



Rākau Pānui

Nau mai, haere mai ki a Rākau! Kia ora and welcome to the Rākau hub for 2026! We are so excited to be starting the year with a fantastic team of kaiako and tamariki. We are very much looking forward to reconnecting with whānau we've worked with in the past, as well as connecting with new families. Please feel free to pop in and see us at any time; we place huge value on building connections between home and school to ensure the best possible outcomes for all ākonga in our kura.

This year in Rākau, we have three Year 3 classes and two Year 4 classes. Our Year 3 classes are being taught by Whaea Donna in Room 11, Whaea Leah in Room 12, and Mr Steele in Room 13. Mrs Naylor will also be joining the Year 3 team, teaching in Room 12 on Fridays.

Our Year 4 classes are being taught by Mr Asghar (Room 14) and Mrs Strand (Room 15). As Mrs Strand does not work on Fridays, Miss Wood will be in Room 15 every Friday. Miss Wood will also be splitting her time between Room 14 and Room 15 on Wednesdays and Thursdays to cover teacher release time. If you haven't seen it yet, please check our welcome posts on HERO from last Friday for key information regarding the start of the year. This includes details about the "Meet the Teacher" afternoon next Tuesday, where we hope to see as many of you as possible.

Ngā mihi nui,
Your Rākau kaiako



Dates

FEBRUARY

- 3rd - Mihi Whakatau 9:30am
- 6th - Waitangi Day
- 11th - Meet the teacher 5pm
- 17th - Year 3-6 Non-stop cricket
- 18th - Waikanae Pool Trip
- 20th - Year 4&5 Bike Ride

MARCH

- 17th - Tag Year 3-6
- 24th - School Photo Day
- 28th - School Triathlon Titahi Bay Beach
- 31st - Touch Year 3-6

APRIL

- 1st - School Cross country
- 2nd - Last day of Term 1

What's happening in Term 1?

Maths

To start off we'll be building confidence in sharing ideas and justifying responses through 'Talk Moves', maths games and warm up activities. These will then build up our programme alongside the Maths No Problem resource throughout the year. Our first weeks will be spent looking at place value, number order and addition and subtraction of whole numbers.

Literacy

To kick start the term we are going on a writing safari! Exploring different writing genres to get a feel for what skills are already present in our classes. We'll then dive into some structured writing lessons using sentence types and structures to teach a variety of foundational and compositional skills. Classes are also doing novel studies to ease into our reading lessons.

Kaupapa Māori

Kapa Haka sessions start straight away in Week 1 and continue every Thursday afternoon which are always a highlight. For our te reo Māori focus in class we will be covering introductions, feelings and the weather. For our Year 3s in particular, we will be focusing on building confidence with speaking te reo Māori aloud in preparation for their noho kura in Term 3.

Inquiries

Our first inquiry of 2026 is Toitū te Tiriti - focusing on how and why agreements are made, why rules exist and looking into the main ideas behind te tiriti. Later in the term we'll be looking at Te Taiao - Our World, and investigating our place in our community and what we can do to protect it. The KURA value focus for Term 1 is Unity.

PE and Health

The big focus for the term is training for the school triathlon and cross country events, so from Week 4 we will be running and biking up a storm at least twice a week. We will encourage as many students as possible to bring their bikes from home for training sessions. Before that, we have a focus on cooperative and invasion games.

Sunsmart

Term One is a Sunsmart term, meaning that sun hats and sunscreen must be worn when outside. Please ensure your child has a hat to wear, and that sunscreen is applied before school. We also have sunscreen in class for reapplication during the day.



HERO is our primary platform for communication and admin.

Please ensure that you are logged into the HERO app and that you have notifications enabled so you don't miss out on any important information or learning updates.

The best way to contact us is by email.
firstname.surname@titahibay.school.nz
e.g. jimmy.steele@titahibay.school.nz

Jimmy Steele - Rm 13 / Hub Leader
Donna Glenn - Rm 11
Leah Merewater - Rm 12
Fraser Asghar - Rm 14
Ang Strand - Rm 15