

TE ATATŪ INTERMEDIATE

Tū Tāngata

Equipping our students to stand tall: To be the best people they can be and, by becoming life-long learners, reaching their best potential.



MESSAGE FROM MR EVANS - TUMUAKI

Tēnā koutou katoa o Te Atatū Intermediate whānau

We are now well underway with our timetable and routines, and it is pleasing to see how well students have settled into a positive start to the year.

To clarify a key change in our PE and Sport structure for 2026: we have now separated our Physical Education teaching programme—led by Whaea Vania Clark—from our sport coordination. External zone days and out-of-school team events are now managed by Koka Amorangi Ngata-Atkins. This new structure is already proving successful, with fantastic turnouts for both our Orienteering and Hockey programmes.

One of the key pieces of feedback from our 2025 community survey was the need for clearer communication. This year, we are implementing more robust systems to ensure whānau and students are better informed. You will see evidence of this throughout this newsletter, including a review of our successful “Give It a Go” music evening and detailed information on our digital safety commitment.

Regarding digital learning, I would like to acknowledge the Board for their ongoing support in providing school-owned Chromebooks. This ensures equitable access to the curriculum for every student while they are on site. To support this, we have partnered with Linewize to provide a secure online environment. I encourage you to read the digital safety section below and explore the Family Zone resources on our school website, which offer excellent support for keeping our tamariki safe online.



IMPORTANT NOTES



GIVE IT A GO NIGHT

Last Thursday we held our "Give It a Go Night" – an evening where students had the chance to try the instruments available for tuition at TAI. We had a fantastic turnout, and it was wonderful to see the excitement as students got their hands on our shiny brass, flutes and saxophones. Some even managed to try everything on offer!

It was a busy night, so thank you to everyone who came along. Sign-up's have now closed but if you have any enquiries or need any further information, feel free to contact bronwyn.c@teatatu.school.nz.

SUN SMART

With the intense sun, please ensure your child brings a drink bottle to school every day. The office is seeing many students who are complaining of having a headache, which is often due to not drinking enough water throughout the day.

Water is the only accepted drink option for TAI students. Please do not send them to school with fizzy or energy drinks.

It is also important for students to bring their hats (named). We have sunscreen available at school, especially during the afternoon sessions, to help keep everyone protected.

COUNSELLING

School Counsellors are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for any student who would like to access support. To request a session, please email your child's class teacher or Kelly Clarke. Everything is kept confidential and private.

P.A.C.E. – PASSION, ACTION, CREATIVITY & EXPLORATION

P.A.C.E. is 21st-century learning in action, designed to extend traditional subjects into authentic, real-life experiences.

It provides students with the opportunity to explore new interests, build practical skills, and follow their passions in a hands-on and engaging way. Students have selected from a wide range of electives, which began today and will run every Friday afternoon for the rest of the term. These sessions are all about choice, creativity, collaboration, and challenge. We encourage you to have a chat with your child about which P.A.C.E. activity they are taking part in this term and what they're looking forward to learning.

Please be mindful that during this time, students can be difficult to locate (especially if they are off-site) so please familiarise yourself with your child's elective, if you are needing to collect them early [Click here to see electives](#).

SCHOOL DOCS

TAI subscribes to SchoolDocs for all policies and procedure. These are available to the community.

Please visit the website; www.schooldocs.co.nz -

- Select: Te Atatū Intermediate
- Enter the username: teatatu
- Password: harbourview

Follow the links to the relevant policies which are available for review.

LATE DROP OFF/EARLY PICKUP

To ensure our school day runs smoothly, please note that school starts at **8:45 am** daily; we recommend students arrive by **8:30 am** to settle in, though anyone arriving late must sign in at the Student Office (located next to the sickbay).

If you need to collect your child early, please email both the office and their teacher well in advance; students must sign out at the Student Office while whānau should wait at the Main Office for collection. To minimise classroom disruption, we kindly ask that if possible, early pick-ups coincide with the start or end of our breaks: Morning Tea (11:20 am – 11:45 am) or Lunch (12:55 pm – 1:50 pm).

LINEWIZE

As part of our commitment to digital safety, Te Atatū Intermediate has joined with Linewize as a means of protecting our students' digital journey while at school. This is done in the following manner;

- *Hybrid Cloud Filter*
- *School Manager. Cloud managed, hardware-optional, scalable, multi-OS supporting content filter.*
- *Student Safety Monitoring*
- *Monitor. Utilizing a combination of AI and a team of highly trained human moderators. It's the most advanced K-12 student threat detection tool available.*
- *Classroom Management*
- *Classwize. Providing screen and content visibility of all devices in class.*
- *Digital Safety Education*
- *Family Zone Community. Providing cyber safety education and tools, including a parent app, to engage your school community.*

As part of this commitment to digital safety - there is also the Family Zone access that parents have, which can be accessed via the Family Zone tab on our school website.

GARDEN TO TABLE

We are looking for parent volunteers to help support students in the garden on either a Monday, Tuesday or Friday during students lunch break, 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm. If you're available and interested in working with a small group in our veggie patch, please get in touch with [Mrs. Stoddard](#).

ROAD SAFETY

The office has recently received several phone calls from members of the public expressing concerns about students' road safety.

To ensure the safety of all, please take a moment to remind your child of the following road safety guidelines.

If your child rides a bike/scooter to school:

- Ensure they wear a helmet.
- Remind them to walk their bike/scooter across pedestrian crossings rather than riding it.
- For children walking to and from school:
- Walk on the Footpath
- Cross at Designated Areas
- Stop, Look, Listen, and Think
- Never Run Across the Road
- Stay Alert and Avoid Distractions.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep all of our students safe on the road

TUTORING AVAILABLE

Autumn Bell, a local Year 12 student and former TAI pupil, is offering tutoring services for Year 7 and 8 students. Having achieved NCEA Level 1 with an Excellence endorsement, Autumn is passionate about helping younger students reach their academic goals. Sessions are available for all abilities and can take place at the student's home or after school at TAI.

Duration: 50-minute sessions

Rate: \$28 per session

Call/text 027 224 7293 or email autumngeorgiabell@gmail.com for more information.



TECHNOLOGY AT MOTAT: ROOM 3 & 5

As mentioned last week, during Terms 1 and 2, our classes will attend Technology on Wednesdays at MOTAT, participating in the Invent a Machine programme. This exciting off-site learning opportunity allows students to explore engineering and design thinking in a highly practical way. Using levers, pulleys, gears, and other mechanical components, students will design and build working machines while developing collaboration and problem-solving skills. Back at school, students will extend this learning by designing and testing their own hovercrafts and experimenting with M-Bots, applying their understanding of movement, force, and coding in creative and innovative ways.

Room 3 and Room 5 were first up for their visit to MOTAT – and what a fantastic day it was! Students took part in an educator-led session called “Build a Machine”, an immersive programme where they worked in teams to design and construct a machine that transported a marble from one side of the room to the other. A key challenge was incorporating a lift component into their design, encouraging critical thinking, teamwork, and perseverance. After their workshop session, students had time to explore the many interactive exhibits at MOTAT and enjoyed a ride on the historic tram – a definite highlight of the day.

The Technology team is looking forward to taking the rest of our TAI classes across Terms 1 and 2 for what promises to be an engaging and inspiring learning experience.

“MOTAT was an extraordinary place with many things for us to see and do. The wonderful cars, old machines, and devices we don't use any more. Every room was a new experience and a new chance to learn. As we walked in through those gates the staff welcomed us with open arms. We were given a room where we could keep our belongings safe while we explored. They let us do an activity to make us think and problem solve while also having the funniest time ever. We built mechanisms where we had to keep improvising. No one gave up, why would we when we had a team helping fix what might have been broken or something that didn't work. They gave us a chance to go on a tram ride, giving us an experience like we were in the past. They let us look around, an adventure in every room. MOTAT has given us a chance to learn, explore. It truly is an amazing place.”

- Sofia R5



IT HAS BEEN AN ACTION-PACKED START TO THE TERM!

TERM 2 SPORTS SIGN-UPS: NEXT WEEK!

Sign-ups for Term 2 Sports will take place next week, from Monday 2nd March to Thursday 5th March.

A sign-up table will be set up on the covered courts for students to register interest in:

- **Winter Sports:** Rugby, Football, Ki-o-rahi, Wrestling,
- **Zone Days:** Netball and Basketball.
- **Special Events:** Sports Camp (Year 8 Only).
- **After School Sports (there is a fee to participate):**

Netball (Wednesday night at Te Pai), and Basketball (Night League).

Note: Separate sign-ups may be held for sports added mid-season. We encourage whānau to have a chat with their children first to ensure participation is based on their own interest and willingness.



WE NEED YOUR HELP! VOLUNTEER COACHES 2026

Our sports programmes rely on the wonderful support of our community. We are looking for volunteer coaches for our various teams for the 2026 season. If you have a passion for sports and can help out, we would love to hear from you!

[CLICK HERE - Volunteer Parent Coach Sign Up Form](#)



WEEKLY CLUBS & COMPS

RUNNING CLUB

A Record-Breaking Start! Running Club has kicked off with a massive turnout! On Monday, 50 Year 7s turned up to get their first taste of the trail, and this morning we had an incredible 80 Year 8s join in. It is amazing to see 130 TAI students choosing to wake up early and be at school by 7:30 am to run down to the Pony Club and back. Fitness, friendship, and fun - what an inspiring start!

A huge thank you to the amazing whānau support this week; we simply couldn't support these numbers without you.

BASKETBALL: TAI THUNDER (YMCA COMPETITION)

Shout-out to the TAI Thunder who started their grading games on a high note with a 26-14 win! For their first game of the new season, the team played exceptionally well together. We look forward to seeing their progress in the YMCA competition.

ORIENTEERING SPRINT SERIES

We have a huge 113 students officially registered! The first event kicked off this past Monday at Henderson High School. It was a great first-time experience for many, and we have three more exciting events coming up over the next three Mondays.

UPCOMING TRIALS & TOURNAMENTS

HOCKEY TRIALS (WAITAKERE ZONE)

Trials are held every Wednesday for the remainder of Term 1.

Next Session: Wednesday 4th March (Girls only).

Time/Location: 7:45 am at The Open Court, TAI.

Requirements: Full PE gear, school uniform to change into, and mouthguards (highly recommended).

Volunteers: Whaea Stacey is seeking parents with hockey experience to assist with trials and the season. Please reach out if you can help!

SOFTBALL WAITAKERE ZONE TRAINING & COMPETITION

To prepare for the upcoming tournaments at Brains Park, we have a tight training schedule on the school field:

Girls Tournament (Tue 3rd March) * Year 8 Training:

Thursday 26th Feb & Friday 27th Feb (Lunchtime)

Boys Tournament (Thu 5th March) * Year 8 Training:

Wednesday 4th March (Lunchtime)

Year 7 Training: Tuesday 3rd March (Lunchtime)

KIWI TAG THE WAITAKERE ZONE

Competition is on Tuesday 10th March.

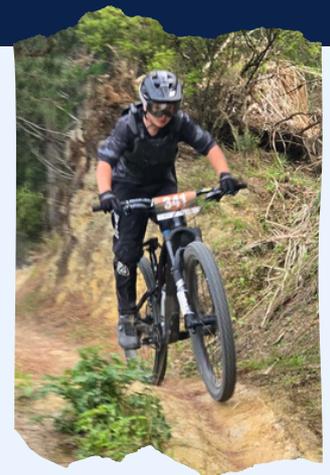
Teams Announced: Friday 27th February.

Training: Schedule to be confirmed shortly.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

AUCKLAND SCHOOLS SHREDDAH SERIES (MTB)

Round 2 was hosted by the Pōhutukawa MTB Club in Maraetai over the weekend. A massive congratulations to Ezra R13, who placed 1st again in the Under 13 category! Ezra was also the fastest overall across both affiliated and non-affiliated schools—a stellar performance on the tracks.



NATIONAL SURF LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to Blake R13, who competed against 100 athletes in his age group at the Nationals over the weekend. Blake saw great success in both swimming and boarding events, with the highlight being his team making the male board relay final from a massive field of 52 teams. Fantastic effort!



HE WAKA EKE NOA: SUPPORTING OUR TAMARIKI

At TAI, we believe it truly takes a village to raise a child. We are all in this waka together, ensuring that every student has what they need to thrive, learn, and grow. Interested in helping out?

If you would like to volunteer for the meal programme, require a daily lunch for your child or have any questions, please get in touch with Kohle at the school office - kohle.r@teatatu.school.nz

TE ATATŪ FOOD FOR SCHOOLS

Through the incredible generosity of Te Atatū Food for Schools and donations from our local community, we have been able to provide daily lunches—including sandwiches, muesli bars, and fruit, to students who need them. This initiative supports not only TAI but other schools across the Peninsula.

How you can help this great local cause:

Volunteer to Shop:

Get in touch via the “Te Atatū Food for Schools” Facebook page to join the shopping roster.

Drop-off Donations:

They gratefully accept spreads, muesli bars, crackers, or chip packets which can be dropped off at The Fire Station ELC, Waipani Road.

Cash Donations:

Account Name: TE ATATU FOOD FOR SCHOOLS

ANZ Bank: 01-0495-0447102-00



TAI JOINS KIDSCAN IN TERM 2

We are excited to announce that from Term 2, TAI will officially become a KidsCan School. KidsCan provides essential food, clothing, and health support to help remove barriers to learning. Through this partnership, we will expand our offering to include regular breakfast and hot lunch options at school.



WE NEED YOUR HELPING HANDS!

To make this possible, we are looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve food. If you (or perhaps a grandparent) have some time to spare, we would love to hear from you. We are hoping to establish a weekly roster to keep this programme running smoothly and sustainably.



ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES VIA KINDO



We want to ensure every student is comfortable and equipped for the school day. Currently, free sanitary products are available to order via your Kindo account.

As we transition into the KidsCan programme, we will also be adding the following items to Kindo for free ordering as they become available:

- School Shoes & Jackets (non-uniform)
- Nit Treatment Products

If you are yet to set up a KINDO account, [please click here](#).

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY: THE TAI ATTENDANCE PLAN

The Board has officially approved our new attendance strategy, which aligns with the Ministry of Education's focus on student success. Regular school attendance—defined as being present for more than 90% of the school term—is the foundation for academic achievement and long-term well-being.

By attending consistently, students are more likely to reach their full potential, leading to better health, higher incomes, and increased job stability. The Government has set a national goal for 80% of students to be attending school regularly by the year 2030, and at TAI, we are committed to working steadily toward this target.

OUR RESPONSE TO ABSENCES

To ensure every student stays on track, we have clear procedures for when a student is not in class:

- **Non-Continuous Absence:** For students with intermittent or occasional absences, we focus on early intervention. This includes monitoring attendance patterns and working with the student to identify "Things AT SCHOOL" or "Things OUTSIDE SCHOOL" that may be making it harder to attend.
- **Continuous Unexplained Absence:** In cases where a student is absent for a prolonged period without communication, the school will initiate more direct outreach. This involves immediate contact with whānau to ensure the student's safety and well-being, followed by a formal support meeting to establish a return-to-school plan.

One tool we use during these support meetings is an Individual Attendance Plan. This helps the student, whānau, and school agree on specific actions each party will take to improve attendance.

SUPPORTING YOUR WHĀNAU

We understand that life happens and sometimes there are hurdles "OUTSIDE SCHOOL" that make it difficult to get through the gates.

TAI is here to help. We can provide direct support for families who may be finding schooling costs or logistics a challenge, including:

- Stationery and Uniforms
- School Lunches
- Counselling Services

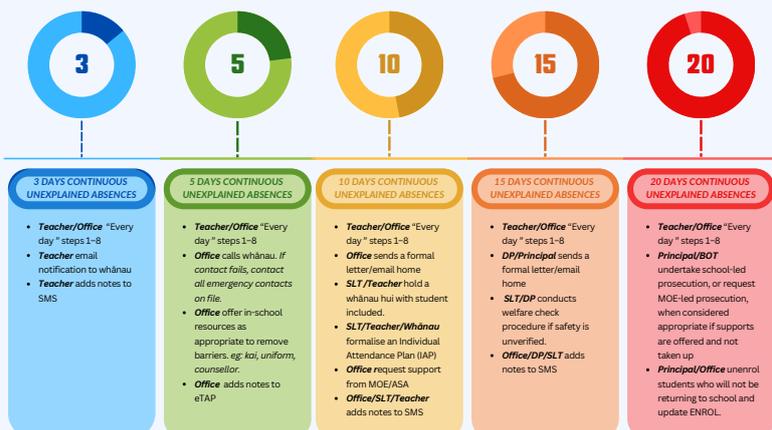
If you require extra support or are facing barriers that make regular attendance difficult, please reach out to Kohle Rooney in the office. We are committed to working together to find solutions that work for your whānau.

A NOTE ON PUNCTUALITY

Setting a positive tone for the day starts with a strong morning routine.

Students should be at school before the 8:45 am bell to set themselves up and be ready for learning.

RESPONSE FOR CONTINUOUS UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE



RESPONSE FOR NON-CONTINUOUS ABSENCE



P.A.C.E. ELECTIVES – TERM OVERVIEW

ANIMATIONS – MRS MCKEOWN

Students will explore the exciting world of animation by designing and creating their own 3D holograms, developing both technical and creative skills.

ART DRAWING – MRS TUAOI

Students will learn about symbols and patterns from cultures around the globe, practising drawing techniques and creating detailed artistic designs.

CARTOGRAPHY – MATUA MIKE

Students will discover the fundamentals of map-making and explore the geological processes that shape the Earth and its oceans.

CHESS – MR GOOLD

An introduction to the world of chess, where students will learn the basic rules, strategies, and critical thinking skills behind the game.

CRICKET – MRS CHUNG

Students will develop fundamental cricket skills, build game awareness, and participate in friendly matches while strengthening teamwork and sportsmanship.

CULTURAL CREATIONS – WHAEA STACEY

Students will design and create a permanent outdoor art installation that will be displayed in our school grounds, leaving a lasting legacy at TAI.

DEBATING – MRS NORTHWOOD

Students will learn the rules and conventions of debating, examine both sides of current topics, and prepare and present structured debates.

ESPAÑOL – MR JOHNSON

Students will learn to speak basic Spanish, building vocabulary and conversational skills while exploring aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures.

FLEX FRIDAY – WHAEA NGAIRE

Whakanuia tō tinana, whakatipua tō hauora – Celebrate your body, cultivate your wellbeing. Students will build confidence, strengthen hauora, and develop a positive body outlook through movement and wellbeing activities.

GARDEN TO TABLE – MRS STODDARD & WHAEA AMANDA

Two separate groups will alternate between growing fresh produce in the school garden and using harvested ingredients to prepare meals in the Food Technology room, learning about sustainability and nutrition.

LAWN BOWLS – WHAEA MARIEE

Students will learn the skills and strategies of lawn bowls through fun, game-based learning.

MAKING MOBILES – MR DEMPSEY

Students will explore balance, shape, design, and knot-tying techniques as they create their own hanging mobiles.

SAME SCRIPT, DIFFERENT FILM – MR MELVILLE

Students will interpret a shared script in creative ways, using dramatic and visual techniques to produce their own unique short films.

SOCCER – MRS TEARIKI

Students will learn fundamental soccer skills, play friendly matches, practise teamwork and fair play, and stay active while having fun.

TAI NEWS – WHAEA DEB

Students will experience what it's like behind the scenes of TAI News – writing scripts, filming, presenting, and editing their own news segments.

TE ATATŪ LIBRARY BOOK CLUB – WHAEA SABINE

Students will read selected books and write reviews or reports to be published on the school library website.

TENNIS – WHAEA VANIA

Students will develop fundamental tennis skills, participate in skill-based games, and build confidence on the court.

UKULELE FOR BEGINNERS – MRS HAURAKI

Students will learn the history of the ukulele, how to read chords, and how to play for enjoyment.

VOLLEYBALL – MR ARJUN & WHAEA BARBARA

Students will learn basic volleyball skills, take part in friendly games, and practise teamwork and fair play while staying active.