

KERERŪ TAHI

2026 NEWSLETTER

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to Term 1 2026!

We are so excited to be your kaiako for 2026. We hope you have had an amazing holiday creating special memories with your whānau. As your kaiako, we look forward to encouraging and nurturing your Hauora (Health & Wellbeing), and to enable you to thrive on your learning journey here at Te Ao Mārama. We look forward to seeing you take risks, accept challenges and be your best self! Together, we will develop our whanaungatanga (relationships), where we will work as a collaborative team and awhi (support) each other.



Ngā Kaiako TEACHERS

COURTNEY



Kia ora e te whānau!

Ko Courtney tōku ingoa. I am excited to be joining the Kererū team this year alongside these other awesome kaiako. I have been teaching at Te Ao Mārama since 2020 and am looking forward to spending the year with you in Kererū Tahi!

My little whānau consists of me, my husband, Matt, my 7-year-old son, Beau, and our little dog, Winnie. We love spending time together—playing board games, swimming in our pool, having adventures in our caravan, and enjoying holidays near and far.

I am a big lover of Disney, dancing and musicals, a good podcast, and bubble tea! With my 11+ years of teaching experience, I look forward to creating a fun, engaging, and safe environment for learning. Let's have an awesome year together!

Courtney@teaomarama.school.nz



Kia ora!

Ko Teina Neha tōku ingoa.

I am absolutely thrilled to be teaching your tamariki in Kererū Tahi this year! My journey in education started in 2018 as a teacher aide, and my passion for teaching led me to complete my Bachelor of Primary Teaching (2021–2023). I have a huge love for sports and enjoy stepping into coaching roles at our school. Over the past few years, I've had the privilege of coaching our Year 5–6 basketball and volleyball teams, and I'm excited to continue in 2026! Outside of teaching, you'll find me staying active and getting involved in anything sporty. I'm looking forward to an amazing year together!

Teina@teaomarama.school.nz

TEINA



HANNAH



Kia Ora, I'm Hannah!

I feel excited and privileged to be joining the Kereru Tahi team this year! I'm passionate about building strong relationships with tamariki and their whanau and supporting our aakonga to develop a love of learning as curious, capable, and determined learners. I've grown up in Hamilton and have been teaching and working with children for 16 years, both here and overseas. Life is always full and fun with a 9 year old, a 2 year old, and an energetic golden retriever at home. My partner Nick and I are also host parents to a 16 year old exchange student this year! As a family, we enjoy camping, water sports, flying, and adventuring. I value wellbeing and balance in my life so spending time at the gym and in nature are both ways I recharge. Bring on a fantastic year together!

Hannah@teaomarama.school.nz

Ngā Kai-Tautoko SUPPORT TEAM



Andrea Hollebon

Our amazing ILA Andrea will be providing learning support in our Kererū Tahi space. She will be working with small groups, doing one on one sessions and supporting overall in the classroom.



Whaea Andrea

Whaea Lauren + Whaea Buffy

Whaea Lauren and Whaea Buffy will be supporting our tamariki with their reo māori and tikanga māori learning every Tuesday.



CRT TEAM

Our amazing CRT team will be in fortnightly (even weeks) on a Tuesday to cover our teacher release time. They plan an amazing day including the arts, physical education, science and STEM! Our students know these wonderful kaiako well and will have lots of fun on these special days!

SALLY

KYLA

DANIELLE



WHATS ON THIS TERM!

20
26

TERM 1 KEY DATES



| Date | What's On |
|------------------------|--|
| 27 January 2026 | Class Placements for 2026 advised to families (<i>via email</i>) |
| 28 January 2026 | School Tour - <i>new families for 2026 - 9am</i> |
| 30 January 2026 | Meet the Teacher drop-in sessions (12.30-2.30pm) |
| 2 February 2026 | First day - Term 1 Begins |
| 2 February 2026 | Pōwhiri to welcome new families/students - 9.00am |
| 6 February 2026 | Waitangi Day (Public Holiday - school closed) |
| 11 February 2026 | Hui-ā-whānau (Parent - Teacher information meetings) |
| 9-11 March 2026 | Haerenga ki Hukanui Marae (Hukanui Marae Visits) |
| 2 April 2026 | Last Day of Term 1 |

Helpful

INFORMATION

Role of the Whānau Teacher

Your child has been placed within a Whānau Group for 2026. They will start and end each day with this kaiako and this teacher is your main point of contact.

