



**MAUNGAKARAMEA**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

30th January 2025

Tēnā koutou i ngā āhuatanga o te wā,  
*Greetings to you all at this time,*

Welcome back to Term 1. We all hope that our students are well rested and ready for an exciting year ahead!

### 2025 staff and classrooms

TEAM KĀKANO (The Seed)			
	Class Name	Year Level	Teacher/s
Rm 5	Piwakawaka	0/1	Chloe Sayles
Rm 4	Tui	1/2	Cindy Bowers- 3 days a week Rosie Lauren- 2 days a week
Rm 3	Pukeko	2/3	Sara Abrahamama (Syndicate Leader)- 3.5 days a week Jayne Southee- 3 days a fortnight
TEAM NGĀHERE (The Forest)			
Rm 2	Kereru	4/5	Rhiana Bates- 4 days per week Simon Schuster- 1 day a fortnight Jayne Southee- 1 day a fortnight
Rm 1	Korimako	5/6	Carlyn Condon Nikki Attwood- 1 day a fortnight
MPS	Kiwi	7/8	Trudi Bertie - Syndicate Leader/ Deputy Principal- 4 days a week Nikki Attwood- 1 day a week Tom Griffiths- Teaching Assistant

## Additional Staff:

- Nikki Attwood: Special Educational Needs Coordinator and Classroom release
- Jayne Southee- Classroom release
- Simon Schuster- Classroom release
- Jena Huntington- Office Administrator
- Ariana Saunt- Special Education Support and Office Assistant
- Tom Griffiths- Caretaker
- Jane Anderson- Teacher Aide
- Jay Brighthouse- Cleaner
- Delphi Sturgess- Classroom Te Reo and Kapahaka Tutor
- Lyn Dickinson- Ruru Coordinator
- Barb Mose- Ruru Casual

## Important Information

Our School Values			
<b>G</b> enuine	<b>R</b> espect	<b>O</b> wnership	<b>W</b> hānau

### School Bell times:

- First Block: 9-10.20am
- Eating Break: 10.20-10.40am
- Second Block: 10.40-11.40am
- Interval Break: 11.40-12pm
- Third Block: 12-1pm
- Eating Break: 1-1.40pm
- Fourth Block: 1.40-3pm
- Bus Bell: 2.50pm

### Arriving late:

If your child arrives late to school (after 9am), please assist us by letting the office know they are at school.

### School Assemblies:

School assemblies are fortnightly, starting in Week 3 on Thursday at 9.10am. We welcome you to come along and be part of these celebrations.

These will be held outside on our court or under the Monkey Tree.

### School Lunches:

School lunches are available on Thursdays starting in Week 3. All orders must be in by no later than 3pm Wednesday.

School lunches can be made through Kindo or in cash.

### Whānau Groups:

Whānau Group competitions are an important part of school life. This year we will be introducing a 4th Whānau Group due to the growing roll.

Please be aware that many students will be changing Whānau Groups as a result, as we will be ensuring an even number of students from each Year level are in each group.

### Newsletters and Parent Pānui:

Newsletters come out fortnightly on a Friday. Our first for the term will be week 3.

Parent Pānui is a smaller notice with announcements and reminders. This will be in the weeks where there is no newsletter and will come out over the weekend.

### Chromebook purchases through school:

Those that ordered a Chromebook through the school have had these sent home with children today.

### School Hats:

Terms 1 and 4 are our summer terms, so students are required to wear a **school** hat when outside to help protect them from the sun. Students with no hat are asked to play under the shaded "Monkey Tree" or the Kākano deck.

### Sunscreen:

We encourage students to wear sunscreen during Term 1 and 4 to help protect them when outdoors. The school provides each class with sunscreen. Please help us by:

- Applying sunscreen to your child before school
- Letting your child's teacher know if you prefer your child to use sunscreen from home and provide it.

### Swimming:

Term 1 is a compulsory swimming term. We ask that all students come prepared to swim everyday, although they may not necessarily swim each day. Please bring togs, towel and a bag to put wet items.

We are hoping that our pool will be ready for the start of next week.

### Library:

The library will not be operational while Kiwi are using it. Instead Jane will be issuing a class set of books to each class for students to use at school. These will be updated every few weeks.

### Homework- What will it look like:

#### Reading:

Reading is expected 4 nights a week. Classroom teachers in Kākano will be sending home books that are linked to your child's reading level. Children from Ngahere will be asked to read from books they have selected.

#### Heartwords/Spelling:

Teachers will be sending home spelling words based on the Ideal spelling programme we are using throughout the school.

#### Maths:

Classroom teachers will be sending home basic facts material or activities from our Structured Maths Approach programme.

Homework will be coming home from Week 3.

If you are requiring additional work for home please contact your classroom teacher directly.

How can I support your child with their reading?

#### ***When he/she brings home a story to read...***

- Share the excitement of the new book with your child.
- Let them tell you the story and talk about the pictures.
- Let them show you the cover, where to begin, and where to go (if appropriate to their level).



