



TE PAINA SCHOOL

Opening Minds to Tomorrow's World

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 1 - 2026

Friday 6 February
Waitangi Day Holiday

Monday 9 February
St John's First Aid Lessons

Friday 13 February
School Assembly
Tuatahi hosting

Monday 16 February
Year 7-8 Technology

Tues 24 and Wed 25
February
Whaanau Learning
Journey Meetings

Wednesday 4 March
Junior Swimming Sports
Paparimu School

Weds 25 and Thur 26 Feb
Franklin Ripa Rugby

Thursday 2 April
Market Day
11am to 1pm
Last day - School ends
1pm

Monday 20 April
Term 2 Begins

Mon 20 - Wed 22 April
Year 4-8 Camp
Chosen Valley Ararimu

Monday 27 April
ANZAC Day holiday

Tuesday 28 April
MOE Curriculum Day
School Closed

Tue 12 - Thu 14 May
Franklin Football Days

Friday 15 May
Pink Shirt Day

Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Malo e lelei, Talofa Lava, Namaste and warm New Year greetings to all of our Te Paina whaanau. We are so excited to be back at school this week. It has been awesome to have the heartbeat of our kura back onsite this week - Our tamariki and our community!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It was a beautiful first day here at Te Paina on Monday as we welcomed a large group of new enrolments to our kura, as well as two new support staff. Our Mihi Whakatau was a beautiful way to welcome our new school whaanau to embrace our values of Manaakitanga, Atawhai, Ngaakau and Ako. What a wonderful celebration having new families at our school. A special thank you to Whaea Cecilia Heta for supporting our kura and the tautoko you provide to manaaki our aakonga.

Last year I received resignations from Whaea Nicky and Matua Cade. They have played a huge part in our school and we know they will be missed. A huge thank you to them both for all your aroha and manaakitanga for our Te Paina whaanau and community. We wish them all the best as they start the next part of their journey.

This year we welcome two new Inclusive Teacher Aides - Melvyn (Mel) Marsters and Sariyah Paitai. We are looking forward to having their energy in the school as well as seeing them building strong relationships with our aakonga. Both Mel and Sariyah are looking forward to being a part of the Te Paina School community. Please say hello to them when you see them around.

Matua Liam McGrath has also decided to step away from the position of caretaker as his work continues to grow and the demand is becoming more difficult. We are so grateful for the mahi and support Matua Liam has given the school for so many years. Thank you Liam and your family for all the help you have given especially in the background where people do not see. We wish you all the best for your journey and no doubt we will continue to see you around the Mercer community.

Staffing for 2026:

Tuatahi - Year 0-1 - Bonnie Holmes

Tuarua - Year 2-4 - Shirley Ruhe and Jan Tumata

Tuatoru - Year 4-6 - Sarah Burt

Harakeke - Year 7-8 - Haley Christopher

Inclusive Teacher Aides - Melvyn Marsters and Sariyah Paitai

Office Admin - Anne Farmer

Deputy Principal - Haley Christopher

Principal - Adam Tamariki



Hats On for Summer! Water bottles to be refilled as well!

With the warmer weather returning, it's time for *sunhats every day*. As part of our SunSmart policy, all students must wear a wide-brimmed or bucket hat when outside during Term 1. Please ensure your child's hat is clearly named and kept at school or brought in daily. Let's keep everyone safe under the sun! Please remember to send your child to school with water bottles so they can refill them throughout the day.



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Let's come to school every day! 100% Attendance is the goal!

As you know one of our biggest school initiatives this year is making sure every child comes to school every single day! We love having our tamariki at school and we all know learning and engagement is so much stronger when our tamariki are in the classroom with their teachers learning as much as they can!

We don't want this to be a forceful message! We want to encourage you as whaanau to see the importance of getting your child to school every day. The more days they have away, the more this impacts their learning in the long run. We make the learning environment as fun and engaging as possible, so all you need to do is trust us and bring your kids to school! Leave the rest to us!

Every school is required to have an Attendance Management Plan which can be found on our school website under the information tab. Here's some of the incentives we'll bring to encourage children to come to school:

100% ATTENDANCE INITIATIVE

- Students attending school 100% will be tracked each week, and for each week a student is present their name will be entered into a draw. Every 5 weeks in assembly, 5 students' names will be drawn, and they will be taken out to lunch with the Principal.
- Attendance certificates will also be issued twice a term for students who have maintained 100% attendance during that half of the term e.g. Weeks 1-5 and 6-10. These will be given out during assembly.

