

Adventure Newsletter

Term 1 2026

Welcome back to Term 1 2026!

Kia ora whaanau! I am super excited to be bringing in 2026 with a fantastic group of Year 4/5 students. It is a short 9 week term, but is action packed with lots of learning, and swimming, and other activities that pop up throughout the term. Hope you all have had a restful break and are ready for another year of growth. Ngaa mihi, Sophie Marshall

What's Happening This Term

Kaupapa (Topic): The focus we are diving into this term is the rocky shore and estuaries. From resilient creatures in rocky tide pools to our estuaries, we'll discover how life thrives where the land meets the sea.

Maths - Prime books - Ordering, reading, writing numbers up to 1000,000. Addition and Subtraction with and without carrying a 10. Multiplication of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10s where we will be working hard on our skip counting.

Writing - Writing to Entertain: recounting personal experiences with a focus on how to paragraph
Writing to Inform: Report writing based on our terms topic of the rocky shore

Reading - Reading has a focus on reading mileage and fluency, which supports the comprehension (understanding) and retelling of the text read.

EPRO8 - We have EPRO8 this term, a science and engineering challenge. There is an opportunity for Year 5 & 6's to attend an interschool event in Term 2.

This terms line up....

Waitangi Day - 6th Feb
Student Councillor Speeches
(Year 5) - 20th Feb
Meet the Teacher afternoon -
23rd Feb (2.45-3.45)
Swimming Sports - TBC
Interschool Swimming - 4th
March (Postponement 5th
March)
End of term - 2nd April
Good Friday - 3rd April

PE - Term 1

Swimming

This is a teaching session and all children are required to participate regardless of their skill level, as this is part of the New Zealand Health and PE curriculum.

In Year 4/5 our main focus is developing key skills. These skills are kicking, arms technique and breath work when swimming freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke.

If your child is unable to swim because of any health issues they need a note explaining this. Please message me on Seesaw.

The children need to bring their swimming gear in a bag.

Goggles are a great piece of equipment to bring each day, this allows your child to focus on technique and see clearly where they are in the pool. Please make sure your child's goggles are named. We have some class ones to borrow if needed.

Morning and After School notices

Please don't drop your child off before 8am, for the health and safety of your child. The classroom will be open from 8am onwards. At 2.30pm the school day is complete and ready for you to collect your wonderful child/ren.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent please ring the office, fill in the form on the school website, or notify me on Seesaw before 9.30am. We care about our children and like to know they are safe. It takes our office staff a lot of time to ring around locate children who are absent.

Attendance & Punctuality

Your ongoing support at home is vital to the success of your child's learning and their accomplishments while at school. Please ensure your child comes to school on time, refreshed and ready to learn 5 days a week. At this level, learning is built on progressively throughout the week, with concepts and skills taught and consolidated over multiple days. One of the most rewarding parts of teaching is seeing the confidence growth in a child as they learn and realise they can learn hard stuff! Lastly, we all have bad days/morning. Don't hesitate to flick me a message if your child may need an extra check in that day or some extra words of encouragement.

Our Rural School iCare Values

Ngakau Pono: Intergirity

Eke Panuku: Challenge

Pai Tawhiti: Ambition

Manaakitanga: Respect

Awhina: Encourage

This terms rural iCare value focus is:

Eke Panuku: Challenge

This is about empowering students to stay courageous, try new things, and maintain a positive, resilient mindset.



CHALLENGE EKE PANUKU

SHOW *I have respect for others' mana*

MANAGE *Conflict & different points of view*

BE COURAGEOUS *In learning & keep trying when it's hard*

COMMUNICATE *Collaborate and be a problem solver*

APPROACH *Things with a positive mindset*

TRY *New things and give things a go*

Try new things and not/never give up



Contact

To get in contact with me these are the two best options. Seesaw message or flick me an email at: sophie@tahunaschool.school.nz

Information is also uploaded to both:

Seesaw - <https://app.seesaw.me/#/login>

School Stream - for regular updates

So please make sure you have these apps so you can keep up to date with what is happening at Tahuna School.

Ako Tahi

This year we will be beginning ako tahi books. This means learning together.

This is a great way for students to incorporate not just reading, but grow and develop their skills across all core curriculum areas.

Their ako tahi for the week will be glued in and brought home each Friday, so please remember to bring them back the following Friday.

Reminders

- **Library** - is on Friday's this year. Due to the condition some of our books are being returned in, children MUST have a book bag or a waterproof bag to bring books to and from school in. Please let me know if your child is not bringing books home and I can help them find some appropriate books for their reading level and enjoyment. Reading to them, talking with them about what they are reading and encouraging reading for sustained periods of time has many positive benefits to their learning.
- **Wheelie Wednesday** - Children can bring drift trikes, roller blades, skates, scooters etc to ride. Don't forget a helmet and shoes!
- **Summer Terms** - As per our Sunsmart Policy, potae (hats) are compulsory in Terms 1&4. These are provided by the school and will be allocated to each child for the term. Most children self manage this well with little reminders needed. Sunscreen is also required to be applied. School supplies this, but children are welcome to use/bring their own.
- **Drink bottles** are a great idea and easy way to keep hydrated both in the classroom and when outside. Being hydrated sets the brain up in the right state to learn and be able to concentrate! Please make sure drink bottles are named (so they aren't forgotten).