



P: 06 844 7024 | E: admin@gms.school. | www.gms.school.nz



Dear Parents and Caregivers – Tena Koutou Katoa

WELCOME TO GMS!!

There are some new faces who have started with us since the last newsletter. The latest arrivals at Greenmeadows School are: Zoe Hicks-Gross, Peyton Beyer-Way and Avyah-Lea Tauroa. A very warm welcome to the three of you! Our roll is currently sitting at 499.

2021 SCHOOL ORGANISATION

We will have a few changes to our school organisation for 2021. At the end of this year we farewell Mrs Linda Whitlow and Mrs Christy Turner. Both Christy and Linda have been on fixed term contracts which have come to an end. These two teachers have made a very significant contribution to our school during 2020, especially since they took over their classes from other teachers during the course of the year - which is never an easy task. We extend our appreciation for all that Christy and Linda have given the school and wish them all the very best for 2021.

Other changes include the great news (for her!) that Miss Rebecca Start is taking maternity leave for the 2021 year. She and her partner Mike have a very exciting time ahead with their baby due in the first part of 2021. Mrs Shona Millner is taking up a part time teaching role for next year concentrating on reading recovery and maths support in the senior school. Also for Term 1, Mrs Ali de Lange has been granted a period of sabbatical leave by the Ministry of Education, so will return to school for the start of Term 2.

The members of our staff who are leaving will be acknowledged at our final assembly on the last day of school - Thursday 17th December from 11.15am.

We have two new staff members joining us next year. Miss Mahia Isherwood will be covering Rebecca Start's maternity leave in the junior syndicate and Miss Jessica Gates will be replacing Shona Millner in the senior syndicate.

The school structure for 2021 will look like this:-

Tōtara classrooms

Room 12 Jessica Gates Year 5/6 (in Hall)
Room 15a Dan Ball Year 5/6
Room 7 Marty Gibbs Year 5/6

Room 13 Chris Sullivan Year 5/6 (in Hall)
Room 15b Jane Carter Year 5

Pohutukawa classrooms

Room 8 - Ceirwyn Ware Year 4
Room 10 - Jane McCosh Year 3
Room 14a - Toni Smith Year 4

Room 9 - Leah Haronga Year 3
Room 11 - Monique Cowie Year 3 and 4
Room 14b - Sarah Groenveld Year 4

Kōwhai classrooms

Room 1a - Shari Mackay Year 1
Room 2a - Leah Hambleton Year 1
Room 3a - Pixie Bryan Year 2
Room 5 - Paula Kinsey Year 1

Room 1b - Anna Murphy Year 1
Room 2b - Mahia Isherwood Year 1
Room 3b - Helen Harvey Year 2



If you are thinking about moving, let's work together to help both YOU and Greenmeadows School achieve a great result.

For every property that is listed and sold with us, we will give \$500 back towards Greenmeadows School for them to use to benefit your children. The next school trip, the new playground equipment - it could be on us! Give me a call today, I would love to hear from you.



Debbie Dudding
Direct: 06 835 5006 Mobile: 027 306 6073
debbie.dudding@tremains.co.nz

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2020 PRIZE-GIVING AND BREAKUP

The annual prize-giving will be held on Tuesday 15th December at 6.30pm in the Heart of the School.

All children are expected to attend and need to be in their full school uniform (hats not required). Children need to be lined up on the school field before 6.20pm in their class groups.

If you are a first time attendee, it is worth noting that parking can get difficult around the school with large numbers of vehicles arriving. So allow yourselves plenty of time to get settled.

If the weather doesn't allow the prize giving to go ahead, we will communicate with whānau in the following ways:-

- ❖ via the GMS Facebook page
- ❖ send out an alert via the GMS App

If the prize giving is postponed, then it will be held on Wednesday 16th December.

