

## NEWSLETTER NO. 1 - 7th February 2024

Nau mai haere mai, Greetings | Tena Koutou | Konnichiwa | Groete | Namaste | Talofa Lava | Malo e Lelei | Ni sa bula | Fakalofa lahi atu | Kia Orana | Asalam Alykum | Ni Hao |

This is our first newsletter for 2024, and I am delighted to welcome our staff, families and tamariki back to school. What an amazing start to 2024 we have had. Our learners have settled back well into their classroom routines and there is no doubt that the learning journey ahead of us is going to be a rewarding one.

### Welcome

I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to the new families who have joined our school community this year. Our Whakamārama School learning community is excited to extend a VERY friendly welcome to our newest students Noah B, Chloe C, Lyla, Jack, Millie, Louie, Oscar, Lacy, Zikai, Isabella and Arama.



### Meet and Greet Picnic

All families are invited to join the staff for a meet and greet picnic on **Thursday 15th February from 5 - 7 pm**. This will be a great time to get to know other families in our school and spend a relaxed afternoon with your family.

Bring along a picnic blanket and a picnic dinner to share with your family and set up under the trees at the front of the school. We look forward to a warm welcome being offered with 100% attendance.

*We look forward to seeing you soon...*

### Rippa Rugby

Rippa Rugby commences Monday the 19th of February at the Ōmokoroa Sports Grounds and will run for 6 weeks. A gentle reminder that forms need to be returned to the office by this Friday, 9th February.

### Parent / Whānau Connect Meetings

We hope that you can attend one of our whanaungatanga hui (connection meetings) taking place in Week 4 (Tuesday 21st & 22nd February). These days give you, our school whānau, the opportunity to connect with your child's teacher, discuss your child, ask questions, share with us any potential goals you may have, or simply tell us anything else you may like us to know about your child.

The teaching team is very excited! Connect meeting times will be published soon.



### Attendance

Being engaged in learning matters, right from a child's first days in early learning, throughout primary schooling and secondary schooling. Aotearoa New Zealand's children need every opportunity to learn, participate, and flourish by regularly attending school.

WE CANNOT EMPHASISE ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

**"Ko te manawa ū, kia rere, kia tīna"**

# 'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving'

If your child is going to be absent, it is important that you notify the school, along with a reason. This can be done:

- through the school website absence form,
- on our School App or
- by phoning or emailing the school office

If your child needs to visit the doctor or dentist, these appointments should firstly be made outside of school hours. We understand from time to time this may not be possible.

Should you be planning a domestic or overseas trip, we ask that these be taken during the school holidays, however, we know this is not always possible, therefore, we ask that you formally request 'approved leave' by emailing the principal ([principal@whakamarama.school.nz](mailto:principal@whakamarama.school.nz)) with your holiday details.

Our goal, and the Ministry of Education goal, is ākonga attending school regularly (90% attendance, which means only having one day off every fortnight). Days absent, days late, it all adds up! The below statistics are informed by NZ data. The below statistics are definitely something to think about. The below statistics tell a story about the absence and lateness of our learners. Seeing these numbers definitely brings about a sense of reality to absenteeism and lateness.

## 1 or 2 days off school per week might not seem much **but...**

If you miss...	it equals	which is.	Over 13 years of schooling that is...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years!
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years!
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years!
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years!

## What about 10 minutes late a day...

If you miss...	it equals	which is.	Over 13 years of schooling that is...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year!
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year!
30 minutes per day	½ a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years!
60 minutes per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years!

### Stationery

Your child will have received their stationery list alongside this newsletter for the year. Please note that the school does not make money on these stationery items but wishes to bring to you quality stationery

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products that are discounted at the beginning of each year. It is important that your child has the correct books as items on the list are suited to the developmental needs of our learners. If you pay for your child's stationery online, can you please make sure that you send back the stationery list so we know what items you may have deleted from purchasing.

