

# Kererū Rua



## Term 1 2026

*Nau mai, haere mai ki te wāhanga tuatahi - 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.



### Term 1 Dates



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

# Te Puāwaitanga o te Rito

In 2026, Kererū Rua will include our Bilingual Te Reo Māori class, named **Te Puāwaitanga o te Rito Teina**, meaning “the blossoming of the flax shoot.” The word teina meaning the younger age group.

In Māori tradition, te rito (central shoot of the harakeke/flax plant) represents the tamariki (children), surrounded and protected by the outer leaves, which symbolise whānau, community, and teachers. As te rito grows, it blossoms into its full potential, supported by those around it.



Leila McLean will be the kaiako/teacher of this class, and both Sara Morrow and Sarah Shearer (Hera) will teach regular English medium classes. All 3 classes will work together for Literacy and Mathematics with children learning in English and Te Puāwaitanga having an increased instructional reo Māori component.

For Te Reo Māori and kaupapa Māori learning, the bilingual class will have dedicated time to focus on these areas in depth. We have spent considerable time working out how this class will operate, and our approach will foster a sense of unity across all 3 classes while celebrating and supporting the unique strengths of our bilingual programme.

“

**Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro, nōna te ngahere, ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga, nōna te ao**

*The bird that eats the miro berry, theirs is the forest; the bird that feeds on knowledge, theirs is the world.*

”



# Ngā Kaiako TEACHERS



## SARAH SHEARER



Kia ora e te whānau!

Ko Sarah Shearer tōku ingoa. I am excited to be joining you for my fourth year at Te Ao Mārama Kura (school) but have been teaching for over 20 years.

I look forward to meeting you all and working with your tamaiti/tamariki (child/children) this year. I grew up in the King Country on a farm but have lived in Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) for many years now. I enjoy being active, performance latin dancing, playing squash (new hobby) and keeping fit at the gym. I also love hiking adventures, travel, the beach (Whangamatā), and most of all, creating special memories with my husband, Grant, and our two children - Amber (16) and Josh (14).

I know that we will have a super year together!



## SARA MORROW

Kia ora e te whānau!

Ko Sara Morrow tōku ingoa. Kia ora, I am really looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know everybody. I grew up in Kawerau but have lived and worked in the Waikato for many years. I have a passion for storytelling and the arts, and am often creating or designing in my spare time. For the past few years we have also been working hard on home renovations which has kept us very busy. I am a mother of four, Jasmine (21), Phoenix (19), Boe (15) and Jett (14). We love spending time together as a family, hiking, surfing and traveling. We also have a very clever dog named Quinn.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again and also meeting a few new friends in the upcoming year 😊



## LEILA MCLEAN



**Tihei Mauri ora!** Ko Whaea Leila ahau (aka Whaea Engine). I'm thrilled to be part of Kererū Rua this year, leading our junior bilingual classroom, *Te Puāwaitanga o te Rito Teina*.

Raised in Tūrangi, I bring strong knowledge of Te Ao Māori—te reo, tikanga, Kapa Haka, and Mahi toi (arts). As a proud Māmā of four, I have nearly 25 years experience in education, ranging from Kohanga reo (early childhood) to Tertiary level.

We're an active whānau who love sport, the outdoors, and connecting with te taiao (environment), creating lasting memories with our tamariki through whānau adventures. I also have a strong passion for music, art and storytelling. These experiences shape my teaching, bringing creativity, connection and a love of learning into our classroom.

To all our Kererū tamariki—nau mai! I look forward to meeting you and your whānau and sharing an amazing year together!



# Ngā Kai-Tautoko SUPPORT TEAM



## Sandra Humphry

Whaea Sandra will be in Kererū Rua every second Wednesday supporting Whaea Leila.



## Jordan Guthrie

Whaea Jordan will be working in our space as a Kaiārahi i te reo Māori, supporting Whaea Leila and as learning support across the Kererū floor.



## Debbie Messer

Debbie will be providing learning support in our Kererū Rua space for English Second Language Learners.



## Lauren Houppermans

Whaea Lauren will be working in our Kererū Rua space as a Kaiārahi i te reo Māori



# Helpful INFORMATION

## Role of the Whanau Teacher

Your child has been placed within a Whānau Group for 2026. They will start 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:

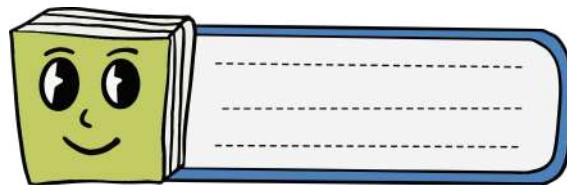
- A lunch box packed with a healthy snack (fruits and vegetables are ideal),
- Morning tea and lunch - plenty of food to fuel you! (**Please leave lollies at home**).
- A water bottle
- A named hat (you are welcome to bring a spare to leave at school)
- A book bag
- A big smile and positive attitude! 😊

**Please ensure all toys and valuables are kept at home.**

## Stationery

To make this easy for you, we have teamed up with OfficeMax MySchool to have our stationery requirement lists loaded onto [www.myschool.co.nz/teaomarama](http://www.myschool.co.nz/teaomarama). 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 Rua** - Whaea Sara, Whaea Leila, Whaea Sarah S (Hera)  
- Your child's Whānau Teacher.



### PLEASE NAME ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BOOKS ONLY

**NB** 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. Literacy Workshops are happening each day.

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



## Daily Check Ins

It can be tricky to find out what your child has done each day. Some questions you could ask to encourage this conversation could include:

- What was your favourite thing about today?
- What is something you are proud of today?



## 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 Kererū Rua 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.



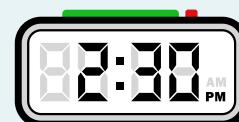
## Staying Up To Date



For further information about our school and to keep up-to-date, please see our Facebook page or visit [www.teaomārama.school.nz](http://www.teaomārama.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.** Please give your child a clear plan or meeting point and encourage them to stay off the playground if they are unsupervised for their own safety.



## Home Learning

Our school does not set formal weekly homework; however, we will share ideas later this term to support learning at home. Once weekly reading is established, your child will bring readers / texts home in a book bag. Book bags must be brought to school daily so books can be read at both home and school. **No book bag = no reader.**

# 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).

For our Inquiry (Pākiki - Play Provocations), we will focus on Health, Science and Te Ao Māori.

## 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.

## Hukanui Marae



## Science – Putaiao

We will explore Earth (rotations, night and day), the Sun and shadows.



## 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.

# “He aha te mea nui o te ao?

*He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.*



**Kererū**



## Stay in Touch:

**Sarah Shearer** - [sarahs@teaomarama.school.nz](mailto:sarahs@teaomarama.school.nz)

**Sara Morrow** - [sara@teaomarama.school.nz](mailto:sara@teaomarama.school.nz)

**Leila McLean** - [leila@teaomarama.school.nz](mailto:leila@teaomarama.school.nz)



**Te Ao Mārama**  
SCHOOL



07 595 0595



[office@teaomarama.school.nz](mailto:office@teaomarama.school.nz)



33 Hare Puke Drive, Hamilton