



Kia Ora (Maori/NZ), Hello (English), Bula (Fijian), Welkom (South African), Huān yíng (Chinese-Mandarin), Ayubowan, Vanakkam (Sri Lankan), Namaste (India), Bem-vindos (Brazil), Marhaba (Arabic), Hallo (Dutch), Choum Reap Sour (Cambodia), Geiá sou (Greek), Mbote, Jambo (Congolese), Konnichiwa (Japanese), Hola (Spanish), Annyeonghaseyo (South Korea) Israel Shalom (Hebrew), Salām (Muslim)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Tihei mauri ora, nau mai, haere mai, tena koutou katoa, E nga whanau, e nga kaiako, e nga tamariki, e nga manuhiri, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa



Kia Ora Whānau,

Thank you for all your support as a community as we near the end of the school year. Our school routines are staying tight so the children have familiarity as everyone starts to get a little tired. Your help with full lunch boxes, water bottles and good sleep means the children can continue to thrive and continue to learn in this warm weather.

Last night we hosted our annual Year 6 Leavers Supper. We have 129 Year 6 students who complete their primary schooling with us at the end of this year. Last evening's ceremony and shared food was a wonderful way to tell them all how very proud we are of their contribution to our school family, the learning they have achieved, the STAR's behaviours that were so clearly evident and to wish them all the best for their future. For their parents, caregivers and teachers this was a very proud occasion particularly for those students who were speakers, representing their classes in such an articulate and thoughtful way. Well done to all. Thank you so much to our families for providing the wonderful kai to share. Thank you to our Te Totara staff for all your efforts in setting up for the evening, the Matariki Hall looked very special and festive and your help to make everything run so smoothly on the night. You are all stars!

The next big event, scheduled for Monday evening, is our End of Year School Celebration. All details are below. We are looking forward to this fabulous annual event.

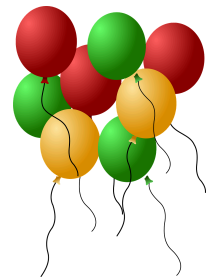
*James Murray*  
Principal

## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION - MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER

*Time: 6.00pm concert starts - students to arrive by 5.45pm in school uniform*

*Venue: Back Field*

*All whanau welcome - bring a blanket and a picnic!*



This is our annual event to celebrate another great year at Te Totara. Here is some information to help make it a special event:

- It is like a concert in a park so bring a picnic, a rug to sit on, something to eat and drink and enjoy a variety concert. You are welcome to come earlier than 5.45pm if you wish to eat with your child before the concert.
- It is a school event, so children need to be in a **clean and tidy uniform. Students must be at school by 5.45pm and meet their class at the back field.** Please leave your child with us; we will take care of them.
- **Students will need to stay through the whole event.**
- There will be very limited parking available at the school car park and none in the turning bay. It will be best to find a car park on a nearby street and walk.
- We use the hill behind Ra and Earth as outdoor stages where children perform.
- Toilets are open in the Ra and Earth blocks.

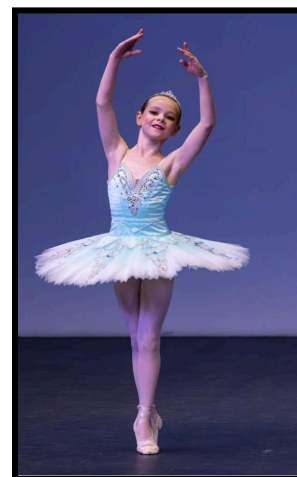


- Pre-schoolers are welcome to use the playground away from the performers so they don't distract from the performance.
- Other children not involved in the school are asked to be respectful and if they want to play, then the court area is a good place. **There are likely to be over 2500 people at the event so we strongly advise walking to the event.**
- Please **NO umbrellas** as it blocks the view of people behind. Low set chairs ONLY are advisable if needed.
- **NO dogs** are allowed on our school grounds.
- We will have a "Paparazzi" section at the front for parents/caregivers of those performing to use to get a good photo.
- **If the weather is not good, we will postpone it to Wednesday 11th December 2024, same time.**
- **Notifications will be put on the school Facebook page, school app and the website.**
- **The event is weather dependent, so may be cancelled at the last moment, but we will do our best to let everyone know as early as possible.**
- At the end of the event we will need to stagger people leaving due to Health & Safety, so please be prepared to wait a little time. Announcements will be made by our Principal to ensure everyone moves off safely.



