

Nga mihi o te tau hou Tatou! Happy New Year Everyone!

It is GREAT to be back, and we loved seeing everyone today. There has been so much happening over the holidays. It's good to see the progress on the new build, and there have been painting touch-ups done. Most of all, the thinking, preparation and readiness for our pupils that has occurred in the classrooms (and at home) has been phenomenal - we are all raring to go!

We start with a roll of 191, and today we welcomed twenty new pupils to our school. This is a great development for Halcombe School, with new friends, families and their whānau becoming a part of our school community. Welcome to all of our new people - I am sure you will find this place to be a friendly and dynamic place to be a part of.

During the holidays our teachers had some intensive science professional development. Science is our big focus this year. It is not something that gets a lot of renewed attention in schools, what with all the hoo-har about numeracy and literacy from the government, it has been pushed to the back somewhat. We are pleased, given our high achievement outcomes in literacy and numeracy, that we are able to concentrate on this important, fun, and motivating subject. It is great to really sink our teeth into something different, as well as really enjoyable. I can't wait to see our kids experimenting, and developing their thinking in this subject too.

Welcome back and have a great week!
Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Staffing

There are no staff changes for 2025! Yippee.

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
Nicki Baker	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	Simon Stace
Principal	Alastair Schaw

Vinegar Hill River Trip

You have read that correctly - Totara Reserve is out and Vinegar Hill is in. The staff visited Vinegar Hill last week, and agreed it is the perfect spot for the first school trip of 2025! Attached, you will find information about this event that's happening next Tuesday. 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.

KIT Books

Our 'Keeping in Touch' books are a very important part of our school and the 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.

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
- no mullets, zig zags, mohawks, rats tails, dyed hair, embellishments etc
- hair tied back with simple clips/ties
- no jewellery other than a watch, plain ear stud in each ear and taonga
- finger and toe nails must be kept short
- no singlet tops to avoid sunburn

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.

School Calendar

We encourage you to keep a close eye on our school calendar, which can be accessed from our website: <http://www.halcombe.school.nz>. You'll see we have a number of events scheduled for Term 1. Thank you to Kirsten, who has the responsibility of maintaining our website - it's awesome!

Waitangi Day - Thursday 6 February

Remember that next Thursday is Waitangi Day. School is closed, but we are open on Friday 7th!

Pool Keys

Please come and see Paula in the office if you'd like to purchase a pool key.

Hats

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

Facebook Comments

Our Facebook page is a place where we 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.
- Please reverse into carparks.
- Please don't use the disability car park, unless you are entitled to do so.
- Please don't park on any yellow lines, or on grass verges around our school.
- If your child is using one of the trampolines after school, please ensure it's only one person at a time.