#### ***While reading and enjoying the story...***

- Encourage your child to follow the direction of the print with their finger, touching each word if they can (if appropriate to their level). At a higher level, it is encouraged to remove the finger in order to increase fluency. If they have problems with tracking, then I would suggest using a ruler or a piece of paper/cardboard.

- Discuss with your child the difference between words and letters and encourage them to find any words that they know. At a higher level, you might like to get them to find words starting with a specific blend, compound words or contractions.
- Ask appropriate questions so that they can see that a story is made up of ideas that link together, rather than just a series of words that can be read accurately.

***What should I do when I come to a word and saying nothing?***

- **WAIT** Let them think about the story, then suggest that he/she go back to the beginning of the sentence. He/she should read the sentence again, saying the first sound. A prompt you may like to use is "get your mouth ready for the first letter". If they still have not unlocked the word, ask the child to think of a word which begins the same way as the unknown word and which makes sense in the sentence.

- After their try, ask:

Does it make sense?

Does it look right?

Does it sound right (would we talk like that?)

***Prompts that you may like to use to build on the above strategies include:***

"I like the way you made it look right at the beginning. This time I want you to read it and see if it makes sense"

"I like the way you made it make sense. This time I want you to read it and make sure it makes sense and looks right."

- TELL them the word if it has not been corrected after two attempts. BE PATIENT. Don't jump in too quickly when your child needs help. Give them a chance to sort it out themselves first.
- Not every mistake needs to be picked up on. Use your judgement as to whether they will lose confidence if you correct every mistake (ie is it a mistake that really matters?)
- As their reading progresses, so does their ability to read silently and this will eventually replace reading aloud. Encourage this and simply allow your child to share what they have read.

**Afternoon Pick-Up:**

If your child is in Piwakawaka or Tui we ask that your child is collected from inside the school gate in the afternoon. Please let your child's teacher know who is allowed to collect the child. This can include older school aged siblings.

**Year 5/6 Camp:**

The teacher in charge of our Year 5/6 Russell camp is Carlyn Condon. Please keep an eye out for communication.

Camp dates: 25-28 February.

### Facebook:

Please feel free to join the school's Facebook page. Here class teachers put up information and photos about their classes.

The Office also puts a lot of material on Facebook to help keep you up to date and informed.

### Whānau BBQ:

5.30pm Tuesday 11th February the school will be providing a sausage sizzle for existing families to come in and meet our new arrivals. Teachers will be there too. It is a chance to catch up informally and to get to know the community. Please come along.



### Teacher Only Day: Friday 7th February

Maungakaramea School is part of a Kahui Ako (Community of Learning) involving 11 schools and several Early Childhood providers. A Kahui Ako sets a strategic direction that supports the growth and development of all the schools in its group. The actions created from this direction are put into practice by three Across School Teachers (AST) who work within all the schools of our Kahui Ako.

This is a reminder that we have a **Teacher Only Day on Friday 7th February**. This day will involve several schools and will be held at Tauraroa Area School and will have a new refreshed Maths curriculum focus. This is one of two days that have been mandated by the Ministry of Education. **School will be closed on this day.**

### Term dates:

First Day Term 1 2025	Thursday 30th January
Last Day of Term 1	Friday 11th April
First Day of Term 2	Monday 28th April
Last Day of Term 2	Friday 27th June
First Day of Term 3	Monday 14th July
Last Day of Term 3	Friday 19th September
First Day of Term 4	Monday 6th October
Last Day for 2025	Friday 12th December

Connecting with Classroom Teachers:

Staff are highly available by appointment for any questions or concerns. Feel free to contact them through the office ([office@mgk.school.nz](mailto:office@mgk.school.nz)) or by email:

Sara Abraham: [s.abraham@mgk.school.nz](mailto:s.abraham@mgk.school.nz)

Cindy Bowers: [c.bowers@mgk.school.nz](mailto:c.bowers@mgk.school.nz)

Nikki Attwood: [n.attwood@mgk.school.nz](mailto:n.attwood@mgk.school.nz)

Carlyn Condon: [c.condon@mgk.school.nz](mailto:c.condon@mgk.school.nz)

Chloe Sayles: [c.sayles@mgk.school.nz](mailto:c.sayles@mgk.school.nz)

Rhiana Bates: [r.bates@mgk.school.nz](mailto:r.bates@mgk.school.nz)

Trudi Bertie: [t.bertie@mgk.school.nz](mailto:t.bertie@mgk.school.nz)

Jayne Southee: [j.southee@mgk.school.nz](mailto:j.southee@mgk.school.nz)

Rosie Lauren: [r.lauren@mgk.school.nz](mailto:r.lauren@mgk.school.nz)

For any schoolwide questions/concerns, feedback or if you would like to have a chat feel free to email myself: [principal@mgk.school.nz](mailto:principal@mgk.school.nz) or drop on in.

Ka nui tēnā mō tēnei wā,

That's enough for now,



Simon Schuster

Tumuaki/Principal

Maungakaramea School

*Growing Our Future*

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