



Kanuka



Rimu



Harakeke



Titoki



Totara

Family Guide to Solway School 2010



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Matai



Kowhai



Kauri



Kahikatea



Nikau

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Introduction

At Solway School we take pride in creating a learning environment in which all children are valued and given the opportunity to develop academically, socially and physically in a safe and caring manner. Solway is a progressive, decile 6, semi-rural school with a current role of 200 catering for children from years 0-6. In 2010 we will operate 9 classrooms, from term 2. School programmes and activities are aimed at meeting the needs of all children, giving them the opportunity to extend their learning and to provide them with a wide range of learning experiences both at school and in the wider community.

Parents and caregivers are a valuable asset to Solway Primary School. We welcome your involvement in our school and look forward to developing a strong partnership with you to ensure your child's schooling is a positive experience. Please feel free to visit us to discuss your child's needs or any other queries you may have regarding school procedures or your child's progress.

Our school motto -

" LEARNING TOGETHER "

'Together we will improve tomorrow, by inspiring a love of learning today'

Goals of the school 2010

Learning together:

- to raise achievement in reading, writing, spelling and maths
- to use our values to build character
- to enhance our community co-operative spirit
- to care for each other
- to respect Solway traditions

Standards

At all times children will be expected to be considerate and display good manners. Most school rules are based on the safety and health of all at Solway and the protection of property. Parents will always be welcome at school to discuss disciplinary matters. We expect children to arrive at school before 8.50 prepared and ready to learn. We expect work to be of a high standard so students take pride in their achievements. Workbooks that are 'tagged' will need to be replaced. We expect children to use respectful language and be obedient at all times.

Uniform – brown, black, navy shoes/sandals. No trainers.

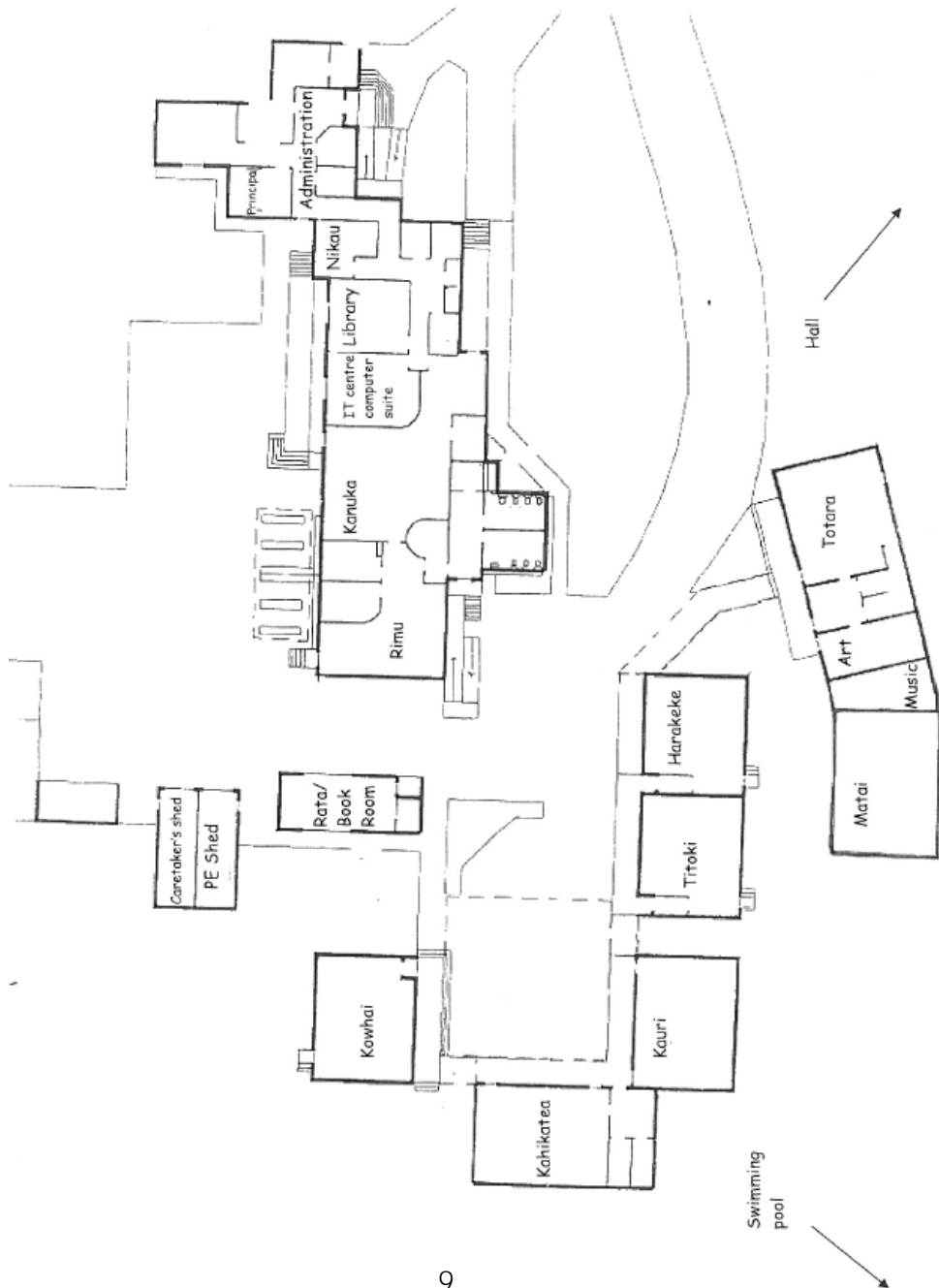
No bright underclothing showing please.