## A SHINING TE TOTARA STAR! Lacey James

Lacey James has successfully auditioned for the New Zealand School of Dance Junior Scholars Classical programme for 2025. This is an advanced classical ballet programme for 10-year-old students in Year 6 at school. Te Totara is very proud of Lacey's huge achievement in being selected for the NZSD in Wellington. The Te Totara Whanau wish her all the best with this opportunity.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

We would like to wish our newly fully registered Kaiako a huge congratulations! You all play such an important role in our students learning journey and we are so lucky to have you as part of our Te Totara Whānau ❤️

*From Left: Candice Morgan, Daniel Turner, Brittany Moore*

## PARENT PORTAL - STUDENT LEARNING PLANS

**Available online from 2.00pm Friday 6th December, 2024**

Rather than send home a hard copy of the Learning Plan report, you can download a copy from the Parent Portal and save it to your computer. We sent an email yesterday to families which gave instructions on how to access the Parent Portal. Once you have successfully logged-in, we recommend you change your password.

**It is very important that we hold the correct email address for each parent/caregiver, feel free to contact the School Office on (07) 853-0039 if you would like to check this.**

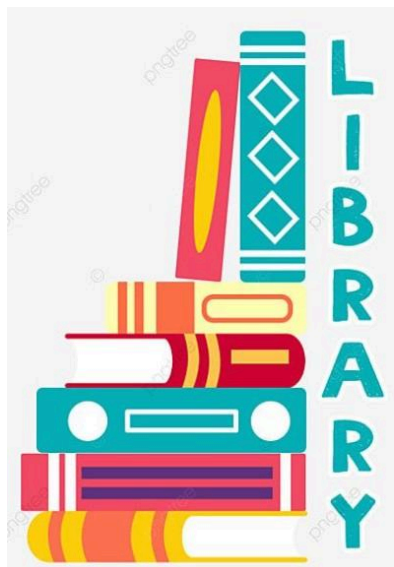
**Please note: If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the School Office on (07) 853-0039 and we will arrange for a hard-copy for your family.**

The Parent Portal is also where you will find your child/ren's class for 2025. This information will be available from Friday 13th December @ 3.00pm



## WEETBIX KIDS TRYATHLON

Good luck to all our Te Totara kids participating in the Weetbix Kids Tryathlon this Sunday 8th December at St. Peter's in Cambridge. Remember to try your best and wear your blue tryathlon t-shirt and medal to school on MONDAY!



## MESSAGE FROM THE TE TOTARA LIBRARY

### All Library Books Due Back Now Please

All library books should be returned this week as we are doing our stocktake. Could you please have a good look for any library books around the house, no students should have any books at home.

### End-of-Year Borrowing

We are open for end-of-year borrowing from **next week** and there are two ways to do this:

1. The library is open every morning from 8.15am-9am until the end of term so that parents/guardians can borrow books for their children, OR
2. Your child will be given a permission slip enabling them to borrow up to ten books over the holidays. This should be returned to their classroom teacher.

To borrow books students **must be returning to the school next year** and have no outstanding invoices or overdue library books. All books are due back by Friday 7 February (the end of the second week back at school).

### Hamilton Libraries

Hamilton Libraries is running its free Summer Reading Programme over the holidays. There are a number of events our students have been interested in. [Have a look here](#) to find out more about the programme and [here to see all the events](#) (you need to register for some of them).

## STUDENTS LEAVING TE TOTARA AT THE END OF 2024 (other than Year 6 students)

If you have not already notified us and are planning to leave our school at the end of 2024, it would be appreciated if you could please urgently advise us by emailing Marise Crow at: [receptionist@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:receptionist@tetotara.school.nz)

If you have a child coming to Te Totara in the near future, we would love to have an Enrolment Form - it would be very much appreciated and certainly help with our future planning. Enrolment Forms can be downloaded from our school website.

