

**Welcome to**  
**Te Māhuri**

**Whānau Information Booklet**

Hope



Excellence



Love



Peace



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

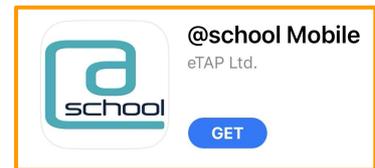
# Welcome

Welcome to Te Māhuri (TM). We are so blessed to have your family as part of our team. This booklet is designed to help both new and current families smoothly transition into Te Māhuri for 2024. 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 you as a parent at Rolleston Christian 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 school reports to be sent to
- ❑ Read the 'Parent & Whānau Partnership Handbook' [Link is on this page.](#)
- ❑ Put the school phone number into your phone:  
*03 550 2653*
- ❑ Looked through the RCS website
- ❑ 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.



## Te Māhuri tips

- ★ Read the fortnightly Te Māhuri newsletter that is sent via the etap app.
- ★ Name everything, especially school uniform in a waterproof vivid marker.
- ★ Ensure your child is in full, correct uniform including a school hat.
- ★ Students are expected to take off their shoes inside. Remember that shoes should be black.
- ★ TM teachers will communicate with you by phone, face to face, by email or via the etap app. Also sometimes via the facebook page - for example, trip reminders.
- ★ Our hub rules which help tamariki grow in our school values (Hope, Excellence. Love. Peace) can be summarised simply as *Respect Ourselves, Respect Others, Respect our Space.*

## Transitioning to Te Māhuri

Transitioning to a new hub, whether it be changing schools, or moving up a year level can be different for each child. For some it takes time for them to settle into new routines and to make friends. This is completely normal. Some children can take longer than others to adjust to the expectations of a new school level. Please feel free to talk with your child's kōhanga teacher if you have any wonderings about this.

# Our regular timetable - Terms 1 & 2

	Monday - Thursday
8.55am	Welcome and Hub Hui (Kōhanga Hui Thursday & Friday)
9.15am	Maths
10.00am	Read and Feed (Whole Hub Shared Novel)
10.15am	Reading
11.00am	Break
11.30am	Writing and LIGHTS
12.15pm	
1.00pm	Lunch
1.55pm	Silent Reading
2.10pm	Living Christianly / Circle Time / Assembly
2.50pm	Pack up and Daily Reflection
3.00pm	Home Time
AfterSchool	Teachers have Te Reo Lessons, Team Meeting and Staff Meeting after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.30pm.

## Thursday Afternoon Arts Rotations

On Thursday afternoons we have Arts rotations with Te Pihinga. The options in 2024 are Kapa Haka, Pasifika, Choir and Ukulele. All groups will have a compulsory external performance during the year. Additional music and Arts subjects will be every second Friday.

## Timetable Changes

Sometimes our timetable changes due to unforeseen circumstances!

# Our regular timetable - Terms 1 & 2

	Friday (odd week)	Friday (even week)
8.55am	<i>Te Māhuri Teachers will be out of the classroom on odd week Fridays for CRT (Classroom Release Time)</i>	Welcome and Hub Hui (Kōhanga Hui Thursday & Friday)
9.15am	<b>Mrs K:</b> Art Drama/Dance Library	Maths
10.00am		Read and Feed (Whole Hub Shared Novel)
10.15am		Te Reo Māori
11.00am		Break
11.30am	<b>Mr Crosson:</b> Music Digital Technology	NZ Scientist Study (Literacy, LIGHTS)
12.15pm		
1.00pm		Lunch
1.55pm	<b>Mr Luatua:</b> Health/PE Tiaki Time	Silent Reading
2.10pm		Kōhanga Time/Spotlight
2.50pm		Pack up and Daily Reflection
3.00pm	Home Time	Home Time



**Mrs K**



**Mr Crosson**



**Mr Luatua**

# Our day in more detail...

## Hui time

This time includes morning prayer, introducing the week's memory verse, singing a worship song and sharing notices and timetable for the day. We also take the roll at this time. If you are talking with your child's kōhanga teacher before school, please be aware that they will need to lead hui time from 8.55 am. Sometimes our Hui is with Kōhanga, sometimes as a whole Hub. Our Hui times are important, they settle the students and set them up for a successful day, so please assist your children to arrive at school on time.

