

**Welcome to**  
**Te Kākano**

**Whānau information booklet**

Hope



Excellence



Love



Peace



Through our faith we **HELP**  
bring light to the world

# Welcome

Welcome to Te Kākano (TK). We are so blessed to have your family join our team. This booklet is designed to help you smoothly transition into Te Kākano, which is our play-based, ages 5-6 year Hub. Have a good read through and feel free to ask your child's kōhanga teacher any questions you may have.

## Checklist

There are a few things that will help your transition to school. Have you...

- Joined the Facebook Group?  
*Search 'Rolleston Christian School - Parent & Staff'*
- Followed the 'Rolleston Christian School' Facebook page
- Made sure the office has your correct email address for the newsletter and reports to be sent to
- Download and set up the etap parent app. You will receive school communication through this app. Ask Tracey in the office for help if you need it
- Read the 'Parent Handbook'
- Put the school phone number into your phone:  
*03 550 2653*
- Looked through the RCS website

## Te Kākano tips

- ★ Name everything with a waterproof vivid
- ★ Pack a spare change of clothes in your child's bag for messy play / toileting accidents
- ★ Black velcro shoes are best as children do not wear shoes inside and frequently take them on and off
- ★ TK teachers will mainly communicate with you face to face, by email or via the eTap app. At times the Facebook page will feature reminders about upcoming school events
- ★ Correct uniform must be worn at all times. On Fridays, the sports uniform may be worn.

## Transitioning to School

Transitioning to a new school, whether it be for the first time or moving schools, is the start of a wonderful journey. Children react differently to new things. For some it takes time for them to settle into new routines and to make friends. This is completely normal. We find that over time, as teachers intentionally implement the strategies they know help children settle, children begin to develop a sense of belonging at school. The timeframe for this varies for each child and it's a great time to practice the fruit of Patience.

## TK Connect (Beginning Week 3)

Miss Horn and Mrs Lee host TK Connect in the staffroom each Friday afternoon from 1:45 -2:25. This is a time for parents and caregivers to learn more about Te Kākano and how to best support your child's transition to school. TK Assembly follows TK Connect, and parents are invited to join us for this weekly celebration in Te Kākano from 2:25pm.

# Our Timetable

Day	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs	Fri
8:55-9:10	Hui Time	Hui Time
9:10-10:05	Learning Through Play & Writing	<i>Friday Rotations:</i> -Library -Health -Drama
10:05-10:15	Phonics	
10:15-11:00	Learning Through Play & Maths	Poetry
11-11:30	Break - Outside Play	
11:30-12:00	Learning Through Play & Maths	Snack & Story Time
12:00-12:15	Handwriting	<i>Term 1 Options:</i> Rakau & Poi LIGHTS Sign Language & Music Movement
12:15-1:00	Learning Through Play & Reading	Nature Play
1-1:15	Eat Lunch outside TK	
1:15-1:55	Lunch Time Play	
1:55-2:05	Afternoon Roll	Afternoon Roll
	Bags Packed	Bags Packed & Hub Tiaki
2:10-2:25	Handwriting	
2:25-2:40	Living Christianly	Assembly
2:40-2:55	LIGHTS/Te Reo/Circle Time	
3:00	Prayer Home Time	Home Time

## Friday Rotations

**Arts Rotation:** Each term has a different focus from dance and fine arts to music and drama.

**Circle Time:** This programme is a time to build social skills.

**Poetry:** Research shows that poetry builds literacy skills. A poem will come home each Friday for you to share as a family.

**Physical Education (PE) & Health:** The children are taught team games and investigate topics such as feelings, wellbeing and interpersonal skills.

**Sign Language & Music Movement:** New Zealand Sign Language and worship songs with movement/dance.

**Rakau & Poi:** Learning traditional Māori games and skills using Rakau and Poi.

# Learning through Play

At RCS, we believe in nurturing the 'whole' child, particularly as we know they have been made by in the image of our Heavenly Father. To support this, in Te Kākano, we have a **Learning Through Play** philosophy which runs alongside our core learning areas of reading, writing and maths. Learning Through Play is essentially a time of 'Free Play'. Free play is unstructured, voluntary, child-initiated activity that allows children to develop their imaginations while exploring and experiencing the world around them. It is the spontaneous play that comes naturally from children's natural curiosity, love of discovery, and enthusiasm.

It is a time where children get to develop the natural gifts and talents that God has given them, as well as build relationships and revel in the joy of the season of childhood.

# Living Christianly

Seeing your child developing their relationship with God is a privilege and joy for us. Our Living Christianly programme aims to develop bible knowledge, a basic and practical understanding of The Word, as well as embracing child-like faith through singing and dancing. We teach children to pray from their hearts. As teachers we see it as part of our mission to be role models as Christ-followers and work in partnership with you as together we seek the will of God for each of the children He has given us.

