



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), Geia sou (Greek), Mbote, Jambo (Congolese), Konnichiwa (Japanese), Hola (Spanish), Annyeonghaseyo (South Korea) Israel Shalom (Hebrew), Salām (Muslim)

## OUR LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2024 ★★

### TERM 1, 2025 Starts on Thursday 30th January, 2025

***This is the last newsletter of the school year and it is a bumper edition with lots of information. Any further updates will be done via our Facebook page, Website or School App.***

Kia Ora Whānau,



Wow, this term has raced by with many wonderful celebrations. It was a wonderful Year 6 Leavers Supper and I want to thank everyone involved. The children had a lovely evening with their peers. It was also a fabulous End of Year Celebration last night and it was stunning to see all our children enjoy participating in their performances. Congratulations to all our children and also to the awards winners.

The Board has approved the introduction of a Black School Cap from 2025 and beyond. This can be purchased through our School Uniform suppliers - The Brand Makers. The children will have an option of having their school bucket hat or the new black cap. This is a personal choice and it is the same price as the bucket hat. To order a school cap, click on the link: <https://dgstore.co.nz/collections/te-totara>



Thank you to the staff and community for all you've done to support my introduction to Te Totara. I have had a wonderful start and I appreciate all the work the staff and community do to make this a wonderful place of learning.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas break with your families, take time to enjoy all that summer in New Zealand offers us. Please stay safe and the staff look forward to seeing you all again on **Thursday 30th January, 2025** when the new school year begins.

## CLASS ORGANISATION FOR 2025

Orion Year 1	Room	Neptune Year 2	Room	Earth Year 3/4	Room	Milky Way Year 5/6	Room
Levi O'Hallahan	7	Sian Trask	24	Natalie Gillies	34	Niki Collins	18
Shontae Black	8	Emoné Grotius	25	* Krissy Tantrum	35	Rebecca Gardyne	19
Sarah Gill	9	Julianne Wink	26	Daniel Turner	36	*Kristy Hanks	20
Julia May	10	* Suzie Goile	27	Anna Livingstone	37	Rochelle Lingard	21

TBC	11	Tina Walter	28	Abbey Robinson	38		
*Caron Ace		Bridget McLaughlin	39				
<b>Matawhero Year 0/1</b>	<b>Room</b>			<b>Ra Year 3/4</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Marama Year 5/6</b>	<b>Room</b>
* Bridie Carr-Neil	4			Erin Stewart	29	Chantelle Lindsay	12
Ruth Crackett (when required)	5			Sarah Brister	30	Dori Villasol-Alonso	13
To start in 2025	3			Komal Kumar	31	* Renee Morgan	14
To start in 2025	2			* Kāren Langley	32	Ashleigh Campbell	15
To start in 2025	1			Jessica Grimson	33		

**\* = Team Leader**

- *Full-time Support Teachers - Jemma Shannon & Jane Moroney (LSC)*
- *Part-time Teachers - Kelly Fletcher, Deb Klein, Morgan Hunter, Nerida Laybourn, Brenda Wollen, Mary Silverton & Kobie Pretorius*

Some points around our classes:

- We do realise that this is a time of change and that this can cause anxiety, it can also be viewed as an opportunity to experience new classmates and a teacher with a wonderful range of new skills.
- We deliberately “mix up” our children so by the time they progress through the school they have been exposed to a wide range of their peer group, building valuable and important relationships within the year group cohort.
- We do find that the first transition within the school i.e. Year 1 to Year 2 can cause some concern as the children may be with others that are unknown, similarly moving to a new area of the school. This is understandable and we ask that families support the move with a positive approach.
- We do ask that if there are any issues around class placement that families support what is in place and if there are any challenges then liaise very early with the new teacher in 2025.
- If there are ongoing concerns, then please feel free to contact School Leaders after three weeks of the new school year which allows for the child to settle in and build valuable relationships.
- Any requests to change a class from now on is highly likely to be declined as a class change can create a “knock on” effect, and not give an opportunity to the child to take on the challenge of a new teacher and make the most of this new opportunity.
- To find out more about our approach to how we put our classes together, please see our website. [How we put our classes together](#)

## OTHER STAFF CHANGES FOR 2025

We are farewelling **Tracey Smith** who is moving on to new challenges. Tracey is heading to RJHS to teach English in the Year 7-10 area. Thankyou Tracey for your dedicated service to Te Totara Primary and we wish you all the best in your new venture.