## Dropping Off, Picking Up and Parking

When picking up or dropping off, you have the option of parking at the Whakamārama Community Centre across the road OR using the bus bay.

The bus bay located outside the school is for **'pick up and drop off only'**. If you choose to use the bus bay for pick up at the end of the day, please remain in your vehicle and the teacher on duty will direct your child / children to you for boarding. Parents use the bus bay as a quick pick up zone. As the end of the bus bay is on a bend, please do not reverse out of the rear of the bus bay.

**The school car park is for staff only - no drop off or end of day pick up in the staff car park.**

For student safety, we ask that you also avoid using the kindergarten driveway / space next to the driveway as a drop off and pick up point for your child / children.



If we all play our role with drop off and pick up, together we reduce the number of areas in which traffic is merging from, and thus increase the safety for all 😊

## Camp Raglan

Thank you parents / whānau that returned the quick survey in regards to making a donation for Year 4-8I camp in Term 4 (11th - 13th November). Camp at Raglan has been booked 😊 We look forward to bringing you further information closer to the time.



Knowing about camp now provides you with sufficient warning to start setting some money aside for this donation. Setting aside \$4.00 per week / per child would have your 'donation' of \$150 covered by 8th November if you start from next week. If you choose to set up a direct debit payment towards camp - please use 'camp' as reference.

## Reading Together Programme

This term we will be running the Reading Together Programme. 'Reading Together' is a research-based workshop programme which helps parents/whānau to provide effective support for their children's reading. The programme has been shown to raise children's reading achievement in a significant and sustained manner, and to improve relationships between children and parents, and between parents and teachers.



'Reading Together' provides effective support for all children and their parents / whānau - children who struggle with reading, or are reluctant to read, or reading competently.

The Reading Together workshops will provide you with practical strategies for you to use at home. The programme consists of four workshops – each 1 hour and 15 minutes long. Keep an eye out for further information coming home soon.

## School Bank Account Details - Whakamārama School Board of Trustees

38-9012-00776579-00

Please remember it is important that you use a reference for your deposit i.e. Rippa, Stationery, Lunches, Uniform

**School T-Shirts** We will be placing an order for school t-shirts on Monday 26th of February, if you would like to place an order, please send Sharon an email and she will send home an order form for you.

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# 'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving'

## Police Vetting

Volunteers who have unsupervised access to students e.g. camp helpers, sports coaches and parent helpers are required to be police vetted. To support future attendance at school camps or involvement in activities that may require parents / caregivers to work with students unsupervised, police vetting forms are available from the office for your consideration to complete.

**IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING EXPRESSING INTEREST IN ATTENDING CAMP RAGLAN WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT IS VITAL THAT YOU COMPLETE A VETTING CONSENT FORM AND BRING IN TWO FORMS OF IDENTITY THAT CAN BE SIGHTED.**

**THIS INCLUDES PARENTS THAT MAY HAVE A CURRENT POLICE VET WITH ANOTHER ORGANISATION  
IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR ORGANISATION TO POLICE VET ALL NEW CHILD VOLUNTEERS /  
WORKERS**

## Policies and Procedures

All school policies and procedures can be viewed at our SchoolDocs Site using the username and password below. The SchoolDocs Site contains a search tool allowing you to search for a topic or theme.

How to login:

1. Go to [schooldocs.co.nz](http://schooldocs.co.nz)
2. Click Search for your school (top, right)
3. Start typing our school's name and select it from the dropdown list.
4. Enter our community username (whakamarama) and password (unity)



## SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

Please keep yourself up-to-date with the school newsboard that comes out fortnightly in the newsletter or on the the school website

