



CONNECTED
Kia hono

CAPABLE
Kia kaha

CONFIDENT
Kia māia

INTEGRITY

Whakapono

RESPECT

Tūmanako

POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Ngā whakaaro pai

COMPASSION

Arohaina

KINDNESS

Manaakitanga

PIRONGIA SCHOOL FOR THE JOURNEY

An Essential Guidebook for
Children, Parents, Teachers and other Climbers

100 Beechey Street,
Ph: 871 9727 | Mob: 027 389 279
Principal: Kelly Bicknell kbicknell@pirongia.school.nz
email: office@pirongia.school.nz
Web: www.pirongia.school.nz





A MESSAGE FROM KELLY

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

I am extremely proud to be the principal of Pirongia School. We have a warm, inviting and supportive environment in which I know you will feel as soon as you enter. I am very proud of our dedicated staff, learning facilities and the opportunities that we provide for our students.

Our focus is to nurture each and every student so that they reach their full potential and leave us as - confident, connected and capable Year 8s.

We treasure our partnerships with our whānau and community. Like our school values state, we (students and staff), pride ourselves on Integrity, Positivity, Respect, Compassion and Kindness.

I look forward to working alongside you and your child.

Nga mihi

Kelly Bicknell
Principal





ABOUT PIrongia SCHOOL

Mission:

Inspiring our children as they climb the paths to their individual summits
Whakaohohotia i a mātou tamariki hei piki i nga huarahi ki o rātou taumata takitahi

Vision:

Working together to be lifelong learners
Mahi ngatahi ki te pae tawhiti akonga

School Description:

We are in a special place here under our beautiful Pirongia Maunga/Mountain and beside the mighty Waipa Awa/River. We draw on these strong landmarks for our Vision and Motto: Working together to be lifelong learners –inspiring our children to reach their individual summits and our motto - Together we climb Pikia tō tātou Maunga.

Pirongia is a school with a long history, having been founded in 1873. We are a large rural school, with a supportive community with between 350-400 children enrolled. Pirongia School is an Enviro school with large and beautiful grounds, studded with ancient trees and including two adventure playgrounds, a magnificent L-shaped 25metre pool, spacious playing fields, two turf courts, generous sealed areas, a large hall, a music suite, S.T.E.M. room, scooter track and a well-stocked library. Our classrooms are well resourced learning environments with professional, experienced and well qualified staff.

As a BYOD school, students from Y5-8 can share their learning within our community and explore how ICT can add to traditional ways of learning and open up new and different ways of learning.

We are close to the Waipa river which flows just West of Pirongia village and beyond the river, the mountain itself smiles down upon us all day while protecting us from the worst of the westerlies.

The mountain, which gives its name to the school and the village, is very much part of the psyche of the school. Pirongia- te- aroaro-o-Kahu, its full name in English 'the scented presence of Kahu' remembers the Tainui female ancestor Kahu, overcoming difficulties in her climbing of our mountain. The mountain therefore stands tall as a reminder of the challenges we face in our learning and how we must take pride in the many different journeys to our individual summits.





The header features a stylized green hill against a blue sky with white clouds. Three yellow flags are planted on the hill: the left one says 'CONNECTED Kia hono', the middle one says 'CAPABLE Kia kaha', and the right one says 'CONFIDENT Kia māia'. A brown tree branch with green leaves extends from the right side of the page across the top of the main text area.

ABOUT PIrongia SCHOOL

Pirongia School
Working Together To Be Lifelong Learners
Mahi Ngātahi ki te pae tāwhiti ākongo

This is what guides us. We believe these 6 words capture the essence of the New Zealand Curriculum's Vision. To have actively involved confident and connected life long learners. It also captures the strong commitment we have to community and contribution. Life long learners are strong thinkers, are numerate and literate.

The Eight Learning Areas:

English
Mathematics and Statistics
Science
Social Sciences
Technology
The Arts
Health and Physical Education
Learning Languages

Literacy and Numeracy take priority in Years 1-8 in New Zealand schools. It is critical that these are strong on entry to Secondary School. The learning associated with each area is part of a broad general education and lays a foundation for later specialisation.

The Key Competencies and The Values:

Weaving through the learning areas are the Key Competencies and the Values.

