

Halcombe School



Term One - Week 1

31 January 2024

Kia Ora Tatou! It is GREAT to be back!

I am sure you have all had a wonderful time with your family doing jobs, connecting with people, having a holiday, perhaps moving houses, and gearing up for the new year. Teachers have been doing the same thing as you.

Our staff were all in for two Teacher Only Days last week and I was impressed with the thinking and the organisation they have already done to prepare for the year. I am sure your children are going to enjoy the challenge and the new learning that is on offer here. I very much appreciate all the hard work that each of our teachers bring to our school. The stability they give us, the hours of work they put in to prepare and set up for the year ahead.

Of course the partnership we share with our community is something we also hold dear - we are fortunate to have you backing us and supporting your children. Thank you for all you do, and if there is something we can help you with in your role as parent please reach out and let us know.

As I write this I cannot wait to see each and every one of our students - they are the heart of this place and our sole focus every day. I am really hoping there are no broken bones as this term is looking pretty full-on.

We have high expectations for each child that they will achieve and progress well in all areas: academically, physically and socially. Let's together make 2024 an amazing year for Halcombe School!

Welcome Back!

Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Staffing

Along with eleven new pupils spread across the school, we have two new teachers joining us this year. A very special welcome to Elizabeth Gibson and Amy Baldacchino. Miss Gibson will be residing in Room 5, and Whaea Amy will be teaching in Room 6. Both these people have so much to offer our pupils and our staff. Already they have spent many hours setting up their class, and they both bring interests and talents that add to our team. We are fortunate to have them here.

Junior Team

Fiona van den Brink	Room 1
Debbie Turner	Room 2
Ray Johnston	Room 3
Hannah Stewart	Room 4 (Deputy Principal and Junior Team Leader)

Senior Team

Elizabeth Gibson	Room 5
Amy Baldacchino	Room 6
Vanessa Wasley	Room 7
Di Simpson	Room 8 (Deputy Principal and Senior Team Leader)

Office Manager	Paula Stace
Teacher Aides	Kirsten Otter, Maria Barnes, Emma Brown
Caretaker/Cleaner	Alan Martin
Principal	Alastair Schaw

Waitangi Day - Tuesday 6 February

Remember that next Tuesday is Waitangi Day. School is closed. We are, however, open on Monday 5th.

Foxton Beach Trip

Attached, you will find information about our whole school trip to Foxton Beach next Thursday. If you'd like to help, the form MUST be back at school by Friday this week please. We do need lots of volunteers to help with this trip - a great way to get involved in school life early in the year.

Stationery

We will send home invoices in two or three weeks' time for stationery packs - the price varies for each class.

Swimming

- Each class has a swimming session every day, so please ensure your children have the correct gear.
- Swimming is part of the school programme, so children must bring a note if they are not swimming.
- Please name togs and towels.
- Girls wear a one-piece suit.
- Boys should wear proper swimming shorts (not shorts they would wear in class) above the knee.
- Teachers will ensure all the usual rules for PE are followed; watches and taonga removed, and hair tied back.

School Rules - Reminders

- No nail polish please. Don't let your children apply nail polish if you don't have remover at home.
- No jewellery except single plain stud earrings.
- Hair tied back with **simple clips/ties** please.
- Finger and toe nails should be kept short.
- Hats must have a wide all round brim - a 'bucket' hat (make sure these are named).
- Plain haircuts (no mullets, mohawks, rat's tails, colours, zigzags, stripes etc).
- No singlet tops please - t shirts with a short sleeve are best as it stops shoulders being sunburnt.

Sun Safety

At our school, teachers regularly remind students to wear their hats, apply sunscreen, and spend time in the shade at break times. We are always mindful of sun safety when we're planning outdoor activities, and try to provide shade where we can. This is an important time to remind parents that older students in Rooms 6, 7 and 8 have increasing responsibility for their OWN sun safety. Sunscreen is always readily available at school, so if students in these classes choose not to apply it, we will not be chasing them up.

KIT Books

Our 'Keeping in Touch' books are a very important part of our school and key to good communication. These books travel to and from school every day, so you can write notes for us, and teachers can let you know what is happening at school. This is the primary method of communication between parents and teachers, not email (**email should only be used in sensitive/exceptional circumstances**). Please read your child's KIT book each day and ensure they bring it to school. We had a few children at the end of last year who often arrived without their KIT books, which meant some confusion and missed messages about what was happening at school. Please take the time to read the information in the front cover, and sign the note. We look forward to your support.

Pool Keys

The school pool keys have all been taken up, and we have no more now. Enjoy the swimming season. Over the holidays it has been good to see the pool being so well used.

Hats

Thank you everyone for remembering hats today! An awesome start.

Water Update:

A new water filtration system has been installed, meaning it is now safe to drink from our water fountains. We still encourage students to bring a water bottle from home too.

Facebook Comments

Our Facebook page is a place where we can communicate information to parents and caregivers, share learning, and celebrate the awesomeness of our students and school. It is timely to remind our community of the following:

- Except in special circumstances, we don't answer questions that have been asked on Facebook.
- You are more than welcome to leave a comment, but keep it positive. Our school Facebook page is not the place to air grievances. Comments that we deem to be inappropriate are deleted.

Other Reminders:

- Our roads and carparks are very busy places at 3pm. If you're using the front car parks along Monteith Street, please cross at the corner, which is monitored by a staff member. Don't walk directly across the road, even if your car is directly opposite.
- Children and whānau must use the footpath around the carpark outside the hall, not walk directly across.
- If your child is using one of the trampolines after school, please ensure it's only one person at a time.
- Please don't park on any yellow lines, or on grass verges around our school.

Term Dates 2024

We have many exciting events and activities planned for 2024. Check in with our calendar, which can be accessed through our school website to keep up to date with what's happening.

- Term 1: Wednesday 21 January - Friday 12 April (Easter is outside holiday time this year: 29 March to 2 April)
- Term 2: Monday 29 April - Friday 5 July
- Term 3: Monday 22 July - Friday 27 September
- Term 4: Monday 14 October - Friday 13 December

Education 100 Day Plan:

The new Minister of Education has three main initiatives for education. Against each of these items in the 100-Day Plan, how is Halcombe School doing so far:

Cell Phones Away	Done	An hour a day of Reading, Writing and Maths?	Done	80% of students achieving at the curriculum level or above?	Done
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Now, we can move on to more important things at Halcombe School!

COMMUNITY NEWS

After School Art Classes

The Feilding and District Art Society have opened enrolments for our affordable after-school art classes.

Classes will be running from February 13 through to the first week of April and there are three streams available:

- Tuesdays (ages 5-7)
- Wednesdays (ages 7-9)
- Thursdays (ages 10-12)

In each class, children get to work on art projects that teach them new skills, techniques, and introduce them to a range of media (e.g. watercolour, inks, acrylics, collage, sculpture) as well as styles (e.g. pop art, impressionism, realism).

All materials are provided, and the fee is only \$48 per student, per term. However, spaces are limited.

Enrolments are online only and can be done at www.feildingartsociety.com/make.