## Reading

Your child will continue to develop their reading and comprehension skills. At Year 7 - 8 there is a greater emphasis on reading for meaning, and gaining new learning from what we have read. Because of this focus, children tend to progress through the levels more slowly. This is expected at this level. **You can support your child at home by encouraging them to read for pleasure, and visiting your local library regularly.**

## Writing

Your child will learn more about the crafting of written work. At Year 7-8 there is a greater emphasis on writing genre and writing for an audience. Our written work will take longer to complete, and it will often link to what we are learning in Health or L.I.G.H.T.S. **You can support your child at home by talking to them about their writing, and noticing great examples of writing as you are sharing stories with them.**

## Spelling

Your child will continue to develop their use of phonological awareness and spelling rules. Some children may bring home spelling words, we will let you know if this is applicable to your child. **You can support your child at home by encouraging them to 'proof read' any written work they do and assisting them to correct errors.**

## Maths

At this level our focus in maths is on developing confidence in combining maths strands and using them in more genuine contexts. **You can support your child at home by talking with them about their learning at school. You could also encourage them to use fractions, decimals and percentages and point these out in real life situations - this is something that many ākonga find challenging at this level!**

## Living Christianly

In Te Māhuri our Living Christianly programme aims to develop a practical understanding of God's Word, as well as living out Biblical principles in everyday life. Around the ages of 11 and 12, children begin to discover Christianity more deeply for themselves, so we encourage questions and critical thinking.

## Technology

This year our allocated time for Technology at Te Rōhutu Whio is Term 3 and 4. Students spend the whole day at technology, the exact day of the week is yet to be advised.



# LIGHTS

In our school we have a very special action based inquiry learning process that we call LIGHTS. This is an acronym for each stage of the inquiry process. The stages are:

- Look at the current situation (research information on the current situation of the topic).
- Investigate alternatives (Explore different ideas on how to make changes, in order to make a difference, or solve the problems identified in the L phase).
- Go for it (choose your best and most effective idea and action it).
- How have things changes (reflect on the G phase and see if you have made a difference).
- Time to share (share with others your project and your learning).
- So what have we learned? (a final reflection on your learning for the whole project and the outcome of your project).

In Te Māhuri , children will be completing LIGHTS projects in our LIGHTS program, which takes place four times per week. At this age LIGHTS is an important part of learning to critically think about new information, use their reading, writing and mathematical skills in an authentic way, and also develop the skills to work collaboratively with their peers. The children are learning content from the New Zealand Curriculum in Social Sciences, Science, Technology and Health, and they also learn to develop important competencies based on our Vision of Christ-like, Creative, Critical-Learners who HELP (Hope, Excellence, Love and Peace) bring LIGHT to the world. Our overarching topic for 2024 is Aotearoa - The People. We have some exciting trips and learning opportunities already planned and we would appreciate your support with transport and supervision.



## 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** (*taw-raw-ah*) Colour: gold / yellow

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

**Tūi** (*too-ee*) Colour: purple

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

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



# Personal Communication Devices at School

## Mobile Phones & Smart Watches

At RCS we prefer that students do not bring mobile phones and smart watches to school. The National Government campaigned on banning phones in schools and are currently consulting with schools about this. Our current school rule is that students are not to use mobile phones or smart watches at school, or during school hours. Students can be contacted through the school office if parents need to contact them urgently.

Across the school, any mobile phones or smart watches that are at school at 9am will be collected and they will be looked after in the school office until 3pm when they will be returned to students. Phones & smart watches belonging to students that have not been handed in and are then used during school time will be confiscated and a parent will need to collect the phone from the school office. *Confiscated phones and watches will not be released to students, only to parents.*

If it is absolutely essential that your child brings a phone to school for after school use, please ensure that they hand it in in the morning to their kōhanga teacher. We will be clearly explaining this to all Te Māhuri students again, and the consequences for not doing so.

## Te Māhuri 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 Te Mahuri.



**Mrs Mandy Cleave**  
**TM Team Leader,**  
**Christian Schools**  
**Across School Teacher**  
Years 7/8  
[m.cleave@rcs.school.nz](mailto:m.cleave@rcs.school.nz)



**Miss Julia Caldwell**  
Kōhanga Rātā Teacher  
[j.caldwell@rcs.school.nz](mailto:j.caldwell@rcs.school.nz)



**Miss Stephanie Smith**  
Kōhanga Tōtara Teacher  
[s.smith@rcs.school.nz](mailto:s.smith@rcs.school.nz)



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

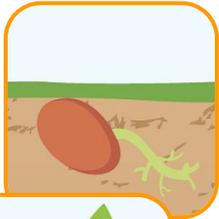


**Mrs Carol Spreckley**  
Learning Support

# 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



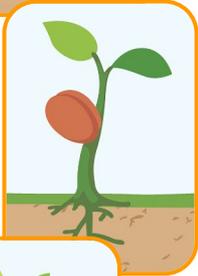
**Te Kākano means seed** - Years NE/1/2  
(*teh caah-cah-naw*)

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 2/3/4  
(*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 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.



**Tōtara**  
(*taaw-taw-rah*)  
**Miss Smith**



**Rātā**  
(*rah-tah*)  
**Miss Caldwell**



**Kōhanga**  
(*core-hung-a*)  
**Nest**

# Senior Leadership Team



**Mrs Liz Coyle**  
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  
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  
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