The Key Competencies are the capabilities for living and lifelong learning that we all need to be active members of our communities. We will provide opportunities to develop the Key Competencies in all we do at Pirongia School. They will be incorporated in all our learning, and they underpin all our interactions, staff and students alike. The Key Competencies are Thinking, Understanding Texts and Symbols, Relating to Others, Managing Self and Participating and Contributing.

The Values that we uphold at all times are Integrity, Respect, Positive Attitude, Compassion and Kindness. They are the strongly held beliefs that we as a community think are important and desirable. These weave through all our decision making and interactions at Pirongia School.

These are the foundation for all curriculum decision making. These principles put students at the centre of the learning ensuring that they experience a curriculum that engages and challenges them, is forward looking and is meaningful for every student at Pirongia School.

The Principles that guide us are:

The Treaty of Waitangi
High Expectations

Equity
Coherence

Diversity
Community

Learning to Learn
Future Focus





BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From the Board Chair:

The Board of Trustees provides the governance of the school and works closely and collaboratively with the principal, staff and community to ensure the best learning opportunities for all children. Board information is shared through the newsletter and community consultation meetings. Meeting dates are included in the newsletter and the minutes are displayed in the admin area following each meeting.

Board Members: Jo Earwaker (Board Chairperson), Lisa-Maree Nunn, Lianna McGuire, Reece Johnson, Sarah Keelty, Dona Hobbs (Staff Representative) and Kelly Bicknell (Principal).

PTA - PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTA plays an important role in the school community, running various social and fundraising activities. This effective and committed group assists the School in many essential ways. The PTA meets monthly and these meetings are advertised in the school newsletter.

WHANAU GROUP

The Whanau Group is a partnership of parents (previous and existing), teachers, school staff and members of the community, all who work together to support the school and the wider school community. The Whanau Group provides consultation for Pirongia School to enhance and support Te Ao Maori/The Maori Worldview, encompassing language and cultural practices.

The group is led by Hayley Dallas and Ella Muckle and is open to all families of any ethnicity, culture and background.





OUR PEOPLE

RATA TEAM:

Team Leader – Mrs Helen Austin

Room 8 - Mrs Deanne Wilson

Room 9 - Mrs Sally McLuskie

Room 10 - Mrs Debs Smith

Room 6 - Whaea Aysha Singleton

Room 7 - Mrs Anita Mills

TAWA TEAM:

Team Leader - Mrs Denise Strathern

Room 12 - Mrs Carla Innis & Mrs Chris Mahon

Room 13 - Miss Sarina Esteves

Room 14 - Mrs Denise Strathern

Room 15 - Miss Ella Muckle (Sport Coordinator)

KAHIKATEA TEAM:

Team Leader - Mrs Lauren Florence

Room 1 - Mrs Lauren Florence

Room 3 - Miss Sunita McPhee

Room 4 - Miss Nicola Spence

Room 5 - Mrs Michele Tyer

KAWAKA TEAM:

Team Leader - Dona Hobbs

Room 16 - Whaea Hayley Dallas (Kapa Haka Tutor)

Room 17 - Miss Sam Harvie

Room 18 - Mrs Rochelle Macnicol

Room 19 - Miss Jessica Roper

SPECIALIST TEACHERS:

Mr Allan Holden - Yr7/8 Exploration

Mr Jono Gemmell - Yr 7/8 Exploration and Head of Music

Mrs Alison Derbyshire - Yr 7/8 Exploration, Release Teacher

Mrs Tracy Au - Yr7/8 Exploration

Mrs Lisa McGregor - Release Teacher

Mr Ryan Jordan - Release Teacher Terms 1 & 2





OUR PEOPLE

TEACHER AIDES:

Lorraine (Min) Mildon
Anne Kruse
Michelle Beal
Juliana Viladomiu
Jodie Burch

LEARNING SUPPORT COORDINATOR (LSC):

Ms Jill McKenna

ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Debbie Mitchell - Office/Reception
Keren Hale - Executive Officer/Finance
Krista Bell - Library/Office

CARETAKER:

Darren Pryke

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS:

Mrs Helen Austin (Junior School)
Mrs Dona Hobbs (Senior School)

PRINCIPAL:

Mrs Kelly Bicknell



THE SCHOOL DAY

Arrive at school:
Between 8.30-8.55am
(Bus students only can arrive earlier)

