the other at 4 years. From October 2020 the first dose of MMR is at 12 months and the second at 15 months.	Check if you have had 2 measles vaccines. If in doubt get a second MMR vaccine.

Further information:

- www.immunise.health.nz/about-vaccines/nz-immunisations/measles-mumps-and-rubella-mmr-vaccine/
- Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 if you have symptoms and need advice