We say goodbye to Jim **Baker** and thank Jim for his contribution to Te Totara this year, we wish him all the very best. I'm sure we will see Mr Baker back relieving with us in 2025.

We also farewell **Brittany Moore** as she moves back to the Early Childhood Education sector. Thankyou Brittany and all the best for 2025.

We would like to thank the following teachers for their wonderful work in fixed-term positions for the 2024 school year:

### **Candice Morgan, Caitlin Gardiner and Jodie Hansen**

We are very grateful to these teachers for all that you have done for our school community. We hope to see you all again soon within our staff, guest teacher or wider school family or as a visitor to our school.

We welcome new teachers **Sian Trask** and **Abbey Robinson**, and also welcome back **Levi O'Hallahan**, into Te Totara School in 2025. We are excited to be working with Sian, Abbey and Levi and know they will enjoy getting to know our staff and students at the beginning of next year.

*James Murray*  
Principal

## STUDENT CLASSES FOR 2025

**LIVE ON PARENT PORTAL ON FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER, 2024 @ 3.00PM**

To find out what room your child is placed in next year:

Log onto your @school Parent Portal [www.atschool.co.nz](http://www.atschool.co.nz)

Enter your user ID and Password (these were emailed to you on last week, please check your spam/trash folder if you have not received this)

· **Go to My Child, Other Details, Under Groups and you will see "Class for Next Year"**

**A REMINDER.... Please check the Parent Portal to ensure we have all the correct details on file for your child/ren including mobile numbers, home and email address. If there is a change to make, please contact the School Office on 07 853-0039.**

**Note: Students will meet their new 2025 classroom teacher on Monday 16th December between 1.30pm - 2.00pm. New students to Te Totara in 2025 are most welcome to attend as well.**

## LEARNING PLANS ONLINE NOW VIA THE PARENT PORTAL

A Learning Plan for each student was uploaded to the online Parent Portal on Friday last week. **However, if your child started at school in Term 4 (or late in Term 3) you will not receive a Learning Plan yet. [Please check your junk/spam folder.](#)**

Please download a copy of the Learning Plan from the Parent Portal and save it to your computer.

If you did not receive an email with login codes, please contact Marise Crow by email at [receptionist@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:receptionist@tetotara.school.nz) It may be that we do not have your correct email address on file.

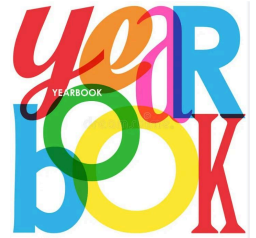


**For those families who will not be receiving a Learning Plan for their child/ren, you are still able to log-in to the Parent Portal to see your child's 2025 class.**

# TE TOTARA YEARBOOK DELIVERY UPDATE

TOMORROW, Friday 13th December

Yearbooks will go home tomorrow to the families who ordered them through KINDO. Any students who are away on the day can collect their Yearbook from the School Office upon their return to school.



**A huge thank you to our major sponsors for our 2024 Yearbook. We couldn't have made this amazing book without your support!**



## LATEST TT TV EPISODE OUT NOW!

Here is our latest and final episode for the year. It's a jam packed episode showcasing 5 classrooms:

*Matawhero 4 & 5, Neptune 24, Milky Way 19 & 21*



You can find the link on our website or for the latest episode click here [TT TV Term 4 2024](#)



Thank you to all the teachers and students for your hard work and dedication. The effort everyone has put in has been fantastic! A special shout-out to the teachers who challenged themselves to learn iMovie—you did an amazing job! Lastly, a big thanks to my TT TV Year 6 Leaders, they were great to work with and so eager to get in front of the camera.



## WEETBIX KIDS TRYATHLON

Well done to all the amazing tryathletes who participated in the Weetbix Kids Tryathlon last Sunday. We are so proud of you!





## 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.

**kindo.**  
The online one stop school shop

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.**

- **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.

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.**

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.**

### 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.

## SCHOOL LIBRARY END OF YEAR NOTICES

### OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS DUE BACK NOW PLEASE

All library books should have been returned last week, however we still have **278 books outstanding**. Could you please have a good look around the house for any overdue library books.



### End-of-Year Borrowing

Our library will be closed over the summer holidays. We encourage you to visit and issue books from any of the Hamilton City Libraries instead (the closest are Rotoruna & Chartwell Libraries).