The school enrolment zone shall be defined as:

Skeets Rd/Westbush Rd, Westbush Rd to Ngaumutawa Rd, right to Judds Rd, down Judds Rd to High St, right into High St, left into South belt, and on to South Rd/South belt Junction. Right into South Rd and down to the Waingawa River. Follow the line of the river to its junction with the Ruamahanga River and generally south along the Ruamahanga to the Gladstone Bridge. Then in a direct line from the Gladstone bridge to the intersection of SH2 and East Taratahi Rd. Then in a direct line to the junction of Chester and Mangaterere Valley Rd and on to Rocky Lookout returning to the junction of Mt Holdsworth Rd and Norfolk Rd and then in a straight line back to the Westbush/ Skeets Rd junction.

School Map



Staff 2010

		Room	Year Level
Principal	Gail Marshall		
Deputy Principal	Viv Booth	Kanuka	0/1
Assistant Principal	Chris Simons	Kahikatea	5/6
Senior Teacher	Jenny Schouten	Matai	3/4
Class Teachers	Steve Hornby (ICT)	Kauri	5/6
	Jill Slight	Totara	3/4
	Pam Paterson	Kowhai	4/5
	Lorna Mead/Hannah Gain	Titoki	2/3
	Sarah Beattie	Harakeke	2
(Term 2)	Cheryll Garland/Chrissy French	Rimu	1
Learning Support/ Resources	David Hodge	Nikau	
Release Teachers	Marilyn Beetham, Cheryll Garland, Nicola Harwood, Tracey Wilson		
Reading Support	Adele Frances		
Special Needs Support	Lois Standish (ORRS)		
Office Manager	Viv Nicol		
Office Assistant/ Receptionist/BoT			
Secretary	Selina Wyeth		
Librarians	Maureen Gavin, Selina Wyeth		
Teachers' Aides	Maureen Gavin, Jose Vatselias, Rachel Allsworth		
Te Reo/Kapahaka	Whaea Whiri Edmonds		
Caretaking/Cleaning	Brian Marriott, Gina Marriott		

Important Dates 2010

Term 1	Tuesday 2 nd February – Thursday 1 st April
Term 2	Monday 19 th April – Friday 2 nd July
Term 3	Monday 19 th July – Friday 24 th September
Term 4	Monday 11 th October – Wednesday 17 th December

Easter Break	Falls within School Holidays
Queen's B'day	Monday 7 th June
Labour Day	Monday 25 th October

Family Contribution

A family donation per term is expected. Quality education can no longer be delivered by relying solely upon the Operational Grant from the Ministry of Education. Donations for 2010 are as follows:

- \$30 for one child per term
- \$25 per child per term for two children
- \$20 per child per term for three or more children

10% discount applies if the year's donation is paid in full by the end of term one.

Parent Help

The school would like to encourage parents to participate in the life of the school. You may be interested in helping in the classrooms, assisting with learning support programmes, processing library books, supervision and/or transport on trips, coaching sports teams, attending sports and open days, assemblies and social occasions.

