



WHĀNAU TŪĪ

TERM 1 2025 - NEWSLETTER

Kia ora koutou Whānau Tūi. A particularly warm welcome to anyone who is new to Whānau Tūi or our school. We hope your child is enjoying being back at school for 2025 and is settling into the rhythm of school life. As kaiako for Whānau Tūi we are grateful for the opportunity to work with such a supportive community. Te Hui Whakapiri was a fantastic start to the year as it allowed us to get to know you and your child better. Building relationships will continue to be the main focus of our classroom programs for these first few weeks. Relationships are a key foundation for learning to take place.

THE TEAM

Learning Leaders:

Sarah Rickards and Kelly Sandrey

Tūi A - Sarah Rickards

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Tūi B - Marizanne Norman

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Tūi C - Anneke van Eyndhoven

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Tūi D - Kelly Sandrey

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Tūi E - Phoenix Ataria

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SCHOOL KEY DATES

- Wednesday 12th February
School Picnic 3pm - 4:30pm
- Week 7 - Week starting 17th March
Culture Week
- Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd April
One to One Conferences
- Thursday 10th April
Pizza, Wheels, Non Uniform Day & last day of Term 1
- Friday 11th April
Teacher Only Day



Please check the TPS calendar [here](#) for updates.

CURRICULUM

This year New Zealand schools are implementing new curricula for English and Mathematics. We are fortunate to have highly skilled teachers who apply an evidence-based approach to teaching with your child 'the learner' at the center of all decision making.

English

You may notice an increased focus on Handwriting this year. Research indicates that this is a foundational skill, essential to Reading, Writing and Spelling.

Whānau Tūi are following the Better Start to Literacy Approach (BSLA) to teach both Spelling and Reading. This includes whole class teaching and small groups according to levels. Our first learning goal is that learners can make connections between themselves and what they are reading.

For oral language learners are developing the skills to participate in discussions, take turns, actively listen, ask questions, and contributing ideas. At this level these skills need to be explicitly taught, modelled and practiced.

Mathematics

We are following the theme of 'getting to know you' through Maths. We are creating and reading graphs, understanding 'data' and working with numbers up to 1000.

Inquiry this term our tamariki will build knowledge through the theme of **Navigating Identity**. They will develop their understanding of the idea that the past is connected to the present. The children will talk about their own ancestry links, learn key stories of Māori voyaging through the Pacific, and explore the use of different waka. This is part of NZ Histories curriculum with a minor exploration of technology.

Physical Education (P.E) is focusing on small ball skills, throwing, catching and developing hand eye co-ordination along with body movement. **Water Skills for Life** is a key component. It helps to build confidence with regards to being in and around water. **This is compulsory.**

HOMELEARNING

Reading & Spelling - 15+ mins daily

Some learners will bring home a reader from Week 4. Others will be asked to read something of their own choice at home.

A notebook has been included in stationery so that you can record their daily reading at home.

Please record this each day in their notebook and sign.

A spelling pattern will be included in the notebook each week. Your teacher will advise you of the specific routine for your child's class.

REMINDERS

- **Hats** are compulsory this term.
- Please make sure your child has a book bag for readers and library books.
- If your child has their own device, your classroom teacher will advise when they should start bringing them.
- **Uniform** - Please clearly name all uniform items so that we can more easily return lost items to their owners.
- Please check HERO regularly for school notices.
- During school hours please contact the office for urgent messages. email office@tps.school.nz

Here is a sample of a Tūi classroom's timetable.

Please note that responsive teacher practice means there could be changes to what a class timetable looks like on a week to week basis.

Each class may also adapt the timetable based on the needs of the learners

Reading, Writing and Mathematics is integrated into our Inquiry teaching. As a result the requirement to teach an hour minimum of Reading, Writing and Mathematics is deliberately planned for and met.

Sample Tūi Timetable					
	Rāhina	Rātū	Rāapa	Rāpare	Rāmere
9-10AM	Reading			Specialist Teacher: Music	Assembly x4 per term Reading/Inquiry
10 - 11am	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Specialist Teacher: Te Ao Māori	Swimming Water Skills for Life
11 - 11:30am - MORNING TEA					
11:30 - 1pm	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting
	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling
1:50 - 2:45pm	Maths	Maths	Maths	Reading	Writing/ Library
	1 - 1:50pm - LUNCH				
1:50 - 2:45pm	Inquiry	Visual Arts/ Te Reo Māori (Classroom teacher)	P.E	Maths	Maths

Tūi Planning Overview	
Writing	Think, Write, Check for correct sentences
Reading	Better Start to Literacy Approach (BSLA) Whole class shared book each week, character, story, plot setting, vocabulary development.
Mathematics	Number Structure and Operations Measurement & Statistical Investigation
Health & PE	Water Skills For Life Small Ball skills
Inquiry	Navigating Identity: An inquiry into the skillful and deliberate exploration of the Pacific and arrival of Māori to Aotearoa
Spelling	Phonological teaching of spelling rules and patterns, understand word meaning and how we can change them to make new words
Handwriting	Pencil Grip/ Correct letter formation
Te Ao Māori	Takapuna Primary School Tikanga, including Paepae. Te Reo kupu linked with 1 hour with specialist Te Ao Māori teacher.
The Arts	1 hour specialist Music Teacher Visual Arts: Paper Mache and model building using natural materials



TŪI WEBSITE

<https://sites.google.com/tps.school.nz/tui2025/home>

This website is updated each term to include links for our Inquiry learning. You can also find resources for Reading, Writing and Mathematics.