



Tomarata School Newsletter

Week 7, Term 1, 2026





Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou,

I hope that everyone is safe and dry, wherever this message finds you. I know that when the weather gets like this our community can be affected by flooding, power cuts and potential road closures. Today at school we had 26 students away, many of whom were away because of the risk of road closures/flooding.

It's been a really busy few weeks at Tomarata School. Because the term started so late, it has been an especially short term, so while in one way it feels like we just started the year, we also find ourselves at the end of the term.

As we near the end of term 1, we prepare to say farewell to one of our amazing teachers, Ms Jorja Philips-Hall. Jorja and her partner Fletcher are setting off on an overseas adventure, taking them initially to Scotland. Jorja has spent over 2 years teaching at Tomarata School, and has successfully completed her 2 years of provisional registration and has become a fully registered teacher. In her time here, she has proven herself to be a passionate educator, who cares a lot about her students, and works hard to deliver high quality learning experiences for them. She has been a real asset to our school, and we will all miss her. We wish her every success in this next chapter in her life. We will be farewelling her at next Thursday's 8.45 assembly in the hall.

Given Jorja's departure, and the opening of the Rata Room as a classroom, we look forward to welcoming two new teachers to Tomarata School next term. Taking over in Room 5 will be Ms Juliana Bangcong, and joining us to open the Rata Room, is Ms Shashika Abeywickrama. We are really excited to have had such high quality applicants for these positions. We will be officially welcoming them both On the first Monday back, next term. If you would like to meet Ms Bangcong, she will be starting next Tuesday, so please come and introduce yourself.

Next Thursday is the last day of term one. It's also the day of our Colour Fun Run. This event will go ahead rain or shine. Starting at 1pm, the event will be organised in Whanau House groups, so that our older students can support our younger students. This will support full participation in this fun event. Parents are encouraged to come along to be part of the fun. It looks like we will raise over \$10,000, which has blown all expectations away. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou. The top fundraiser will be drenching me in slime on the day, so you won't want to miss that. There will be a Hero post tomorrow with more details.

Nga mihi nui,

Chris King

What's Coming Up



Date	Event
Friday 27th March	PTA sausage sizzle and juicies Sausages \$3, Juicies \$2
Monday 30th March	Rodney Rural Schools Cricket at Centennial Park y4-8
Tuesday 31st March	Room 6 Nature Classroom
Wednesday 1st April	Y7/8 Technology @ Rodney College
Thursday 2nd April	Whole School Assembly @ 8.45
Thursday 2nd April	Tomarata School Colour Fun Run @ 1pm
Monday 20th April	Term Two Begins Assembly/welcoming new teachers @ 8.45
Wednesday 22nd April	Y7/8 Technology @ Rodney College
Monday 27th	Holiday (ANZAC Day)
Wednesday 29th April	Y7/8 Technology @ Rodney College

Awesome kids doing awesome things



Our new set of whanau house flags



Room 4 students enjoying their time at our Nature Classroom



Learning in nature is such an authentic way for our students to explore our world.





Board Update:

Our next Board meeting is on Tuesday 31st of March at 7pm

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors

Tomarata School would like to thank the following sponsors:

