

TOTARA COMMUNITY TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Term 1, 2024.

We hope you had a beautiful holiday with your family and friends and are ready for an action-packed term.

We look forward to the many experiences the children will explore in their first term with us.

What are we learning this term?

Reading

We will be reading a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.

We will be focusing on

Retelling - pulling out the main parts of the text in order

Vocabulary - understanding the meaning of new and unknown words

Writing

In term 1 we will be creating our own pieces of descriptive writing and recounting big events from our term.

Descriptive writing will focus on; adjectives, verbs, similes and metaphors.

Recount writing will focus on; a beginning, middle and end, and adding detail to their main ideas.

Mathematics

We will be starting the year off as Statistics Detectives. We will be collecting data through a tally graph, transferring it into either a pictograph or bar graph, and then analysing our data and making comments about it.

We will then move onto solving addition and subtraction problems.

What else will we be learning about?

We will begin the term focusing on Wai Ora, looking at healthy oceans and linking this to our snorkelling sessions. We will then move onto Turangawaewae and what Warkworth looked like before people.

In Week 7 we will be jumping back into the pool for swimming lessons.

We will be getting creative, sketching and using water paints to draw our own fossils.



Dates for the diary

Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMR Taonga Session Friday 16 February• Powhiri Friday 16 February
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flower Show Thursday 22nd February• EMR Snorkelling in School Pool Friday 23rd February
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMR Snorkelling at Goat Island Friday 8th March
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EMR Snorkelling at Mathesons Bay Trip Wednesday 13th March
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good Friday - No School
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easter Monday - No School• Easter Tuesday - No School
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Conversations Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th April• Last day of term Friday 12th April

Snorkelling

We are very excited to be going to Goat Island and Mathesons Bay for snorkelling this term.

The focus for these trips are to learn how to snorkel, experience our own backyard and to look at the impact of a protected Marine Reserve vs an unprotected area. To make this event successful we require quite a number of parent help.



Tōtara Putipti Day (Flower day)



On Thursday 22 February, we joining in with the Warkworth Rose and Flower Show and be holding our own putipti (flower) day where our learners will work together to create arrangements in the following four categories:

1. Old shoe or boot containing an arrangement in sand or soil
2. Miniature Garden in a shallow container
3. Floral Arrangement in a decorated junk container

More information will be sent separately.



Pōtae (hat)

Bucket hats or wide-brimmed hats are compulsory in Term 1. We have school hats that are available at the office. However, you can also send a plain coloured hat, with no pictures or logos, so long as it is sun-safe. PLEASE ENSURE THEY ARE NAMED.

Before and After School



Before School

Between the hours of 7:30 and 8:30, our teachers are working hard to make sure everything is organised and ready for the day or having meetings.

If you are dropping your child off to school before the 8:30 bell, please take them to the hall steps on the Senior Campus. When the bell goes, they will safely walk across the road using the Road Patrol monitors.

After School

After school we will release your child from the Senior Campus Field. For safety reasons, we cannot release your child as we are walking.

If you prefer your child to meet you at the playground, or to walk home, that is absolutely fine. Just chat or email your child's guardian teacher prior.



Tōtara Room has an open door policy, and welcome clear communication. We welcome you to come in and view your child's work and learning space, and chat to the teacher before or after school. If you are unable to come in or prefer, we are easily reachable through email.

We look forward to working alongside you, and your children during the year.

Tōtara Teachers

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