



Tomarata School Newsletter

Week 5, Term 2, 2026





Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou,

As many of you are aware, 2026 is a year of change in education in Aotearoa. At Tomarata School our teaching staff are busy building their professional knowledge and expertise in the use of the new curriculum for English and Mathematics. Not only is there new curriculum content, but there is also a huge amount of change in the teaching approaches that are being used to deliver the curriculum content to our students. Across the country, there is a shift to more structured approaches to teaching and learning.

This also means that across the school, how we assess student learning and progress over time is changing.

Along with this is also a significant change to the way that reporting to parents will look, as we respond to multiple mandated requirements.

As a result, our reports will look very different. If you are a caregiver that is familiar with how reporting on student learning has looked for the past 6 years or so, you will notice a big change. Gone are the progress graphs, that have been used to represent student learning over time. These can no longer be used because they don't align with the new curriculum. Instead, your child's academic progress will be classified against their year level expectation using one of these five Ministry of Education, Progress Descriptors: Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient, Exceeding.

You will also see some suggested next learning steps, and some ways that your child can be supported at home with their learning. Teacher comments remain.

In other news, We are having three of our gates upgraded. The pickup gate near the swimming pool will have a pedestrian gate, as well as a vehicle gate. This will help us make sure that after school pickup is much safer and easy to manage. We will also be getting a concrete path completed right up to the gate, so we don't all have to get muddy in winter.

Please have a look at the "What's coming up" section, as it is a very busy term.

Thanks to the parents who answered the survey to help at Junior Tabloid Sports this Friday. Please arrive for the briefing by 9.30am. The day's activities run through to 12pm. It should be a very fun day for our students! Thanks for your support.

Nga mihi nui,

Chris King

What's Coming Up



Date	Event
Friday 22nd May	Junior Tabloid Sports day with Rodney Rural Schools @ Tomarata School
Monday 25th-Friday 29th May	Scholastic Book Week
Tuesday 26th May	Room 7 Nature Classroom
Friday 29th May	Assembly/Book Character Parade @ 8.45 in the hall
Monday 1st June	King's Birthday Holiday
Tuesday 2nd June - Friday 26th June	Beat Station at Tomarata School
Tuesday 2nd June	Rata Room and R4 Nature Classroom
Tuesday 9th June	Room 6 Nature Classroom
Wednesday 10th June	Year 7/8 Technology @ Rodney College
Friday 12th June	Rodney Rural Schools Soccer and Hockey day at Port Albert Domain (Years 4-8)
Tuesday 16th June	No Nature Classroom
Wednesday 17th June	Year 7/8 Technology @ Rodney College
Tuesday 23rd June	No Nature Classroom
Wednesday 24th June	Year 7/8 Technology @ Rodney College
Thursday 25th June	Trees for Survival Planting Day
Friday 26th June	PTA Matariki Disco!

Awesome kids doing awesome things



Sapphire and Maddy competed in a national dance competition in the weekend. Their troupes took out first, second and fourth place!



Eddie took out a very impressive 3rd place at the 2026 Auckland Schools XC Series, held at Maraetai last weekend.

Student writing spotlight: Tovah



How a Caterpillar Becomes a Butterfly

This text explains the life cycle of a butterfly over the four distinct lifestages and phases of its life cycle.

Firstly, a female butterfly lays her eggs on the underside of a leaf; which is chosen by instinct which is thanks to the female knowing what her young would want to eat when born. While on the leaf, the eggs shift and wiggle and grow bigger. The lava usually takes 3-10 days on average to hatch.

Secondly, Once big enough; the eggs hatch. The larvae start the eating phase of their life. They start eating the leaf they were laid on over the span of a few weeks, they grow, moult, and eventually reach the next stage of their life.

Thirdly, the caterpillar finds a suitable leaf. Climbing the underside of the ;plant, it forms a protective shell of silk. This protective shell adapts a name. Which is; a Chrysilas or Puba.

And furthermore, after the span of a week, the butterfly ends its metamorphosis. Then, it emerges from its chrysalis. After taking the moment to dry its wings in the sun; the butterfly sets out on its first flight.

The cycle then continues with the butterfly setting out into the world. Enlightening our fantastic gardens with a flurry of blinding, warm colors of its wings. pollinating our crops, veggies, fruits and the best sight seeing flowers.

The circle of life represents the interconnectedness of all living things through a continuous cycle of birth, growth, survival, death, and renewal. This shows with the butterfly's own cycle.



Tovah,

Your writing is well structured and rich with detail. You have used awesome vocabulary including a wide range of topic specific words. Very well done!

Chloe



Board Update:

Our next Board meeting is on Wednesday 27th of May at 7pm

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors

Tomarata School would like to thank the following sponsors:

