



Te Awamutu Primary School

Together Achieving Personal Success



Thursday 1 April 2021—Week 9 Term 1

Hey everyone,

I'm going to start with some great news - today we have been given the keys to our new buildings!

A few of the larger pieces of furniture have been moved by Manu and Nathan, but if there are any parents willing to donate some time on Wednesday or Thursday to help move items, that would be highly appreciated. Here are the new room numbers, once the move is complete.

Room 1 - Lanah Gibbes - new classroom of new entrants.

Room 2 - Nic Edwards - formerly Ruma Kakariki.

Room 3 - Maree Parkes as usual.

Room 4 - Toni Densem - formerly Room 5a.

Room 5a - Caroline Jones - formerly Ruma Kōwhai.

Room 1B - Karen Sykes as usual.

Library - Actually a library again!

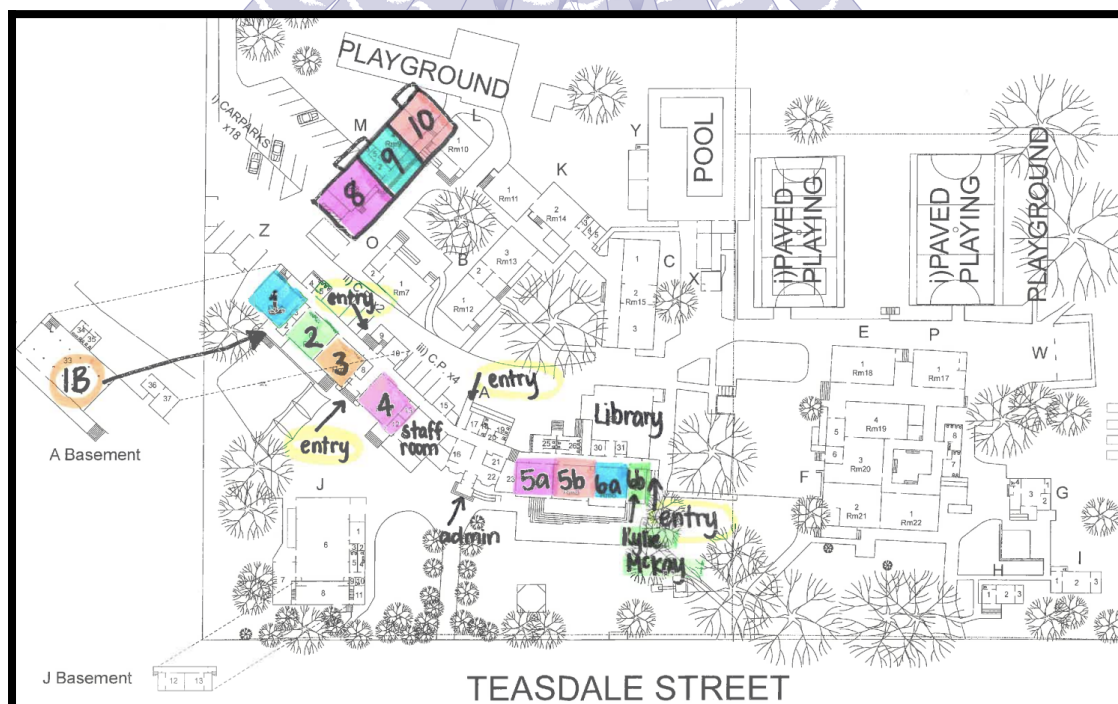
Room 7 - Janette Gillespie as usual.

Room 8 - Vanessa Filer (closest to boiler room)

Room 9 - Elizabeth Ellis (middle room)

Room 10 - Kathryn Piccard (closest to field/playground)

On Wednesday 7th April - All children should attend their usual/normal classrooms. Teachers will escort the tamariki to their new rooms all at once and at the appropriate time. Parents will be notified for collection purposes via Hero and Facebook but we are expecting that on Wednesday afternoon, **Team 2** children can be collected from their new classrooms. We're anticipating that **Team 1** classrooms will be moved by the end of Thursday 8th. You will need to explain this change with your child and ensure they understand their new collection/pick up point.



You may have noticed some changes in our office. After a review process, The Board has decided it was in the best interests of the school to differ how we do things. Katrina Easton, who works behind the scenes in payroll and finance, elected to take voluntary redundancy and has since won and started a new role in Hamilton. As a result, Kim Fabish and Sue Packwood will increase their hours each day, and the office will be open between 8.15 am and 4pm Monday to Friday. This is designed to make the office more accessible to our families. Laille Martin (After School Care Manager) will monitor payments made for care and will follow up on unpaid accounts. If you have had the opportunity to know Katrina you will know that she has been a dedicated staff member who has contributed to the operations of the school and to many of the building projects around the school since beginning here in 2017. We will all miss her friendly face and happy disposition and wish her the best in her new role.

Since the last newsletter, I can also confirm that we have appointed Lanah Gibbes as a permanent staff member at TAPS. Lanah will be beginning our sixth new entrant classroom from the beginning of Term 2, Monday 3rd May.

Congratulations to the two teams of Year 5 and 6 students who participated in the Waitomo Sevens Rugby Tournament yesterday (Wednesday 31st March). Both teams played well and represented our school showing our values and making us proud. One of those teams even won the Year 5/6 pool! Awesome representation of our kura. Ka pai. A huge thanks to David Wahanui-Brown for leading the charge alongside Mel Brown, Kelly Heke and Gary Ward for coaching.

I'm grateful to the community for your support with our development of Structured Literacy teaching at TAPS. I acknowledge that the changes are vast compared to previous years and it has impacted on your evening routines and is possibly causing some worry or concern over the limited books the children are coming home with. Learning is absolutely our top priority so we are making these changes from an informed perspective around the Science of Reading, for the benefit of our children. Feel free to look into it. Feel free to come and chat with Kylie and talk through your worries. Feel free to go to the library and get books to read to your child just for fun. Feel free to come in and look at some of the resources we have purchased to support this deliberate and explicit teaching sequence. We would also love your feedback to ensure we are best representing your wants and desires for your children. Have you noticed an improvement in effort, attitude, knowledge, engagement or practice at home?

I'm sure the community was devastated to hear about the passing of the little five year old that was hit by a car in the car park of her Auckland school in the last few weeks. Don't let this happen here! Park in the car park (not on the grass or footpath where kids walk), encourage your child to walk around the grass to your car not through the middle of the carpark at the back gate, make your children use the school patrolled crossings for safe access to the school gates. Please do not cross them from Princess Street to the middle gate, it is just too dangerous to cross a child across an intersection during the busiest time of the day. I certainly never want to make a call to a parent to tell them their child has been hit by a car, nor would you want to be facing Police charges for hitting one with your vehicle. **Please, we need your vigilance on this.**

We had an amazing staff meeting at O-Tāwhao Marae yesterday, at the college. What an amazing resource to have in our community, saturated with culture (mixed) and stories. Thank you to Tony Mambery and Clare Ravenscroft for hosting us, and the beautiful kai made by the college tamariki caterers.

Have an amazing Easter holiday whānau. Stay safe and well and we will see you at 8.55am on Wednesday 7th April for our final two weeks - both of which will be short weeks!

Sharon



News from the swimming pool ...

focus was on using conjunctions and adjectives to describe the vegetable gardens and orchard area at TAPS.



TAUIHI SWIMMING SPORTS

Wow! What great swimming sports we had, the sun was shining and the excitement was high. A big thank you to all our parents/caregivers that came along and watched and supported our students. An even bigger thank you to our parent helpers on the day, it would not have been this successful without you. It was so great to see our tamariki so confident in the pool and really showing off their swimming talents.

A big congratulations to **Tainui** who won on the day with 5975 points, 2nd was Tokomaru with 5800 points, 3rd Te Arawa 3690 points and Aotea with 2740 points. Our competitive students then went on to represent TAPS at the inter-schools swimming sports on Tuesday 23rd March. We had some great results and TAPS took out the whole event with the most points. We also had a great day dressing up as movie characters on Wednesday. There were so many different characters with a great effort put in by many.

Our last swim in term one was celebrated with a pool party. Lots of fun and laughter with lollipops to top it off. So many great things have been happening at TAPS and in Team Taihi. Please remember to book for your parent-teacher interviews, we look forward to catching up with whanau and sharing the learning and progress happening.

Many thanks, from the Team Taihi Teachers.

