

Te Kura o Taupō



Ka ako tahi tātou, ka tupu tahi tātou. Together we learn, together we grow.

NEWSLETTER - week 10, term 4, 2020

From the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

Wow! We have reached the end of the 2020 school year. I would like to thank the entire staff team for their hard work throughout the year; and thank parents and all helpers for their outstanding support. I also thank our Board of Trustees for the excellent governance and the PTA for their amazing contribution. For those parents who are leaving us at the end of the year, thank you for being part of the school community. We wish all families a safe and happy holiday break, and look forward to seeing all those returning in the new year. Meri Kirihimete - Merry Christmas!

THANK YOU FOR TRIP AND EVENT SUPPORT THIS YEAR

Thank you to the huge number of parents who have helped on our class trips and sports events throughout the year. There have certainly been a lot of them especially this term, and I think we have had more postments this year than any other! Your great support helps us to provide those memorable school experiences for our students.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check Lost Property before school finishes - any unnamed clothing left will be taken to the local op shop.

BUYING YOUR CHILD A PHONE OR DEVICE THIS CHRISTMAS?

The day a child gets their first phone or device is a milestone - one that many parents dread! Yet, unlike some other milestones in a young person's life, there is no set age at which it is most appropriate to give a child a smartphone or computer; this could vary significantly from family to family. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that holding off until children are older can benefit their well-being. Many parents are doing this so don't necessarily buy into your child's argument "that everyone else has one!"

If you do think the time is right we recommend families take the time to sit down together and establish a set of 'First Phone/Device Guidelines'. I especially recommend [this online tool](#) to establish an agreement with your child.

We do make it an option for parents to purchase a chromebook for their child from Year 5 and up. Please don't feel under pressure to do this. The school has a supply of devices that can be allocated to students or shared in classes. In light of the advice above you may wish to wait until your child is a little older and has shown that they are a responsible device user.

For those parents that do feel that their child is responsible enough to have their own chromebook for home and school use, the Norrcom purchasing portal is available at this [link](#). Note - the passcode for the portal is plim09. There are four device options that are robust, fit for purpose and good value. The current cost for the devices is between \$350 and \$450 including gst. There will also be options for:

- Insurance
- Extended 3 year warranty
- Carry bag

Orders can be collected from the school office at the end of January - you will receive an email to confirm your device is ready for collection. Your device will be connected to the school network as part of the purchase.

LAST DAY TOMORROW

- **Final School Assembly: Leavers' Poroporoaki** Our final assembly will be held tomorrow at 11:00am. This is traditionally our most formal occasion of the year and will be attended by the Board of Trustees and a great number of parents. The assembly usually takes around an hour and the occasion is used to officially farewell our Year 8 students and other leavers. In Level 1 all parents and friends of the school are very welcome to attend.
- **School finishes at 12 noon tomorrow** School will finish immediately after the final assembly at approx. 12:00 midday. If you have an After School Care booking on the last day, please let the supervisor know if your child needs care on the last afternoon.

2021 TERM DATES & TEACHER ONLY DAYS

School will commence at 9:00am on Wednesday 3 February. The Ministry of Education provided all schools with the opportunity to take 8 teacher only days over 2020-2022. We will be taking 3 of the teacher only days next year. 2021 term dates, holidays and teacher only days are below:

	START DATE	END DATE	HOLIDAYS and TEACHER ONLY DAYS
Term 1 - 11 weeks	Wednesday 3 February	Friday 16 April	Holidays: Waitangi Day 6 Feb, Good Friday 2 April, Easter Monday 5 April and Easter Tuesday 6 April School Holidays: Saturday 17 April - Sunday 2 May (includes ANZAC).
Term 2 - 10 weeks	Monday 3 May	Friday 9 July	Teacher Only Day: Friday 4 June Public holiday: Queen's Birthday 7 June School Holidays: Sat 10 July – Sun 25 July
Term 3 - 10 weeks	Monday 26 July	Friday 1 October	School Holidays: Saturday 2 October – Sunday 17 October
Term 4 - 9 weeks	Monday 18 October	Wednesday 15 December	Public holidays: Labour Day Monday 25 October Teacher Only Days: Tuesday 26 October & Friday 26 November School Summer Holidays begin: Thursday 16 December

Ngā mihi,
Mike Forrest
Tumuaki/Principal

PTA News

ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIP

Support Plimmerton School by buying an Entertainment Membership! It's a fully digital solution that is valid for 12 months and is easy to use. Thank you for your continued support - 20% of every Entertainment Membership goes directly to our school. To support Plimmerton School, just click on this [link](#).

THE PLIMMERTON SCHOOL PTA NEEDS YOUR HELP IN 2021

We are seeking people to assist with the organisation, and running of two of our most popular yearly events, The Beer Fair, and the Quiz Night.

You will work alongside our helpful and knowledgeable PTA team to get these events up and running, but without "project managers" for these events, they simply will not go ahead next year. Both of these events run really well when a group of friends take on the organisation and running of them...

Please contact us if you can offer any assistance with event planning, marketing, or project management.

If signing up to the PTA meetings for the year is not "your thing" never fear - you can still help us with one off events! 2020 was a rough year, let's make 2021 amazing by working together to support our school.

Contact us on PTA@plimmerton.school.nz, or come and speak to Aleida in the office. The more helpers the better!

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