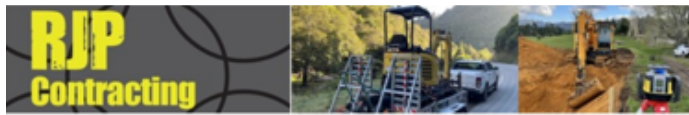
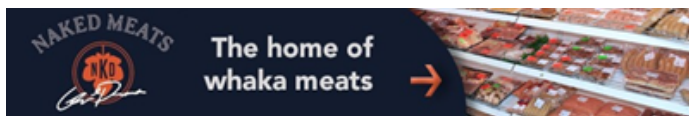
HUI-TANGURU / FEBRUARY 2024	
Friday 16th	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Tuesday 20th	Board of Trustees Meeting 6pm
Monday 26th	Reading Together Programme 6pm
Tuesday/Wednesday 27th/28th	Whānau Connect Meetings
Thursday 29th	Top Schools Comp Omokoroa
Poutū-te-rangi / March	
Friday 1st	Top Schools Comp Omokoroa
Friday 1st	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Friday 1st	Hearing and Vision testing 11.30am
Monday 4th	Reading Together Programme 6pm
Wednesday 6th	Rooms 2 & 3 Swimming Showcase
Thursday 7th	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Friday 8th	Room 1 & 4 Estuary Field Trip PP Friday 22nd
Monday 11th	Reading Together Programme 6pm
Thursday 14th	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Friday 15th	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Tuesday 19th	Small School Swimming Sports Yrs 5 & 6 PP Thursday 21st
Thursday 21st	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Saturday 23rd	Have A Go Tryathlon - Pahoia School
Monday 25th	Reading Together Programme 6pm

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Tuesday 26th	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Tuesday 26th	North Cluster Swim Sports PP Thursday 28th
Thursday 28th	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Thursday 28th	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Friday 29th	GOOD FRIDAY - School closed
<b>Paenga-whāwhā / April</b>	
Monday / Tuesday 1st & 2nd	EASTER HOLIDAY - School closed
Thursday 4th	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Friday 5th	ARGOS Gymnastics Years 5 & 6
Friday 12th	ARGOS Gymnastics Years 3 & 4
Friday 12th	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Friday 12th	END OF TERM 1
Monday 29th April	Term 2 starts
<b>Haratua / May</b>	

Thanks the below businesses for sponsoring our school app Skool Loop:



If you would like to advertise on the Whakamārama School Skool Loop App please email [Content@skoolloop.com](mailto:Content@skoolloop.com) download the app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose Whakamarama School once installed.

**ZOOM** pharmacy

**If you get sick this winter, speak to ZOOM Pharmacy first.**  
Eligible Kiwis get FREE ADVICE, FREE MEDICINES and FREE DELIVERY

Who is eligible to receive this service?  
Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) has specified you are eligible to use this service if you are **one or more** of the following:

- a child under 14 years of age
- a whānau member with the same symptoms as an under 14 year old
- identify as a Pacific or Māori person
- hold a Community Services Card

Where is ZOOM Pharmacy providing this service?

- Northern Region: Northland, Waikato, Auckland and Counties Manukau
- Te Manawa Taki Region: Bay of Plenty
- Central Region: Capital & Coast/Hutt Valley and MidCentral
- Te Waipounamu Region: Canterbury, Southland, Invercargill and Gore

Get a free pharmacist consult now:

Fill in the easy online form at [zoompharmacy.co.nz/mas](http://zoompharmacy.co.nz/mas)

OR: Free phone 0508 966 622, press #2 to speak to a pharmacist

0508 966 622 | [mas@zoompharmacy.co.nz](http://mas@zoompharmacy.co.nz) | [zoompharmacy.co.nz/mas](http://zoompharmacy.co.nz/mas)

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**  
Notify Us Of Your Child's Absence Within Seconds On Our Skool Loop App

**ATTENDANCE**

- Open the Skool Loop App & select Absentee
- Select a date range, if applicable
- Receive email receipt of your submission

Download The Skool Loop App. A simple 100% free download. In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.

**All our school news in one place!**

Download Skool Loop today

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