### Holiday Reading

Over the holidays, students can experience the "summer slump". This is a loss in reading achievement over summer if students stop reading. Providing some fun reading experiences during the holidays can help prevent the summer slump. Here are a few ways to encourage children to read:



- Participate in Hamilton City Libraries' free Summer Reading Programme
- Read aloud to your child. It is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for their own success in reading. It stimulates their imagination and improves their language and listening skills.
- Encourage your child to read anything - the TV guide, magazines, joke books, recipes, travel guides, video game instructions...
- Find a series for your child to get hooked on. This will make choosing their next book to read easier. A recent survey showed that the primary factor in choosing a book for 7-12 year-olds was a familiar character or series.
- Find books that match your child's interests e.g. arts and crafts, skateboarding, cooking, animals.
- Read graphic novels. These comic books can be really appealing for children.
- Give your child a choice between going to bed or having an 'extra' half hour to read.



## A TE TOTARA STAR!

Leon Botha, a Year 3 student at Te Totara, has a passion for hockey. He has recently been selected to represent the club at the **Bendigo Cup 2025 in Australia!** Despite being only 7 years old, he will be competing in the U11 grade with his team. Leon began rollerblading during lockdown with his two brothers (Ruan & Ruben), who are also former students of Te Totara. Upon starting school, he joined the Hamilton Inline Hockey Club.

To facilitate the team's travel and participation, they are fundraising to cover the associated costs. The team has a Facebook [page](#) where everyone has been announced, here is Leon's [profile](#). They also have a Funding/Donation page, click [here](#).

## 2024 OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS - TO BE PAID THROUGH [KINDO](#)

End of year invoices were emailed to families yesterday. As at today's date, the following amounts are still outstanding:

2024 School Camp	\$4,920.00
Lost Library Books	\$867.00
Mathletics/Mathseeds	\$3695.00
Aquatics	\$10,936.00
Voluntary School Donation	\$34,948.00

NOTE: Eldest children are charged @ 2x \$60.00 = \$120.00, siblings are charged 1x \$60.00

**We would really appreciate (if possible) any outstanding fees being paid by the end of the school year.**

Voluntary School Donation payments can be made at the beginning of the year or throughout the year; the funds will be used for resources and activities for all the children.

Any queries regarding your invoice, please do not hesitate to contact Kylie Cocurullo, our Business Manager at: [kyliec@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:kyliec@tetotara.school.nz)

**Kindo Questions?** Kindo Helpdesk on 0508 454636 (toll free)

**If access is denied, it is most likely that our school does not have your current email address recorded on your child's file. Please do not hesitate to contact the School Office on (07) 853-0039 to amend.**

**kindo.**  
The online one stop school shop



## THE BRAND MAKERS - SCHOOL UNIFORMS: 2025 PURCHASING

Our uniform supplier, The Brand Makers has advised they will be closed **Thursday 19th December** and **re-open on Monday 6th January, 2025 onwards from 8.00am - 5.00pm** for all your uniform requirements. They are located at 6 Latham Court, Frankton, Hamilton. They supply all our school uniform items. Sorry the store will be closed on Saturdays, however online ordering is available. Check out their website: [The Brand Makers](#)

# THE BRAND MAKERS

## SCHOOL ASSEMBLY- MATARIKI HALL

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



## 2025 School Term Dates

### Term 1

(Note: Teacher Only Days Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th January, 2025 - No school)

**Thursday 30th January - Friday 11th April** (11 weeks)

Thursday 6th February (Waitangi Day) - Public Holiday (no school):

### Term 2 Monday 28th April – Friday 27th June

 (9 weeks)

Friday 30th May - Teacher Only Day (no school)

Monday 2nd June - King's Birthday Public Holiday (no school)

Friday 20th June - Matariki Public Holiday (no school)



### Term 3 Monday 14th July – Friday 19th September

 (10 weeks)

Monday 11th August - Our Mid-Term Break (no school)

### Term 4 Monday 6th October – Wednesday 17th December

 (11 weeks)

Friday 24th October - Teacher Only Day (no school)

Monday 27th October (Labour Day) (no school)

## DATES COMING UP

Tues 17 Dec

**FINAL DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR - SCHOOL FINISHES AT 3.00PM**

Thurs 30 Jan  
8.55am

**2025 - TERM 1, BEGINS @**



safe and  
**HAPPY**  
holidays



# YEAR 6 LEAVER'S DINNER PHOTOS





# SCHOOL CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

*For more photos, please see our Facebook page*





# TE TOTARA PTA NEWS

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

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



## ICE BLOCK DAY

Our final ice block day last Friday was a huge success with the PTA selling just over 560 ice blocks. We hope the students enjoyed their sweet end of term treat.

