

Kia ora e te whānau

What a gorgeous day to start Term 2! We hope you enjoyed some special whānau time over the school holidays.

It's so lovely to see our ākonga and whānau and to welcome new whānau to our school community. We also welcome Anna O Dea to the Tawhai teaching team. Anna will be teaching in Room 4 while Hannah Bui is on maternity leave.

Sickness guidance from the MOE

You may have seen the media releases regarding attendance and helping parents decide whether your child is too sick to attend school. Please see the information below and click on the link.

“Going to school every day is important for all school aged tamariki (children). It helps build their confidence and social skills, and to achieve their education and life ambitions. This information helps you decide when it is okay to send your child to school, when you should keep your child at home and when you should contact a health professional for advice.”

[Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school](#)

Important Reminder

School arrival times: Children are unable to be supervised until 8:30 am - the ideal time for your child to arrive at school is between 8:30 and 8:45am. We have Kelly Club on site if you need your child to be at school at an earlier time.

Changing Seasons

Please ensure that your child has a spare change of clothing in their school bags. We are heading into the cooler, wetter months and it is always helpful to have some spare clothes available.

Introducing Olly (photo attached)

We would like to introduce Olly. Olly is Kelly's gorgeous black labrador retriever. He is certified trained St John's therapy dog. The Board has approved for Olly to come to school one day a week for a trial period. Olly will be in the office with Kelly at all times and available for a pat and a cuddle when needed.

As a certified therapy dog, Olly will also visit the patients at the Lower Hutt hospital and have various other community connections.

If you have any questions about Olly, feel free to come and see Kelly in her office.

Phones free for the day

Our phones free for the day policy is now in place.

Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

At Tawhai School, our approach to cellphones and other personal digital devices supports student engagement and achievement. Personal digital devices include cell phones, which we manage according to government regulations, and other devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartwatches. Devices that are part of a school-approved [Bring Your Own Device \(BYOD\)](#) programme have separate conditions for use.

Tawhai School does not recommend that students bring personal digital devices to school.

To comply with government regulations, we ensure students do not use cellphones during school hours, including break times. Parents/Caregivers can request an exemption from the school if required. We allow exemptions for students to use cellphones if they are required for:

- a specific educational purpose approved by a teacher
- health needs (e.g. to monitor insulin levels)
- disability or learning support needs
- a special circumstance approved by the principal.

If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child during school hours, they should call the office.

Students should not use smartwatches for communication during school hours.

Rules about cellphones and other personal digital devices made by the board are a [school bylaw](#). The board consults with the school community when making or amending bylaws. We discuss school rules about personal digital devices at the beginning of the year, and throughout the year as needed.

Device requirements at school

The school promotes safe and responsible use of digital technology. Students are required to comply with our digital technology policies and procedures if devices are brought to school. See [Digital Technology and Online Safety](#).

If personal digital devices (including cell phones) are brought to school, the following requirements apply:

1. Students must turn their devices off and keep them out of sight during school hours.
2. Students are not allowed to take devices on EOTC events.

Inappropriate use

Inappropriate use of a personal digital device may include:

- using a device when not allowed
- any sort of bullying, including [online bullying](#)
- sending or sharing inappropriate content
- taking photos or videos of other people without their permission.

Inappropriate use of a personal digital device is managed according to the relevant school policy or procedure:

- [Behaviour Management](#)
- [Responding to Digital Incidents](#)
- [Surrender and Retention of Personal Digital Devices](#)

If a student uses a personal digital device inappropriately (including using a cellphone when it is not allowed) the student must hand it to a staff member immediately when asked. If possible, students should lock their device before handing it to staff. The device will be kept in the office and can be collected by the student at the end of the day.

What's Coming Up?

- Wednesday 1 May: PTSG hui
- Monday 6 May: Whānau Hui 6pm Room 1
- Tuesday 7 May: Mihi whakatau for new whānau to Tawhai School 9am
- Friday 17 May: Pink Shirt day
- Monday 3 June: King's Birthday
- Tuesday 4 June: Teacher Only Day
- Friday 5 July: end of Term 2

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Poole