

UPOKONGARO SCHOOL

2025, Term 1, Week 1 Newsletter

HE TANGATA
ANGITU
AKORANGA

PEOPLE
ACHIEVEMENT
LEARNERS



I have received about half a dozen messages regarding how we are running school lunches this year and I'm hoping to address some of those messages but also reach out to the wider community regarding the lunches provided. As part of our school lunches agreement we work towards 100% uptake of students eating school lunches and deterring bringing your own lunch.

Firstly, I would like to address the compulsion of having school lunches. If you have been with Upokongaro School for many years you will know that not all of our students get lunches from home. In fact, we made lunches for students for a long time out of the school budget. Not every child needs it but it was available for any that did. So, when the school lunch programme came into effect it solved a lot of issues we were having around lack of engagement, tired children and high absenteeism due to no food at home.

Our school still qualifies for the school lunches programme. One of the ideas behind having everyone eat the same lunch is that everyone has an equitable food choice, which is why some of our students lunches differ to cater to their allergy needs.

Of the half a dozen or so messages I have had from parents I am yet to have any parent that has an additional health need. Of the messages I've had all but one has eaten the meals and some have had seconds. What is happening at school does not always correspond with the messages I'm being sent.

Today was by far our most rewarding day of school lunches together. Every child had a school lunch, except for four, two of which haven't been given their alternative by the provider yet and have genuine health issues.

If your child has a genuine health concern or is allergic to any foods please tell us immediately. If your child is just a picky eater and you still want them to opt out please email me with that reason. If you intend on opting out of the school lunch programme please ensure your child brings a healthy lunch with a main portion that can be had at the first lunch period e.g. sandwich, rice balls, wrap etc. Snack time is at second lunch and we no longer will be accepting packets of chippies, biscuits, or sticky lolly like fruit things e.g. rollups. A piece of fruit will still be available for your child at snack time and if you'd like to send something from home you are welcome to.

If you have any questions further to this they can be addressed by sending me an email at erin@upokongaro.net.

Ngā mihi
Mrs Browne

UPOKONGARO SCHOOL

2024, Term 4, Week 9 Newsletter

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IMPORTANT DATES

3 Feb School starts

6 Feb Waitangi Day (No School)

13 Feb Whānau BBQ 5pm

14 Feb Whānau Voice Interviews (School closes at 1pm)

21 Feb Whānau Voice Interviews (School closes at 1pm)

25 Feb School Swimming Sports

28 Feb Hearing and Vision for selected students

4 Mar Cluster Swimming Sports at Splash Centre

4 Apr Whānau Learning Day 9am

11 Apr Last Day of Term 1