Please feel free to come and see us before or after school. If you have any queries that require more time, please book in a time with us.



What to bring to School

Please bring every day:

- A lunch box packed with enough kai to cover 3 eating times. This included 'brain food' for our 5 minute snack (fruit/veges/yogurt -*Please leave lollies at home*).
- A water bottle
- A named hat
- A named book bag
- Named spare clothes (incl undies)
- A big smile and positive attitude! 😊

Please do not pack:

- Juice or lollies
- Yogurt pottles (these tend to be messy) pouches are a great alternative - please pre twist these to help your child self manage.

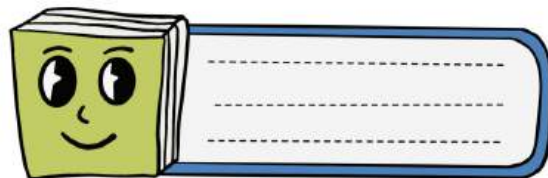
Stationery

To make this easy for you, we have teamed up with OfficeMax MySchool to purchase our class stationery list.

Scan the QR Code to take you to the 'Office Max My School' ordering page



Once on the OfficeMax site, select our school, click 'start' on view the **Requirements List**, select your child's class and follow the instructions on the website.
Find: Kererū Tahi - Whaea Courtney, Whaea Hannah, Matua Teina
- Your child's Whānau Teacher.



PLEASE NAME ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BOOKS ONLY

All pens, pencils, etc will be used as shared stationery - **NO names on these items.**
Please bring ALL of it to school when it is ready.

Book Bags

Please ensure that your child is bringing their book bag to school **every day**. It is also important to check daily for notices, readers, or art work.

Without a book bag, your child will not be able to take books home. We will store book bags at school until we begin to use these.

Helpful INFORMATION



Toys/Valueables

Please support us by keeping all toys and valueables at home. We are very lucky at our kura to have many amazing toys and play resources for your children to enjoy.

We are not responsible for 'home items' that go missing so please discuss this with your children and keep them at home.



Sun Safety

In Terms 1 and 4, ***all children MUST wear a hat outside***. Please ensure your child has a named hat in their bag every day. We have a supply of sunblock in class but ask that children please come to school with this already applied.

Birthdays



We already have a birthday ritual in place so that your child has the opportunity to have their moment and be celebrated. **Please refrain from bringing in any lollies or treats to share.**

We have food allergies in our class and need to keep our tamariki safe. Thank you for your understanding.

Staying Up To Date



For further information about our school and to keep up-to-date, please see our Facebook page or visit

www.teaomarama.school.nz

Attendance/School Hours

Just a reminder that children are welcome onsite in the morning from 8am (no earlier please!) - however this is unsupervised. They may wait outside the classroom and at 8.20am they are welcome inside. **School starts at 8.40am - please be here on time. School finishes at 2.30pm and pick up needs to be prompt.**



Home Learning

Our school does not set formal weekly homework; however your child will at some stage in term 1, be taking home a reader or some form of home learning practice. Home learning is of course optional, however we encourage 5-10 minutes of practice daily to build on what is being learnt in class.

Kererū Tahi

Our Learning

Term 1 Focus



How the World was Made

This term, our main overarching Inquiry focus will be around the story called, 'Why the World Was Made.' This is a traditional oral tale told from Native America and passed down for generations. This story relates very closely to our purākau, **Ranginui and Papatuānuku**, and how this story is closely linked to our school's name - Te Ao Mārama (The World of Light).

Health & Physical Education

This term, we have Harold and the Life Education caravan coming in the first two weeks. Harold and his team focus on teaching us about some of the important concepts that we will be covering this term:

- What makes us special and unique
- How to make friends
- How to be good friend
- Approaching and joining in
- Including others



We will unpack what the skill is, why it's important and delve into the dos and don'ts of actioning a given skill. These skills will be integrated into our Physical Education programme.



Te Ao Maori

We will explore Te Marae, what a marae is, its significance and importance, and we will be visiting Hukanui Marae in Week 6 as well. More details will be shared at a later date so please keep an eye out.

