



Newsletter

Important Dates

06 February - Waitangi Day
16 February - IF Begins
21 February - Waikanae Pools
28 February - Mihi Whakatau (2.15pm) TBC
8 March - Teacher Only Day
25-28 March - Puāwai Camp
29 March - 2 April Easter Break (back to school on Wed 3rd)
10-11 April - Learning Conversations
12 April - Last day of term

Term Dates 2024

Term 1 31 Jan - 12 Apr
Term 2 29 Apr - 5 July
Term 3 22 Jul - 27 Sept
Term 4 14 Oct - 18 Dec

Useful Links

greenacres.school.nz
schooldocs.co.nz
www.lunchonline.co.nz

Phone: 232 6445
Cell Phone 021 02565206 (if you prefer texting absences and if the landline is not working)

Rāpare, Tahī Hui-tānguru 2024

Kia ora e te whānau

Aue - it has been amazing seeing everyone coming back to school with big smiles and such excitement! The tamariki were so pleased to see their friends and Kaiako. I noticed lots of smiles from parents as they dropped their children off and headed out the gate too. In my visits to classrooms throughout the day, the tamariki were super focused and very settled. Our kids are awesome!

Nau Mai Haere Mai

Special shout out to our new people. Welcome to Felix Wang, Julian Johnstone, Jessie Herries, Hansi Deng, Maddy MacDonald, Victor Deng and Jonathan Gray who had their first day in Kano today. We also had Helen Pine having her first 'official' day as Kaiako in Kano. A highlight of my day was a visit from these champions. Don't they all look great!



Welcome also to Luca Mckinnon in Puāwai and Liam Brown in Māhuri who joined us today. We wish them and their families all the best on their learning journey with us.

We also welcomed Whaea Puti who will be sharing the Office Manager role with Sharon. She is also super excited and keen to get to know everyone. Pop in say hi!

Local Curriculum and New School Values

You will be hearing a lot more about our new Local Curriculum - especially our new values. As you will be aware, these came from the amazing and thorough consultation last year with all our stakeholder roopu. Right from day one, we are enjoying discussing and growing our understanding about what Manaakitanga, Hau ora, Mātuaranga and Rangatiratanga looks and sounds like for us all here at Greenacres. We are also working with a graphic designer to develop documents, visuals and our website to support and reflect the changes.

Waikanae Pool Trip

Our annual trip on Wednesday 21 February is on again! This is a great way for the whole school to reconnect and have a fun day out to mark the beginning of another school year. It also leads onto heaps of awesome writing and recounts. The Waikanae outdoor heated pools are a great venue with plenty of room to picnic. The pools are appropriate for all levels. There is a smaller pool for our Kano students, and a larger main pool for Māhuri and Puāwai tamariki. For less confident swimmers, we will ensure they have access to the smaller pool if required.



Please make sure your child/ren have morning tea, lunch and plenty of water packed for the day. Of course they will need a sunhat and named togs and towels. We ask that you sunblock your child/ren before coming to school but we will also take sunblock and will be getting the children to regularly reapply. Feel free to put your own sunblock into the children's bags.

We would be delighted to have as many whānau as possible meet us at the pool to join us for some fun in the pools, and a picnic lunch on the grass.

We will be leaving school on coaches at 9:30am and returning from Waikanae at 1.30pm. The cost for the day is \$20.00 or \$22.50 per student, depending on whether they are opting into the hydroslide. This can be paid via Hero, by direct credit to the school bank account 123254 000419500 or via eftpos/credit card at the office. We understand this is a significant amount of money, particularly if you have two or more children at Greenacres, so if the cost is an issue we encourage you to approach the office to discuss payment options.

Please click on the [link](#) to complete the permission form for each child you have attending the trip.

Once you have completed the form, the office can generate an invoice for your whānau dependent on whether your child/ren are using the hydroslide or not. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or Rob at rcalder@greenacres.school.nz

Property

For those of you who have been into school, I hope you agree that the place is looking amazing. There was heaps of work completed over the summer. This included phase one of the tree work including removing and tidying up a number of large and dangerous Pine trees. The fundraising trust are working on splitting the rings to be sold as firewood. Watch this space for more information. We also had our playground markings repainted as well as getting extra football goals, cricket wickets and basketball court markings painted. This has been a hit with everyone! Kano are loving their new door providing heaps more flexibility with the ability to shut them when a quieter environment is needed or leave them open when it suits. All our contractors were amazing over the break. Reid from Reid's trees has even offered to come back and help with the replanting project in June / July. A special shout out to Ross for all his mahi too. Thank you!!

Whakawhanaungatanga Hui

Thank you for your attendance at our whakawhanaungatanga hui yesterday. These were fantastic and such a great chance to build connections, relationships and partnership for a successful 2024. The Mauri Ora model of wellbeing from Ngāti Toa was used as the foundation. The meetings were also useful to establish communication channels for 2024. As always, if you have any concerns, questions or need some further clarification, the first response is to approach your Kaiako and they will be only too happy to help sort any issue. Kanohi ki te kanohi / face to face is always a preferred option but we understand that this is not always possible and emailing is also good.