## WHOOPING COUGH (Pertussis) AWARENESS & PREVENTION

A pertussis epidemic was declared across Aotearoa New Zealand on 22 November, 2025. Click the link below for more information:

[Whooping cough epidemic declared across Aotearoa New Zealand – Health New Zealand](#)

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora

Pertussis (also known as whooping cough) can be particularly severe, and sometimes fatal, for babies many of whom require hospital care.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is encouraging those who are pregnant or have regular contact with young babies or preschool children to check they are up to date with pertussis vaccinations. Click the link below for more information:

[Whooping cough \(pertussis\) vaccine – Health New Zealand](#)

## Protect against Measles

Measles is a serious and extremely contagious disease that affects adults and children.

Measles is increasing in countries that Kiwis travel to frequently, including South-East Asia, Europe and the United States.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is encouraging vaccination for people who do not have immunity to measles, particularly those who are planning to travel overseas in the school holidays.

Click the links below for more information:

[Measles Immunity – Health New Zealand](#)

[Measles, mumps and rubella \(MMR\) vaccine – Health New Zealand](#)

## Funded Meningococcal vaccines for eligible rangatahi

Meningococcal disease spreads easily in close living situations and can be fatal within hours.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is encouraging rangatahi to get a meningococcal vaccine if they are entering their first year of shared accommodation in a boarding school hostel, university halls of residence, military barracks or youth justice facility. Click the link below for more information:

[Meningococcal vaccines – Health New Zealand](#)

For more information, or help to book your vaccination, call the Vaccination Healthline free on 0800 28 29 26 (8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday) or click the link: [info.health.nz/bookavaccine](http://info.health.nz/bookavaccine)

## PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES - VIA KINDO

Invoices have recently been emailed to families via KINDO.

**A massive thank you to all our families who have already paid, we really appreciate it!**

If you have any queries regarding your invoice, please contact our Business Manager (Kylie Cocurullo) via email at: [kyliec@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:kyliec@tetotara.school.nz)



*Please note: The eldest/only child's Voluntary School Donation of \$120.00 for the whole school year has been loaded on KINDO as follows (2x \$60.00 = \$120.00)*

2024 Voluntary School Donation	\$60.00	Paid \$0.00	Outstanding \$60.00	\$ 60.00	<input type="radio"/>
2024 Voluntary School Donation (Eldest Child \$120.00 per year)	\$60.00	Paid \$0.00	Outstanding \$60.00	\$ 60.00	<input type="radio"/>

## Voluntary School Donation - what is it used for?

We want to provide our children with the full benefits of extensive resources, additional learning programmes and special opportunities that we can all be very proud of. This can only be achieved with your help and support.

Voluntary School Donation funds are used to purchase additional sports gear, reading resources, library books, music, art equipment and helps subsidise our swimming programme.

The voluntary school donations are currently set at \$120.00 for the first or only child and \$60.00 for the second and subsequent children. There has been no increase in our school donation since 2016. School donations are voluntary, but we would be highly appreciative of any payments.

This donation is tax deductible and a 1/3 can be claimed back from the IRD. The IR526 form is downloadable from the IRD website.

## Other Fees

### Mathletics or Mathseeds

Mathletics is a web-based programme that can be adapted to meet student's individual abilities. Mathletics provides instant feedback on each student's performance which helps to maintain a high level of student motivation.



We have been impressed with how engaged the students are and how quickly they start to improve their mathematical skills and mental arithmetic.

It can be beneficial in the earlier years for an adult to sit with their child while on the programme. Although this is a great way for parents to engage with their child's Maths learning, we realise that this is not always possible for busy families.

This programme has been so successful in previous years and we are excited to be able to provide you with a subscription to Mathletics for **\$20.00 per child** for a year (*usually a one-year subscription costs \$99 per child*). Subscribing to Mathletics will entitle students to 24-hour web access both at home and in school.

A User ID and Password will be distributed to your child by the classroom teacher shortly after they start at Te Totara Primary School.

## Aquatics

On our school website [www.tetotara.school.nz](http://www.tetotara.school.nz) you will find Swimming Pool information. The fees are currently \$60.00 per student per year.

