

# **Welcome to Te Pihinga**

## **Whānau information booklet**

Hope



Excellence



Love



Peace



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

# Welcome

Welcome to Te Pihinga (TP). We are so blessed that God has chosen your child and your family to join our team. This information is designed to help you smoothly transition into Te Pihinga, which is our Year 4 - 6 Hub. Have a good read through this booklet 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. Make sure you have...

- ☐ 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 newsletters to be sent to
- ☐ Read the 'Parent Handbook'
- ☐ Put the school phone number into your phone:  
*03 550 2653*
- ☐ Looked through the RCS website
- ☐ Downloaded the parent app (@school Mobile). See the office staff for your personal log in details, and for help with this if needed.



## Te Pihinga tips

- ★ Correct uniform must be worn at all times; no jewellery, nail polish, or make up.
- ★ Name all items of clothing clearly (especially second hand items).
- ★ School hats are to be worn in Terms 1 and 4, these need to be named clearly and can be left at school during the week.
- ★ School shoes are black, and your child will need to be able to take them on and off independently (including laces).
- ★ TP teachers will mainly communicate with you face to face, by email or via the parent app.

## Transitioning to Te Pihinga

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 timetable

Day	Mon   Tues   Wed   Thurs	Fri
8:55 – 9:10	Hui Time	
9:10 – 9:50	Literacy (Reading, writing, handwriting, spelling)	Friday Rotation:  - Assessment and Finishing - Physical Education - Computational thinking
9:50 – 10:05	Fitness	
10:05 – 10:15	Read and feed (Shared novel)	
10:15 – 11:00	Literacy (Reading, writing, handwriting, spelling)	
11.00 – 11:30	Break – Outside Play	
11:30 – 12:20	Maths	Friday Rotation (cont)
12:20 – 1:00	LIGHTS	
1.00 – 1:15	Eat Lunch outside TP	
1:15 – 1:55	Lunch Time Play	
1:55 – 2:00	Afternoon Roll	
2:00 – 2:20	Living Christianly	
2:20 – 2:50	Afternoon Rotation: Te reo & Tiaki time   The Arts   KiVa & Circle Time   Performing Arts (Thu)	Sport
2:50 – 3:00	Pack up, Prayer, Home Time	Pack up, Reflection, Prayer, Home Time

TP Teachers have meetings after school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Siave is released for administration on Fridays. Mrs Bell is released on Thursdays. Mrs Cargill teaches in Te Pihinga on Thursdays and Fridays.

## 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, and it's important that your child is on time for the start of the day. Your child will be in their kōhanga 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.

**Friday:** Our Friday programme is different to the rest of the week. Your child may wear their PE uniform on Friday as we have a PE rotation and Sport in the afternoon.

**Assembly:** Our TP Assembly will be held each Wednesday from 12:20 – 1:00. Parents are welcome to join with us and celebrate our learning.

**Reading:** Your child will continue to develop their reading and comprehension skills. At Year 4 – 6 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 4 – 6 there is a greater emphasis on writing genre and writing for an audience. Our written work will take longer to complete, and there will be clear links to what your child has read. **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.**

**Handwriting:** Your child will continue to develop their fine motor skills and correct letter formation.

**Spelling:** Your child will continue to develop their use of phonological awareness and spelling rules. **You can support your child at home by talking to them about the rule they are learning, and helping them to spot this rule around them.**

**Maths:** At this level our focus in maths is on developing confidence when working with number, and the ability to see number and maths in different contexts. **You can support your child at home by talking with them about their learning at school. You could also encourage the learning of basic addition and subtraction facts, as well as multiplication tables and division.**

**Living Christianly:** At this level our Living Christianly programme aims to develop a practical understanding of God's Word, as well as embracing child-like faith.

**Afternoon rotations:** On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons the children will spend one day each at Te Reo & Tiaki; The Arts; KiVa & Circle Time. On Thursday afternoons we will have our Performing Arts rotations with Te Māhuri.

## Te Pihinga 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 TP.



**Mrs Lynda Siave**  
**TP Team Leader/DP/SENCO**  
Kōhanga Horoeka  
[l.siave@rcs.school.nz](mailto:l.siave@rcs.school.nz)



**Mrs Amber Bell**  
Kōhanga Karaka  
[a.bell@rcs.school.nz](mailto:a.bell@rcs.school.nz)



**Mrs Christina Sands**  
**Within school teacher**  
Kōhanga Matipo  
[c.sands@rcs.school.nz](mailto:c.sands@rcs.school.nz)



**Mrs Jerusha Cargill**  
Release teacher  
Thursday / Friday  
[j.cargill@rcs.school.nz](mailto:j.cargill@rcs.school.nz)

# 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:

- L**ook at the current situation (research information on the current situation of the topic).
- I**nvestigate alternatives (Explore different ideas on how to make changes, in order to make a difference, or solve the problems identified in the L phase).
- G**o for it (choose your best and most effective idea and action it).
- H**ow have things changes (reflect on the **G** phase and see if you have made a difference).
- T**ime to share (share with others your project and your learning).
- S**o what have we learned? (a final reflection on your learning for the whole project and the outcome of your project).

In Te Pihinga, 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.



## 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:

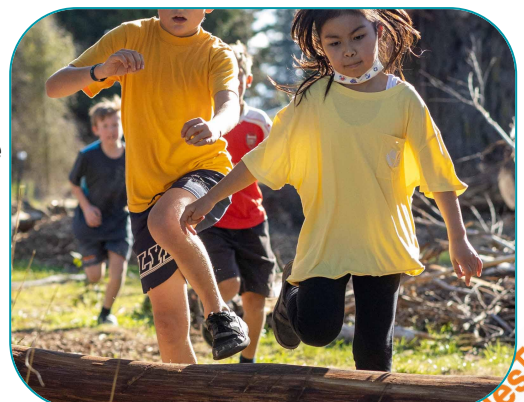
**Toroa** (*taw-raw-ah*) Colour: gold / yellow

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

**Tūī** (*too-ee*) Colour: purple

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

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

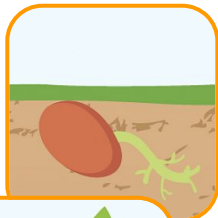




# Māori translations

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)

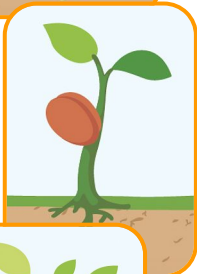
Our role in TK is planting the foundational seeds in your child's education journey, in the soil that you have prepared as their first teachers.



**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 Pihinga students.



**Kōhanga**  
(core-hung-a)  
Nest



**Horoeka**  
(haw-raw-eh-cah)  
**Mrs Siave**



**Matipo**  
(mah-tee-paw)  
**Mrs Sands**



**Karaka**  
(cah-rah-cah)  
**Mrs Bell**

# 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  
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