A few Reminders at the Start of the Year....

Absences Messages - If your child is going to be absent from school, please advise the office before 9am if possible. The easiest way is to send a message through Hero, but you can also ring the office on 2326445 (select 1 for absences), or send a text to 021 02565206, or email office@greenacres.school.nz

Sunhats - in Term 1 all students need a wide brimmed sunhat that covers their ears and preferably back of the neck. It would be great if they could have a sunhat that could remain at school for the term.

Stationery - If you haven't ordered your child's stationery for this year, you can still do this by going to myschool.co.nz enter *Greenacres* for the school and choose the correct list for your child (there is no need to enter a student ID). Bear in mind that at this time of the year it may take up to 2 weeks for the stationery to be delivered from OfficeMax. Alternatively, you can visit Tawa Books & Post which has our stationery list and they will be able to put it together much more quickly.

Lunch On Line - LOL (with Nada Bakery) will start for 2024 on Wednesday 7 February. You can order through the Hero App on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. It is anticipated that sausage sizzles will recommence later in February but we will advise you of the start date via the newsletter.

SchoolDocs - a reminder that all our school policies and procedures can be viewed on SchoolDocs, There are 2 ways to access SchoolDocs:

- the easiest way is to just click on the 'policies and procedures' button on the Hero app
- visit the school's website www.greenacres.school.nz and under the 'About Us' dropdown click on Policies and Procedures.
- the username is 'greenacres' and password is 'school'.

Changes with a new Government

You may have seen in the media information about the Phones at School policy. This will not have a big impact on us at Greenacres as cell phone use at school is not really an issue. Some of our children do have phones but they know that these are turned off and kept in bags from the time they arrive at school until when they are dismissed at 3pm. In regards to watches that can be used to text and send messages, again the children know that these features are not used during the school day. If your child needs to contact home (or you need to contact your child), this is done through the teacher or the office.

We will watch with interest in regards to other changes being brought in by the new Government but are feeling confident that our work over many years puts us in a strong position to cope with any changes without major disruption. For example, we have already implemented a robust structured literacy programme and we are already compliant with the hour a day requirement for maths, reading and writing.

All the best for a fantastic year!

Ngā mihi

Mike Thomas

COMMUNITY NOTICES

If you haven't booked your child's spot for Term 1 yet, we still have spaces available. Limited spots are still open, so jump online and book now at www.bigairgym.co.nz. Book now so that your child doesn't miss out on the first class of the term where our coaches review fundamentals and provide an induction into the gym. Book online or contact our Bigair Gym office. We would love to hear from you. Bigair Gym Tawa ph. 232 3508 e. office@bigairgym.co.nz



Tawa Rotary is organising its second Concert in the Park to be held at Grasslees Reserve on Sunday 18 February from 3 - 6 pm. This is organised to encourage families to come along and bring a picnic tea and listen to the musical items arranged.

Tawa Music Centre Enrolment morning is Saturday 10 February, 9am-10.30am at Tawa Intermediate School hall. Lessons are held on Saturday mornings during school term time between 8 am - 12.00 pm. Lessons start this year on 17 February. The Tawa Music Centre is part-funded by the Ministry of Education and offers small group lessons on a variety of instruments at a very reasonable price. All details are in the 2024 Prospectus which will be sent home with your child shortly.

The Tawa Squash Club is renowned in the Wellington region for its exceptional reputation as a welcoming, friendly, and family-oriented squash club that also thrives on healthy competition. Whether you're a novice player, rediscovering the game, or simply looking to enjoy a casual match with a friend, our club provides the perfect environment to nurture your skills and satisfy your post-game thirst for victory. We are taking enrolments for Monday afternoon junior coaching and we also run a fun night on Friday nights which anyone can come to (up to the age of 19). We would love to see some new faces at our squash club this year and would appreciate if you could please help us achieve this. We welcome new members, for more info check out our website or email info@tawasquash.co.nz

The Medical Research Institute of New Zealand (MRINZ) is based in Wellington Hospital. The MRINZ is currently running a study for children aged 5-11years with asthma – the START CARE study. More information: <https://trials.mrinz.ac.nz/surveys/?s=7TKDWXJ4NC>
Our study website: <https://www.mrinz.ac.nz/currently-recruiting/startcare>
Email: startcare@mrinz.ac.nz
Telephone: +64 4 805 0201 / [027 665 8448](tel:0276658448)

Wonderplay has places available for kids drama in Churton Park on Tuesdays at Churton Park Community Centre; 4pm Star Players (7-14 year olds). Contact Debs debs@wonderplay.co.nz 021-172-2836, www.wonderplay.co.nz