



Greetings, Kia Ora, Talofa lava, Fakalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e lelei, Taloha, Ki Orana, Ni Hao, Buenos Dias, Chao Malo Ni, Namaste, Habari Dobar Dan, Bula Vanaka!

Welcome back to another busy and exciting term! It is fantastic to see our students happy and settled in their routines again. With so many events happening this term it is really important for families to keep up with what is coming up. This can be done through our newsletter, our Facebook page and our school app.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Elections for School Board of Trustees will be held across New Zealand soon! Our school has a long history of a highly effective Board made up of committed parent representatives who are dedicated to ensuring students who attend Greenmeadows Intermediate get a good education. You may like to consider standing for this really worthwhile community service. More information about becoming a Board of Trustee member can be found [here](#).



The election timeline is as follows:

Friday 10 May	Nominations open. Forms will be sent out to all eligible people on the voting roll. Copies can also be picked up from the school office.
Friday 24 May	Nominations close at 12.00 noon
Wednesday 29 May	Voting papers sent out
Friday 7 June	Voting closes

TOTARA SPRINGS CAMP - 11 more sleeps!

Thanks to those parents who have paid the \$100.00 for their child to go to Totara Springs Camp. We would appreciate this money coming in as soon as possible. The camp costs \$270 per pupil, the school is covering the remaining \$170 per pupil from school funds, sponsorship and fundraising (such as the fun run). Payment can be made at the school office or via Kindo.

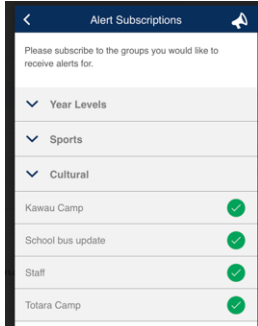
The weather has got quite a lot chillier in the last few days and we encourage parents to keep this in mind when helping their child to pack. We strongly recommend students bring wetsuits (if they have them) or rash suits. These will help them stay warm while doing the water based activities which include kayaking, raft building, waterslide, foam slide. **The kit list is attached to this email.**

Please note that we are no longer accepting late forms for camp. We have confirmed numbers with the camp and are no longer able to add any extra students.



DO YOU HAVE THE SCHOOL APP ON YOUR PHONE?

Please make sure you have downloaded (or updated) the school app onto your phone. This will be our main form of communication with parents while at camp. We will regularly update parents with how camp is going and also let you know our estimated time of arrival back at school so you can collect your child from school. If your phone has our school logo as the app button, **you need to update it**. The latest version should have the icon as shown in this picture.



Search for "**School app nz**" in the App Store or Playstore. Register for our school and subscribe to the **Totara Camp alert notifications** so you are able to keep up to date with what is happening.

STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING CAMP NEED TO COME TO SCHOOL AS NORMAL

NEW NAVIGATORS SAILING PROGRAMME

Next week some of our students are very fortunate to be given the opportunity to take part in a pilot sailing programme called the New Navigators Programme run by Akarana Outreach at Okahu Bay. Students will partake in a full day of marine education sessions that include water safety, being sun smart and on water sailing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, leaving school at 9.00a.m. and returning by 3.00p.m. Thank you to our parent helpers who are supporting our students and teachers each day, your support is very much appreciated.

PAID UNION MEETINGS FOR TEACHERS NEXT WEEK

You will have heard that Paid Union Meetings for teachers are taking place next week to discuss further industrial action should the government not shift from their current position in pay negotiations. We have spread our teachers across a range of meetings so classes will not be disrupted. Students are to attend school as normal.

HOW OFTEN DO STUDENTS NEED TO COME TO SCHOOL TO BE CONSIDERED "REGULAR" ATTENDERS?

The Ministry of Education defines regular attendance as when a child attends school more than 90% of the time! Any less than this and a student's progress and achievement is likely to be negatively impacted. Our attendance data shows that while we don't have a "truancy" problem at our school, **we do have a significant number of students (more than 45%) who do not attend school more than 90% of the time.** Some parents may be surprised to find out that their child is not considered to have regular attendance. In a nutshell, students can take no more than 5 days off a term, 20 days a year (including sick days) for their attendance to be considered by the Ministry of Education as "regular". Students who go on holiday during school time, take the day off for their birthday or have long weekends are often in that "just below" regular attendance and their progress and achievement is affected as a result. Shortly we will be notifying all parents how often their child was at school in Term 1. Our target is to decrease the large number of students who are only attending between 80 and 90% of the time as our data shows that this group has a large proportion of students who are away from school for unjustified reasons.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER AND MAKE SURE OUR KIDS COME TO SCHOOL REGULARLY!