# Te Kākano Teaching Team

We work collaboratively to teach to the needs of your child. Children will get to know all of the teachers and Learning Assistants in TK.



**Mrs Lorne Lee**  
**TK Learning Leader**  
Kōhanga Mikimiki  
[l.lee@rcs.school.nz](mailto:l.lee@rcs.school.nz)



**Miss Brittany Speden**  
Kōhanga Koru  
[b.speden@rcs.school.nz](mailto:b.speden@rcs.school.nz)



**Mrs Gabby Nuthall**  
Kōhanga Mānuka  
[g.nuthall@rcs.school.nz](mailto:g.nuthall@rcs.school.nz)



**Mrs Li-Ann Viviers**  
All Hub Teacher  
[l.viviers@rcs.school.nz](mailto:l.viviers@rcs.school.nz)



**Mrs Monica V**  
Classroom Support



**Mrs Beth Marlin**  
ELL Teacher (English  
Language Learners teacher)



**Mrs Carol Spreckley**  
Classroom Support

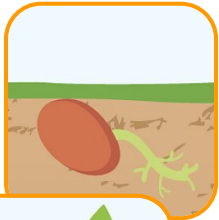


**Mrs Vanessa Cavanagh**  
Classroom Support

# Māori translations

As part of our bicultural responsiveness, we have made an effort to honour the Māori heritage of the Rolleston area by giving our classrooms and hubs Māori names.

## Hub names



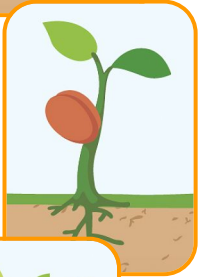
**Te Kākano means seed** - Years NE/1/2  
(*teh caah-cah-naw*)

Our role in TK is planting the foundational seeds in your child's education journey, in the soil that you have prepared as their first teachers.



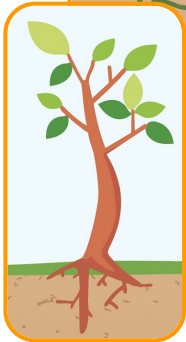
**Te Wana means shoot** - Years 2/3  
(*teh wah-nah*)

Our role in TW is to nurture the seed by watering your child's independent learning habits, critical thinking and self management skills as they grow in confidence in who they are as a learner.



**Te Pihinga means seedling** - Years 4/5/6  
(*teh pee-hee-ngah*)

Our role in TP is to nurture the seed by watering your child's independent learning habits, critical thinking and self management skills as they grow in confidence in who they are as a learner.



**Te Māhuri means sapling** - Years 6/7/8  
(*teh maah-'who'-ree*)

Our role in TM is deepening your child's roots by expanding and consolidating their understanding of who they are as learners and what they contribute to this world.

## Class names

Research shows that relationships are the key to learning. In order to foster these, we made the decision to have each Hub split in Kōhanga groups. Like the nature imagery, teachers 'look after' the children in their kōhanga. Your child's kōhanga teacher is your first contact for any pastoral or academic conversations. Teachers work together collaboratively in our space to best meet the needs of all our Te Kākano students.



**Kōhanga**  
(*core-hung-a*)  
Nest



**Mikimiki**  
(*me-ke-me-ke*)  
Mrs Lee



**Koru**  
(*caw-roo*)  
Miss Speden



**Mānuka**  
(*mah-noo-cah*)  
Mrs Nuthall



# Senior Leadership Team



**Miss Liz Horn**  
Principal  
[l.horn@rcs.school.nz](mailto:l.horn@rcs.school.nz)



**Mr Polu Luatua**  
Deputy Principal  
[p.luatua@rcs.school.nz](mailto:p.luatua@rcs.school.nz)



**Mrs Lynda Siave**  
Deputy Principal & Te Pihinga Learning Leader  
Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO)  
[l.siave@rcs.school.nz](mailto:l.siave@rcs.school.nz)

# Administration / Office Staff



**Mrs Tracey Kennedy**  
Administration &  
Enrolments  
[office@rcs.school.nz](mailto:office@rcs.school.nz)



**Mrs Amy Burke**  
Communications  
Accounts & Uniform  
[communications@rcs.school.nz](mailto:communications@rcs.school.nz)  
[accounts@rcs.school.nz](mailto:accounts@rcs.school.nz)

# Whānau Groups

Whānau (*far-no*) Groups are made up of children from all year levels in the school. They meet together twice a term to do environmental-based projects. This is a great time for students to form relationships throughout the school. Your child will be in the same whānau group throughout their time at school. Our whānau groups are:

**Toroa** (*tore-rore-a*) Colour: gold / yellow

**Kiwi** (*kee-wee*) Colour: green

**Tūi** (*too-ee*) Colour: purple

**Pīwakawaka** (*pee-wock-ar-wock-ar*) Colour: blue

**Pūkeko** (*pooh-keck-or*) Colour: red