Meet the Teacher Evenings

Will be held during February this year. Teams will notify parents of the date.

Parent Information Evenings

Information evenings are planned for one each term this year.

Picnic

Each year in the first two weeks of school we have a school picnic. This is a chance to meet new families and for parents to meet their teacher for the year. This year we are combining the picnic with the school swimming sports.

Progress through the School

There are many factors which can influence children's progress through the school:

- Time of year they enter school
- Maturity
- Academic progress

We are happy to discuss your child's progress through the school at any stage. We may also approach you if we feel that your child may be advantaged in some way by a classroom change.

Reporting to Parents

The school operates an open door policy which means teachers are happy to make arrangements with you to discuss pupil progress and concerns as the need arises. Achievement Books go home at the end of each term. These are samples of work covered during the term and any testing carried out. Work is assessed by teachers in accordance with our assessment programme. Achievement Books are for you to view and make a positive comment related to your child's achievement over the term. Testing and assessment enables us to see what children know related to the NZ Curriculum Learning Outcomes. Term 2 and 4 National Standards reports on literacy and numeracy. Formal interviews are held at the beginning of Term 2. An informal interview is held at the end of Term 3 and a skills sheet is included in the Achievement Book near the end of Term 4.

Road Patrol/Safety/Drop Off/Collecting Zone

Ngaumutawa Road is a dangerous heavy traffic bypass. The speed limit outside the school is 70km/h. We have strict safety rules that need to be followed. Adults and children must cross the road at the Kea Crossing point at all times. Failing to use the Kea Crossing sets a poor example for the children. The Kea Road Patrol operates once a day – 2.50 – 3.15pm. Our drive-through drop off and collecting zone works well. Please be aware that the bus has priority use at 8.15am and 3.00pm. Do not park and search for children in this area as it is a drop off and pick up zone only.

School Houses

In 2005 we established a 'house' system. This involves all children. Senior, middle and junior children are in each house. We aim to encourage leadership, a sense of belonging among the children with a touch of competition. Older children are expected to support younger ones, acting as role models in whatever events or activities are taking place.

ABC of Important Things You Need To Know

Absences

For safety reasons parents/caregivers must notify the school office by 9.00am if students are going to be away or late. Once a child turns six, attendance at school is a legal requirement. We are required to ensure children attend school regularly and punctually. Children must be at school before the 8.55am bell. Continually truant children will be referred to Truancy Officers and, if necessary, CYFS.

Assembly

Whole school assemblies are held fortnightly, usually alternate Fridays. Times will be announced in school newsletter.

After School Classes

We will run after school classes, if there are available tutors and children are interested. If you have a talent you wish to share please contact the Principal.

Behaviour Concerns

We aim to:

- Create a happy, positive and safe environment for all children
- Encourage children to be friendly, respectful, cooperative and accept responsibility for their actions
- Apply zero tolerance of bullying
- Teach the skills required for positive interaction between students and help children learn to resolve conflict in appropriate ways
- To do this we have established a school-wide behaviour programme. Classroom contracts are developed and signed by the children and teacher. A copy of this is sent home to parents who are expected to support this programme
- When we all work positively to solve difficulties children see good models to follow
- Parents will be contacted by teachers if they have concerns with a child's behaviour
- Parents may receive a slip of paper saying their child has been in the 'time out' room. The reason will be recorded. If you wish to talk to someone about this please go to your child's teacher in the first instance. If we have serious concerns with your child's behaviour a meeting with you will be arranged

Board of Trustees

The Board is currently comprised of four elected parent representatives, three co-opted members, a staff representative and the Principal. They are responsible for all areas of governance. Meetings are open to the public. Minutes and other meeting information are available at the school office. A report is published on the web following the monthly meetings.

Book Club

Scholastic Book Club operates at school. Catalogues and order forms are issued twice a term and orders and money are processed through the school. The books arrive approx. three weeks after the closing date.

Please write cheques out to Scholastic NZ.

Buses

Tranzit provides our school bus service for children in Norfolk Road, West Taratahi and East Taratahi catchment areas. All students complete a code of conduct agreement.