Finally be aware that school will **start later at 9.30am** (and not 9.00am) on the day after the break up.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR THE NEXT YEAR

During the afternoon of Monday 14 December all the children will get the opportunity to meet their new teacher for the 2021 year and visit their new classroom. We do this to give them a chance to settle in and get used to who their teacher will be.

The role of the parent is critical on this day, as well as leading up to this time. This is especially so if the classroom that the child ends up in, may not be the one they have imagined that they want. For some students it can be a stressful time at the thought of leaving one classroom/teacher, especially after an unsettling COVID interrupted year.

We have shared excerpts from a really well written piece to the GMS Facebook page about how parents can positively support a child if they are feeling anxious about something new and unknown, such as class placements. I urge you to read this, as the way parents react can have such an influence on the way your child sees this opportunity for a new exciting year.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL REPORTS OUT

End of year reports will be sent home on the afternoon of Monday 14th December. Our teachers have put an incredible amount of time and care into the preparation of these reports. We hope these will give you a clear summary of how each child has progressed over the 2020 year.

Also on Monday 14th December, the children will be given a stationery list for next year. Stationery packs are available at Hawkes Bay Office Products in Wakefield Street, Onekawa. If your child's stationery list gets mislaid or doesn't find its way home, there are copies of these on the school website.

SCHOOL READERS - PLEASE SEND THESE BACK!!

We need back all school readers (numbered junior books and school journals) that are out in 'Greenmeadowsland' ... please check for any that may be at home: bedrooms, wardrobes and school bags. Each book we don't get returned costs us at least \$10 - we would rather spend our money buying new books than replacing lost ones we have already purchased.

LIBRARY RETURNS

All library books need to be returned to school by the end of Week 8 - which is the 4th December (not that far away whānau ...). Avoid any invoices for outstanding books by starting hunting now!



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CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen's last day for lunches this year is Friday 11th December. Thanks for your support of the canteen during the year. We will re-open on Wednesday 10th February.

PTA NEWS

Raffle tickets, sold or unsold need to be returned to school as soon as possible. The raffle will be drawn at school on Friday 11th December.

The fundraising calendars have arrived at school and were sent home yesterday. Any orders that came in late will take a little longer to arrive. Thanks for your support with this wonderful activity. Special thanks to Donna Hicks and her team for all the coordination of this as well!

DOLPHIN SWIM SCHOOL, TARADALE OPENING FEBRUARY 2021

Dolphin Academy are the new operators going into the Green Family Taradale Pool, which is located on the grounds of Taradale Primary School. They open their doors in February 2021 and will offer Learn to Swim classes operating up to 6 days a week including Saturday. There may also be availability for one on one classes and outside of these times depending on lane availability.

The Schools Programme, 'Water Skills for Life' a Swimming NZ initiative, will run weekdays with access to local schools. Taradale Primary, Greenmeadows and Tamatea Primary schools are the foundation users, and other primary schools will also be welcomed.

The new owners are two couples who are joined together by a passion to see kids learning to swim. Having been involved in the pool prior to closure, the team have been instrumental in getting the pool re-opened. This is an exciting opportunity to make it a huge community success.

For more information on how to book learn to swim classes please visit www.dolphinacademy.co.nz or follow www.facebook.com/taradaledolphinacademy

TERM DATES 2021

Term 1 3rd February to 16th April
Term 3 26th July to 1st October

Term 2 3rd May to 9th July
Term 4 18th October to 16th December

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Check the school app or www.gms.school.nz website for more details:

10 December	Year 6 Social
15 December	Prize giving
17 December	Last day of school - final assembly 11.30am - 12.00pm finish to school

3rd February 2021	First day of term 1
8th February 2021	Waitangi Day - school closed
10th February 2021	Canteen re-opens

This will be our last school newsletter of the year. Two weeks left of the unique 2020 - we wish all the very best for those leaving our school and hope that you keep in touch in the years ahead. I also send out the warmest regards for a safe, happy and valuable summer break time. Thanks to every one for making this such a great year for our school!

Ka kite ano,

Mark Johnson
Principal/Tumuaki



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