Again a massive thank you to **Ashlee and Lauren** who put up their hands and came down to help Alexx and Lorinda our PTA members sell ice blocks.

## 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, an Entertainment Membership is a great way to treat the kids and save yourself a few dollars these holidays. The current deal is...**When you purchase any Single City Membership between 8:00pm NZST, Thursday 5th December and 1:59pm NZST, Tuesday 31st December 2024 your Single City Membership will be upgraded to a Multi City Membership at no additional cost.**

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.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

The PTA would like to thank everyone that gave their time to assist over the year. We have had another wonderful year of bringing discos and ice block days to your children. We hope they have enjoyed them as much as we have enjoyed putting them on.

With school coming to a close for 2024, we would like to wish all our school community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the summer holiday break be kind to you, and we look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.



Your PTA Committee:

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

# 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**



**ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN FOR TERM 1 2025**

## Jitterbugs

DANCE  
LESSONS

### Monday (Rototuna Junior High School Dance Studio)

- 3.40 Jitterbugs Seniors (by selection only)
- 4.10 MiniJam (girls & boys aged 3 – 5½)
- 4.35 Senior Hip Hop (girls aged 9– 16)
- 5.05 Jitterbugs Advanced (by selection only)

### Tuesday (Common Ground Gym in Flagstaff)

- 3.30 Jitterbugs Junior (girls aged 5 ½ – 7)
- 4.00 Jitterbugs Junior Plus (girls aged 7 – 8)
- 4.30 Jitterbugs Intermediate (girls aged 8 – 16)
- 5.00 Jitterbugs Adults Session (ages 16 and over)

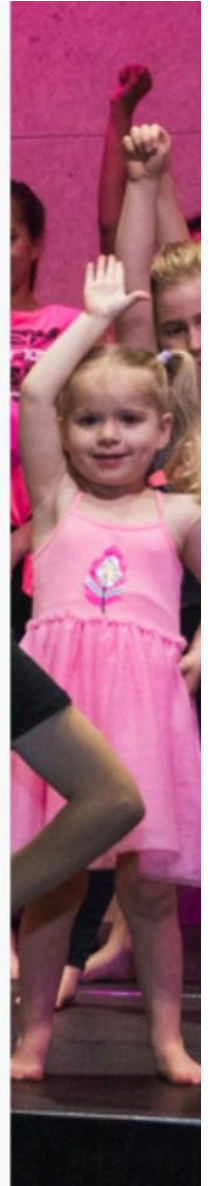
### Wednesday (Common Ground Gym in Flagstaff)

- 3.30 Jitterbugs Mini's (girls aged 3 – 5½)
- 4.00 Jitterbugs Junior/Jitterjam (girls & Boys 5 ½ – 7)
- 4.30 Jitterbugs Intermediate (girls aged 8 – 16)

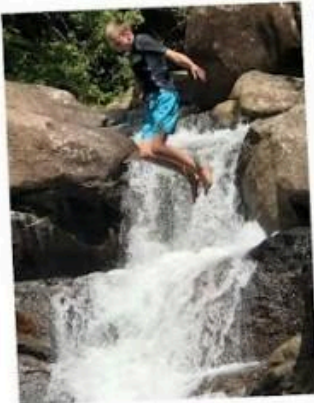
Every term the kids learn two dances and get to go on stage and present these to friends and family at a show. Outfits/t-shirts are provided for the show. Cost: \$140 for one kid, or \$270 for two kids.

Adults session \$90 (don't do the show).

Email jolie at [jitterbugsdancelessons@outlook.com](mailto:jitterbugsdancelessons@outlook.com) or check out the [jitterbugs dance lessons facebook page](#) or [website](#) for more info







## Young Explorers Camp

AONGATETE LODGE

**BOOK NOW**


**20th-24th January, 2025**


We have an amazing week lined up with bush walks, archery, air rifle, fire building and cooking, hut building, orienteering, team building, confidence activities, swimming, eeling, night activities and much more!


- Bus available from Hamilton or Tauranga (limited to 50 spaces)
- Suitable for 7-13 years old
- OSCAR Subsidy available
- Aongatete Lodge is set in the Kaimai Ranges in the beautiful Bay of Plenty


**PRICE**  
**\$675**  
**5 days**

**MORE INFO :**

 Edventure Tauranga

 [todd@edventure.co.nz](mailto:todd@edventure.co.nz)

 +0275349949

 [www.edventure.co.nz](http://www.edventure.co.nz)

**Limited Spots Available! Book Now for a week of summer FUN!**