

16-10-2024

EXCITING & IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Please note: these dates can be subject to change.

Fri 18th Oct: Mihi Whakataua, 10.15am
Mon 21st Oct: PTA Meeting, 7pm, All Welcome
Thurs 24th Oct: Rippa Rugby World Cup
Fri 25th Oct: Teacher Only Day - School Closed
Mon 28th Oct: Labour Day - School Closed
Fri 1st Nov: Gumboot Friday Mufti Day
Tues 5th Nov: New Entrant Orientation Visit, 9.30-10.30am
Thurs 7th Nov: Year 6 Visit to OIS, 9-10.15am
Fri 8th Nov: PTA Pie Day Friday (HOPEFULLY)
Mon 11th Nov: Weka Athletics (pp Tues 12th Nov)
Wed 13th Nov: Te Rā Rēhia (pp Thurs 14th Nov)
Mon 18th Nov: East Cluster Athletics
Wed 20th Nov: Kea Tabloids (pp Fri 22nd Nov)
Wed 20th - Fri 22nd Nov: Weka Camp Totara Springs
Mon 25th Nov: Kea Fishing Rms 9, 10, 11, 12 (pp 28th Nov)
Tues 26th Nov: Kea Fishing Rms 6, 7, 8 (pp 29th Nov)
Tues 3rd Dec: Tui & Ruru Run, Jump, Throw 9.15-10.30am
Wed 4th Dec: WBOP Athletics
Wed 11th Dec: Tui Christmas Rotation
Thurs 12th Dec: Weka Social Dance
Fri 13th Dec: Ruru Christmas Rotation
Mon 16th Dec: Weka Service Award Assembly, 11.30am
Tues 17th Dec: Tui Prizegiving, 9.30, OPS School Hall
Ruru Prizegiving, 10.15, OPS School Hall
Wed 18th Dec: Kea/Weka Prizegiving, City Church, 9.30am
Tui Pool Party, 2:15-2:45pm
Thurs 19th Dec: Ruru Pool Party, 1.50-3pm
2025 Meet the Teacher @ 12.30pm, Reports & Books Home
Fri 20th Dec: Tui Team Teddy Bear's Picnic, 9.15-10.30am
School Closes @ 12.30pm (Phew, we made it!)

Current School Roll – 583

Text Number for Absentees

027 584 2592

If your child is going to be away from school please text 027 584 2592 before 8.55am to let us know

Fancy a Subway lunch on MONDAYS?

This is a reminder about our healthy lunch eating option for Mondays where Subway delivers lunches to the school. Once you've registered it's easy to order your child/ren a delicious lunch that you don't have to get up early and make yourself!
www.lunchonline.co.nz

New Entrant Orientation Morning

Tuesday 5th November, 9.30-10.30am

Parents/whānau and all new children, starting at our school in Term 4, 2024 and/or who are turning 5 before the end of March 2025, are invited to our Orientation Morning. You will have an opportunity to view the school uniform, have a tour around the school and spend some time in our Junior School. If you haven't received a personal invitation please email Wendy - office@ops.school.nz to ensure your name/s are on the list. Nau mai, haere mai!

TEACHER ONLY DAY
Friday 25th October
School Closed

Ōtūmoetai Primary School Uniform Policy

Uniform is compulsory at Ōtūmoetai Primary School. We have a contracted uniform supplier (NZ Uniforms - Elizabeth Street, Tauranga) who hold a full range of uniforms.

The uniform consists of either navy track pants, navy shorts, navy skorts (for girls), and a polo shirt and polar fleece. The polo shirt and polar fleece must have the OPS School Logo.

All other uniform items do not require the school logo and do not have to be purchased from NZ Uniforms.

HATS: In the first and fourth terms a navy slouch or navy bucket hat is compulsory for outdoor activities.

TIGHTS /THERMALS: Girls may wear navy tights underneath their skorts. Navy thermals may be worn underneath uniforms in winter.

SHOES: It is recommended that only flat shoes are worn in Terms 2 and 3. Barefeet or sandals are recommended in Terms 1 and 4. Children must be able to fasten/tie their own footwear independently. Children are not to wear footwear indoors.

NB: The following items are NOT allowed to be worn to school: non-regulation polar fleeces or sweatshirts/hoodies, non-navy coloured skivvies/thermals, jewellery, earrings (other than studs or sleepers), headbands with animal ears, compression shorts and/or coloured shorts/underwear that show beneath school shorts.

Ōtūmoetai Primary School prides itself on the appearance and correct wearing of the school uniform. Please ensure that your child is in the correct uniform at all times. Thank you for your support!

Principal's Pānui

Welcome to Term 4! We trust you all had a relaxing and refreshing holiday break.

There has been a lot of information in the media lately about schools and education in New Zealand.

Despite the government's doom and gloom statistics, please be assured that, at Ōtūmoetai Primary, we have 85% of our children working at or above their expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths.

The Minister of Education announced changes to the National Curriculum on 14 June 2024. Te Mātaiaho, the refreshed framework for the New Zealand Curriculum, is a curriculum designed for all students, to ensure that they flourish through high-quality learning experiences. From Term 1, 2025 all schools must teach the updated English curriculum for Years 0 to 6, and Maths for Years 0 to 8.

Many of our teachers have already trained or are undertaking training in the BSLA (Better Start Literacy Approach) and all teaching staff attended PLD (Professional Learning Development) in Learner First Maths this year. We have started unpacking the newly refreshed English and Maths Curriculums during Staff Meetings and we will be making tweaks to our current teaching and learning programmes to ensure that our children receive high-quality, evidence-based teaching practices.

Because of the new curriculum content there is a need for teachers to spend time upskilling and learning about the new curriculum requirements and for this reason we have a cluster-wide Teacher Only Day scheduled for Friday 25th October. School will be closed for instruction on Friday next week. Thank you for your support while we allow time for our teachers to increase their knowledge and understanding of the new curriculum content.

You will have also heard about the current government's focus on attendance. We are delighted to inform our community that Ōtūmoetai Primary is one of a very small handful of schools within the Tauranga Moana area to hit the current Ministry of Education regular attendance target of 70% of students attending 90% of the time. Thank you to all of you who have your children at school and on time, every day!

We are looking forward to a fun-filled and learning-focussed term ahead. Term Four sees our Year 5 & 6 students heading to Tōtara Springs Camp, Kea Team visiting The Redwoods, Athletics & Junior Tabloids, Te Rā Rehia (Kapa Haka Festival), Tui & Ruru Team Christmas Rotations, Prize Givings, Pool Parties and a Teddy Bear's Picnic! Whew! What fun!

See the calendar at the top of this newsletter for dates and keep an eye on our school calendar (via the school website - www.ops.school.nz) and Facebook Page for dates and upcoming events.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and our school.

Nāku noa, nā
Zara McIndoe
Principal

2025 Term Dates

Teacher Only Days TBC

- Term 1:** Monday 3rd February – Friday 11th April
Waitangi Day – Thursday 6th February – School Closed
Easter & ANZAC Day fall within the holidays
- Term 2:** Monday 28th April - Friday 27th June
Kings Birthday - Monday 2nd June – School Closed
Matariki – Friday 20th June – School Closed
- Term 3:** Monday 14th July - Friday 19th September
- Term 4:** Monday 6th October - TBA (@ 12.30pm)
Labour Day – Monday 27th October – School Closed