Have a look at these numbers - they tell a story and can have a massive impact on learning and achievement.

90% ATTENDANCE AVERAGE 4 DAYS ABSENT A TERM (19 DAYS A YEAR)
80% ATTENDANCE AVERAGE 9 DAYS A TERM (39 DAYS A YEAR) 2 WEEKS AWAY A TERM
70% ATTENDANCE AVERAGE 14 DAYS ABSENT A TERM (59 DAYS A YEAR) 3 WEEKS AWAY A TERM
60% ATTENDANCE AVERAGE 19 DAYS ABSENT A TERM (77 DAYS A YEAR) - 4 WEEKS AWAY A TERM)

We also have a number of supports in place to ensure your tamariki have everything they need when they are at school:

- *Free Ministry Lunches for every child, every day!*
- *Fruit in Schools programme for morning tea and snacks every day from Week 2 each term*
- *Kids Can provide free school shoes and warm jackets in the winter months*
- *We have access to the Kia Ora Ake programme who provide services to all whaanau through the Pasefika Health service. Referrals can be made through our SENCo*
- *Social Worker in Schools once a week who can help with social skills and leadership development for our tamariki*

Attendance: Every Day Matters:

Being at school every single day is essential for tamariki to succeed in their learning. Consistent attendance helps children build strong learning habits, stay on track with their learning and develop important social skills. Missing even 1-2 days can have a significant impact on learning and cause your child to fall behind in their achievement.



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150 YEARS

CELEBRATION

Mercer/ Te Paina School - Term 3, Week 10

Please save these dates in your calendar as we are excited to be celebrating 150 years on the **24th and 25th of September 2026**.

We will start planning for this shortly, however our classes have already started directing their learning towards this amazing milestone! Now is the time to start reaching out to some of those older community members who may have had a connection with the school over the last few years. Spread the word and more information will be shared as we start to shape up the celebrations.

Start of year Learning Meetings/ Meet the Teacher sessions - Week 4

These meetings will take place on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th February from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Bookings will be open on Skool Loop. Each session will be 15 minutes long.

Tuatoru's meetings will take place at a later date in the term - Thanks for your support.

If you have any questions in the meantime please feel free to talk to your child's teacher.

Year 4-8 Camp - Monday 20 April to Wednesday 22 April - Chosen Valley Ararimu

We have managed to place a booking for our students in Tuatoru and Harakeke classes to attend camp this year! We have applied for some funding and look to do some fundraising to help bring the costs down.

The cost will be **\$75 per student. Normal cost would be \$180**. This works out to be less than \$10 per week if you were spreading the cost before the start of camp.


Are you connected to anyone who could potentially help us with funding or donations towards this camp? We'd love to hear from you.


Watch this space - More information to come! Place the dates in your calendar!

TK Guitar Works lessons - Tuesdays with Sharne


If your child is interested in having guitar lessons, Sharne from TK Guitar Works is awesome and has been providing lessons for our kids for a reasonable cost. Please check out Sharne's website <https://tkguitarworks.com/> for more information. Lessons are on Tuesdays at school.


Important Information


 **School Hours:** School starts promptly at 8:30am and finishes at 2:30pm. Our full school day can be found on our school website.

 **Absences:** Please notify the office or fill in the absence form on Skool Loop or on the school website before 9am if your child is unwell.

School Communication

 **Website:** <https://www.tepaina.school.nz/> - Check for term dates, policies, and notices.

 **School App:** Download Skool Loop for updates, notices, and emergency alerts.

 **Email Updates:** Ensure your contact details are up to date. Contact office@tepaina.school.nz to update your information.

 **Social Media:** Follow us on Facebook for updates.

We're looking forward to a great year. Please reach out if you have any questions or feel free to pop in for a visit.

Ngaa manaakitanga,
Adam and the Te Paina team.

A huge thank you to our funders who helped make it possible for us to purchase our new school van!

Thank you to

Pub Charity Limited

Grassroots Trust

The Trusts Community Foundation

and our Te Paina Community for your support.



School Office Hours

The school office is open Mon, Tues and Weds only from 8am - 1pm.

EFTPOS

We ask our families to pay by EFTPOS when purchasing or paying for stationery.
Please avoid cash if possible.

TE PAINA SCHOOL BANK DETAILS

12 3078 0137975 00

Please use your family name and say what the payment is for.

For example:

Code: Smith

Reference: Stationery