Learning Block 1:
9.00-10.55am

Healthy Snack Break:
10.00-10.05am

Morning Tea (sit down eating):
10.55-11.00am

Morning Tea Playtime:
11.00-11.20am

Learning Block 2:
11.20-12.40pm

Lunchtime (sit down eating):
12.40-12.50pm

Lunchtime Playtime:
12.50-1.25pm

Learning Block 3:
1.25-2.45pm

Duties, Pack up:
2.45-2.55pm



2024 Term Dates

Term 1
31st January - 12th April

Term 2
29th April - 5th July

Term 3
22nd July - 27th September

Term 4
14th October - 16th December



INFORMATION ABC

Absences:

If your child is going to be away from school, please notify the School office by 9am by phone 07 8719727, txt 027 389 7279, via our School website www.pirongia.school.nz, email office@pirongia.school.nz or via the Skool Loop App. This will ensure that a close liaison between home and school is maintained, especially in regard to your child's safety to and from school. We ask that when your child returns to School, you supply a note or medical certificate if absence is longer than three days. Holidays taken during term time, require written notification, to the Principal or e-mail the Principal, kbicknell@pirongia.school.nz.

Assemblies:

These are held on Friday afternoon 2.15-2.55pm in the Hall. We aim to have 4 assemblies per term with dates advertised in the school newsletter, class and team newsletters. Assemblies are a time to share and celebrate learning and to welcome new students and their families. Merit Awards are presented and parents/caregivers are notified on the day via email if their child is receiving an award so that they can attend if able.

Before & After School Care Programme:

The Safe and Happy Club is owned by Laille Martin. The hours are from 7.00-8.30am and from 3-6pm daily. For bookings or more information please contact Laille 07 871 6696 or 027 272 8521 or email info@safeandhappyclub.co.nz. or www.the safeandhappyclub for online bookings. The Safe and Happy Club also run School Holiday programmes, so keep an eye out for these opportunities in the School newsletter towards the end of each term.

Beginning School:

Pirongia School has 'Cohort Entry'. Please see what this means in the Enrolment page of this booklet. The 'Little Trekkers' programme is our transitioning to school programme and consists of 5 Wednesday afternoon visits prior to starting school. You will be notified prior to these starting.





INFORMATION ABC

Behaviour:

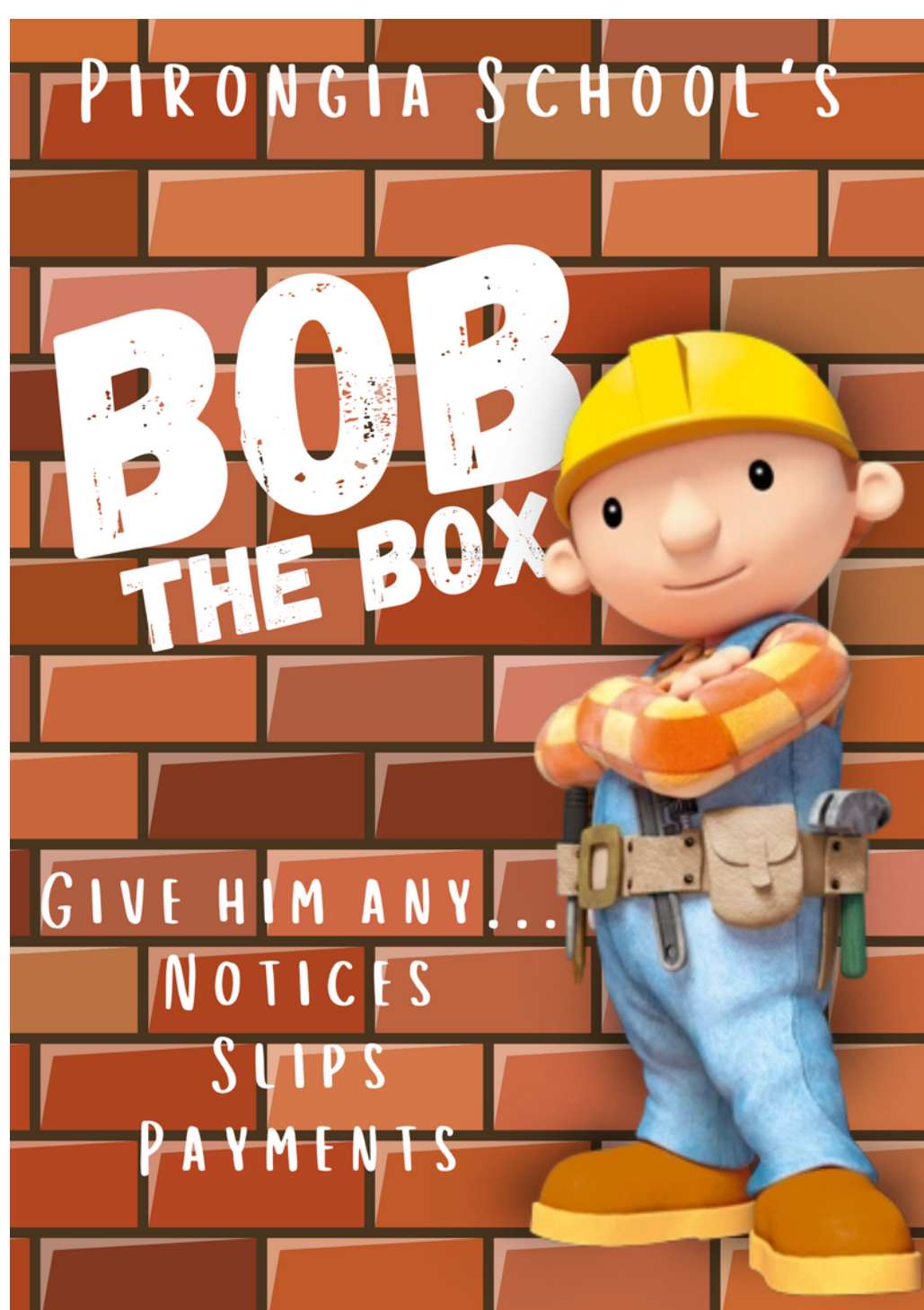
Pirongia School operates a positive and restorative approach to behaviour management. We know that all children learn differently, and teach accordingly. Behaviour management is exactly the same. As we create our learning environment for the new year, we are focussed on building positive relationships with every student. We have high expectations for the way our students interact with their peers and all other students, and staff in the school. This is reflected in our school values. In 2021, our school began PB4L (Positive Behaviour Before Learning). This approach recognizes that children need a safe and conducive environment before optimal learning can occur. Our school values mean our Pirongia students are on TRACK!

Bicycles:

All children riding bikes to school should have a good knowledge of the road rules and are legally required to wear cycle safety helmets. We recommend students wear a fluro vest for the best visibility. Bicycle stands are provided in the bike shed located next to the swimming pool, and children are expected to keep away from this area during school time. Students are not to ride their bikes through the school. No bikes are permitted on the school grounds from 3-4.00pm daily. Students must leave at 3pm (afterschool care, bus, music lesson students are excluded) and not return until after 4.00pm daily.

Bob the Box:

'Bob the Box' is a slot in the wall located in the office foyer (beside the library entrance). This is where all forms, payments, lunch orders etc, should be placed. Please ensure that any items deposited are securely placed in there.





INFORMATION ABC

Book Club:

Children have the opportunity to buy good paper back books at a reasonable price through Scholastic Book Club each term. Catalogues are sent home with each child and ordering online through Scholastic is the preferred ordering system. Books are distributed once received, to the child's classroom.

Book Bags:

Book bags are compulsory and these are used to protect library books and readers. Children are taught about the care and use of books in library sessions, and we ask that you model equal care at home also. Any loss or damage of books will incur a replacement fee. Bookbags are available to purchase from the office \$6.50.

Bus Students - Bus Bay Parking:

A free bus service is provided by the Ministry within a set Transport Entitlement Zone area. Any students that require 'out of zone' bus travel, are required to pay \$100 per term per student within 2 weeks of the start of each term. For zone information, please contact the office. The bus area at the front of the school has been clearly marked. Please leave this area clear for the bus. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Bring your own device (BYOD):

Year 5 to 8 students.