The purpose of the swimming programme is to:

- Encourage students by making their learning to swim experience fun and rewarding.
- Provide a progressive curriculum which focuses on developing water confidence and then builds fundamental swimming skills to a level which confidence and competence is achieved.
- Motivate students through tangible rewards which illustrate their individual progress.
- Track all students' achievements through the National database.



We would like to thank our families for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

## STUDENT STATIONERY FOR 2025

**Order your child's stationery now and avoid the rush!**

We know getting ready for the first day back at school can be a challenge for parents and kids. That's why we've teamed up with OfficeMax to make your back to school shop super easy.

**If you order in December 2024, you'll go in the draw to WIN 1 of 5x \$1000 cash prizes \***

**You can choose to receive your order straight away or in January.**

*\* Terms & Conditions apply, see [myschool.co.nz](http://myschool.co.nz) for details.*



You'll find your child's school stationery list **online by visiting:** [www.myschool.co.nz/tetotara](http://www.myschool.co.nz/tetotara)

**Simply select your child's year level in 2025** and follow the instructions on the website.

**Please note: You do not need a Student ID, please leave this field blank. If you have a 5-year-old new entrant starting in Term 1, 2025 your child will be classified as a Year 1.**

**OfficeMax MySchool makes Back to School easy for you with these great benefits:**

- **Free Delivery - for orders over \$70.00 ^**

Choose delivery to your home or workplace. Receive your order during the holidays, straight to your door at a time that suits you. See [myschool.co.nz](http://myschool.co.nz) for delivery windows.

*^ T&Cs and exclusions apply, see [myschool.co.nz](http://myschool.co.nz) for details.*

- **Pay now or in easy instalments** - Internet banking, credit card, debit card or pay in 4 interest free payments over 6 weeks with Zip\* *\* Terms & Conditions apply, see [myschool.co.nz/zip](http://myschool.co.nz/zip) for more details*

- **School Rewards** —Buying through OfficeMax MySchool also earns "School Rewards" for our school which we can redeem for much needed educational supplies, equipment for our classrooms or to help those students in need.

- **Beat the back to school rush** - avoid busy shopping malls and traffic queues by shopping online from the comfort of your home so your child starts the school year with the correct stationery.

- **WINZ quotes** - available by contacting 0800 724 440 or via email [enquiry@myschool.co.nz](mailto:enquiry@myschool.co.nz)

- **Order the easy way** - online at [myschool.co.nz/tetotara](http://myschool.co.nz/tetotara) OR call the OfficeMax My School Team on Freephone 0800 724 440 from Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm.

Many of our families used this online system last year and will be familiar with the ordering process.

**If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the School Office on 07 853-0039.**

# Ordering is super easy

**Click**

Go to [myschool.co.nz](https://myschool.co.nz) to find your school list

**Tick**

Check that you want everything on the list

**Pay**

Enter your details and choose how to pay

**Pick**

Pick when you want your order delivered, before Christmas or in the new year

**and go!**

Your delivery is under way **plus you're in to win \$1,000 cash\***

Please ensure you have placed your online order no later than **Wednesday 15th January, 2025** to ensure delivery before school starts on **Thursday 30th January, 2025**.

**Please ensure your child/ren have all their school stationery items before Term 1 begins.**

### SCHOOL ASSEMBLY- MATARIKI HALL

This week's assembly will be a special Class Awards and will be held **in the Matariki Hall at 2.00pm Friday, 6th December, 2024**. Students from **Orion & Earth** will attend the assembly.