Children should not need to bring to school

- Toys (unless on special days arranged by teacher)
- Electronic games
- Skateboards, roller blades/roller shoes
- Inappropriate food such as lollies or soft drink
- Jewellery other than watches, ear studs, emergency (Medic Alert) bracelets/necklaces
- Make up (including nail polish)
- Approval for anything else needs to be given by the Principal e.g. cellphones

Concerns

A climate of openness exists in our school. If you are unhappy about any aspect of the school you need to come and talk to us. If it is a classroom issue please see your child's teacher first. If this is not resolved please see the Deputy or Assistant Principal. If you are still unhappy or, for some reason, find it difficult to approach the teaching staff, please arrange to see the Principal. If you still feel unhappy please contact a member of the BoT.

Class Placement

At the end of each year parents have a two week opportunity to discuss issues related to their child's placement for the following year. This discussion is invited before we arrange the classes. We are happy to discuss issues that relate to: relationship issues with other children, maturity, academic concerns, and whether (or not) twins may need separating. Parents will not be able to choose teachers. If you enrol a child during the year at a level other than new entrant, class placement will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Consultative Parent Group

This group meets each term and comprises one parent representative per class, a BoT representative, a staff representative and the Principal. The purpose of this group is to provide a communication channel between BoT and school community on particular issues requiring wider consultation.

Cyclists

Children under the age of 10 years should not be riding a bike to school. Ngaumutawa Road is a dangerous, heavy traffic bypass road, in a 100 km/h area, so road safety awareness is essential. For children cycling to school, an approved cycle helmet is compulsory.

Daily Requirements

- Breakfast – no fuel, no learning
- Sufficient food for morning tea and lunch. Water is best for the brain
- Arrive at school 20 minutes before the 8.55am bell
- Homework, reading and library books returned
- Correct stationery and equipment to start each day
- Excellent manners and bright smiles

Dental Therapist

The dental therapist assigned to Solway is Viv Dixon and she is based at MIS. Her contact number is 3786496.

Enrolments

New Entrant: Children enrolling at school for the first time should present some form of ID e.g. birth certificate or passport. We encourage all parents of new entrant children to arrange pre-entry visits to Kanuka. This helps the child to become familiar with the teacher, other children, the surroundings and routines before beginning school. When enrolling five year olds, an immunisation certificate obtained from your doctor must be presented. This is a directive from the Ministry of Health.

Other Enrolments: We welcome enrolments at all levels, subject to the school's enrolment scheme. If you live in our enrolment zone, (Refer to back page) you have automatic entry to Solway. If you do not, you will need to contact the office for further details related to our scheme. The Principal will conduct enrolments and is always willing to show prospective families our school.

Fundraising

We need parents to organise and support events throughout the year. Your ideas are most welcome. Our fundraising group – "Friends of Solway" – would welcome your support. Contact teacher: Sarah Beattie
Contact Parents: Katherine Morgan, Annette Peters

Homework

Parents will be notified of the expectations for their children's homework at the beginning of each year.

The purposes are to:

- Provide a learning link between home and school
- Provide opportunities to reinforce classroom skills
- Engage children in developing good work habits

Homework should not be longer than 30 minutes a night. This may involve reading a reader or library book, learning spelling words, practising basic maths skills/times tables, researching a current topic or completing work outstanding from the classroom.

Keeping School Informed

Good liaison between home and school is essential. It is important that teachers know of any physical or emotional upsets which could affect your child during the day. Teachers always appreciate a visit, phone call, email or written message to keep them informed.

Library

The library is open during class times. Parents are asked to ensure these books are returned to school.

Lost Property

It is important that all articles of uniform and clothing are clearly named. NB Labels can be cut off. When unmarked clothing is found it goes into the Lost Property box outside Matai, which is accessible to both parents and children. Please check that your child is not wearing another child's item, as it happens – especially during the swimming season.

Lunches

Parents are encouraged to ensure children's lunchboxes contain nutritious food.

Money at School

Money brought to school should be in an envelope with the child's name on it and labelled e.g. book club, stationery, lunch order, etc. parents will be notified in writing of any requests for money.

Newsletters

School newsletters are sent out weekly to parents on a **Tuesday**. They are also available on our website or emailed by special request. They are given to the eldest child in each family unless parents wish a different child in the family to receive this. It is vital that parents read this each week as it is our best communication tool between school and parents. Individual classroom newsletters are sent home each term.

Website: www.solway.school.nz