### DATES COMING UP

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Fri 6 Dec    | PTA - Iceblock Day  |
| Fri 6 Dec    | RJHS Orientation Day 9.30am - 12.00 midday<br><i>(only for students who have had their enrolment confirmed by RJHS)</i> |
| Fri 6 Dec    | End of Year Learning Plans Online through Parent Portal   |
| Sun 8 Dec    | Weetbix TRYathlon @ St Peter's School, Cambridge  |
| Mon 9 Dec    | School Celebration  |
|              | Wed 11th Dec Postponement Day School Celebration  |
| Tues 17 Dec  | <b>FINAL DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR - <u>SCHOOL FINISHES AT 3.00PM</u></b>  |
| Thurs 30 Jan | 2025 - TERM 1, BEGINS @ 8.55am  |



# ICE BLOCK DAY

**FINAL ONE FOR 2024 TOMORROW**

**Friday 6th December**

**\$2 EACH**

Lemonade flavour only

After Eating For Learning outside Matariki

For those year 6 students going to RJHS Orientation day we will still be here when you get back at 1pm

# TE TOTARA PTA NEWS

EMAIL: [pta@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:pta@tetotara.school.nz) [www.facebook.com/TTPTA](http://www.facebook.com/TTPTA)

Please 'like' our Facebook page to ensure you keep in the news loop: [www.facebook.com/TTPTA](http://www.facebook.com/TTPTA)



## ICEBLOCK DAY

Tomorrow, Friday 6th December is our last ice block day of the year and what better way for your child to end the year with a treat. **Ice blocks are \$2 each for a regular sized lemonade ice block.**

**A huge thank you to Ashlee and Lauren** who have come forward to help our PTA members Alexx and Lorinda. You four are all wonderful.

As there is a RJHS Orientation Day on Friday morning for the Year 6 students attending there next year, we will be staying on until about 1.15pm, so those that want to purchase an ice block when they return to school can. Please bring your money to us (PTA) when you arrive back at school rather than giving it to your teacher in the morning.

## ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIP

An Entertainment Membership is an easy-to-use App packed full of incredible savings of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers, so you can save on takeaways, dining, shopping, gift cards, activities and more.

With school holidays just around the corner this Entertainment Membership deal could be just the one you have been waiting for.

**When you purchase any Single City Membership between 8:00pm NZST, Tuesday 19th November and 1:59pm NZST, Thursday 5th December 2024 your Single City Membership will be upgraded to a Multi City Membership at no additional cost, and you will also receive a \$30 Bonus Woolworths eGift Card** via email within 30 days from the date of purchase.



Not only do you get a great deal on your membership but if you use the link below 20% of every membership purchased is donated back to support the Te Totara Primary School PTA <https://subscribe.entertainmentnz.com/fundraiser/15502m5>. We thank you for your continued support.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 6th December – Ice Block Day

Your PTA Committee:

*Kerry, Nate, Navreet,  
Lorinda, Garima & Alexx*



- Learn coding languages online with help from expert live tutors.
- Ages 9 to 10, 11 & 12, 13 to 15, 16+
- 1 hour online at either 4pm, 5pm or 6pm. Sessions available between Jan 6 & Feb 9 2025.

Sign up for free at [codingnz.com/freeactivity](http://codingnz.com/freeactivity)

# COMMUNITY NOTICES:

We are often asked to put Community Notices in our newsletter. Due to the large number of requests, we now have a "Community Notices" section on the notice board in the School Office, where you will find more information on the notices below. **Please note that this does not necessarily imply School endorsement of these notices**

## HAMILTON LIBRARIES

Our kid's programme is open to children aged 5-12 years and is called 'Read It! Make It! Do It!'. Kids can sign up at their local library from the 9th of December and collect their booklet which has fun activities and challenges they can complete to earn stamps and possibly win prizes. More information can be found on our website here: [Read It! Make It! Do It! Summer Fun at the Libraries!](#)

Our teen programme is open to young adults aged 13-18 years and is called 'Game On!'. Teens can sign up on the Beanstack app either at home or in the library from the 25th of November (or they can pre-register now) and track their progress digitally, unlocking achievements and badges along the way and possibly win prizes. More information can be found on our website here: [Game On! Kia Kori!](#)

We also have an adult reading programme running on Beanstack as well, if any staff or parents/caregivers may be interested. This will run similarly to the teen programme with online badges/challenges and also offers the opportunity to win prizes. More information can be found on our website here: [Read! Relax! Repeat!](#)

Both the children's and teen's programmes are focussed on reading and having fun these holidays, and the theme was chosen thanks to the help of student input from Rototuna High School - Te Kura Nui o Rototuna, Te Totara Primary School, and Whitiara School.