O P T I O N S	Windows laptop Laptop requirements include; 8Gb RAM minimum, 256GB SSD/HD storage minimum running windows 10 or 11
	Chromebook A Chromebook is a laptop or tablet running the linux-based Chrome OS as its operation system. The devices are primarily used to perform a variety of tasks using the Google Chrome browser, with most applications and data residing in the cloud rather than on the machine itself. Senior <u>school</u> use <u>Google drive</u> as their number one platform, so these devices are suitable for classroom work. Please be aware that if your child uses a Chromebook it will be necessary for them to have internet access at home for it to be operational for homework purposes.

Car Park Courtesy:

Please observe NO PARKING areas across the front of the school. For safety reasons, we ask that your child/ren be dropped off/collected from School either on the School side of Beechey Street, or for prompt drop off & pick up the parking bay by the hall is a great option however you mustn't park and leave your vehicle or alternatively at the rear entrance of the School- Belcher Street. Please avoid parking across the road if possible. If you are parked on the opposite side of Beechey St please ensure you and your child/ren use the Kea Crossing. Be a good role model and use this each time. Road patrol monitors will be on duty and this will ensure safer crossing at busy times. These roads are very dangerous, with reduced visibility at the beginning and end of the School day. Please ensure you display the appropriate documentation if you are using the disabled car park in staff carpark area.



INFORMATION ABC

Care and Protection Issues:

This has become a major issue in schools. If there are matters of custody and care, please inform the Office and provide a legal copy of the custody/care arrangements. Please make your child's Teacher, Principal and Office aware of any legal rights regarding access to your children (a copy of documentation is required). If you, as a Primary Caregiver, are taking your child / children out during the day, please inform the Class Teacher in advance. If someone other than a Primary Caregiver is coming to pick up your child/children, then the Office needs notification from you that this is acceptable, and as above, they must check in to the Office before they leave School grounds. Thank you for your support with this matter. We need to know that the students are safe, and with the right people for the right reasons during school hours. Please keep these details up to date.

Clothing/Uniform:

Years 7/8 uniforms are to be purchased through [Kukri kukrisports.com/nz/](http://Kukri.kukrisports.com/nz/)
Years 0-6; It is compulsory that School T-shirts are worn on Fridays and when representing the school at various events outside of school. They are available from the Office at a cost of \$41.00 for child size and \$44.00 for adult size. Please ensure that you name yours. House T-Shirts are also available in house colours, \$22.00. Brimmed hats are compulsory in Term 1 and Term 4 and are available to purchase through the office \$14.00 plain or \$27.50 with logo or wear one from home. Clothing worn to School should be suitable for all school activities e.g. Arts & Crafts, Phys. Ed., Tight jeans, brief tops and short skirts are not appropriate. Footwear suitable for physical activity is encouraged, and covered footwear is compulsory in the Yr 7/8 Explore programme and on any school outing where school shirt and shoes must be worn. Please ensure that your child's clothing is named to avoid being given away to charity with lost property at the end of each term.

Communication:

We use various modes of communication to keep the school community as well informed as possible and feel invited and welcomed to be part of the school. To enable this, we use a range of different tools. This is what we offer...

Website -

pirongia.school.nz The website is a central hub of information relating to our school. This includes; Information about our staff for new families, newsletters, photos/videos, parent information and more.

Newsletters -

These are generated every Wednesday. They are also available on the website, Skool Loop app and are emailed out to parents and caregiver.

Emails -

This is one of our most effective ways to communicate with you and you will receive school notices, newsletters, Principal, Teacher and Office communications via emails.

The Skool Loop App -

Keeps you informed of any sporting cancellations, important information for emergencies, newsletters and you can report your child's absence. You must have data available to receive notifications. Download the app for free.

Facebook -

Search for Pirongia School and like us. We post up and coming events and share a wide range of things to celebrate with our community.



INFORMATION ABC

Concerns and Complaints:

If something happens at school that you are unhappy about, please don't hesitate to contact us. The following method is most helpful:

1. Contact the Class Teacher by email, note or phone the Office.
2. If you are still not satisfied, arrange a meeting with the Team Leader or the Deputy Principal and the Principal.
3. If you are still not happy, write to the Board of Trustees. A copy must be given to the Principal. The matter will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Contacting Teachers:

Feel free to leave a message for a Teacher at school anytime. If you need to speak with a Teacher directly however, please do so before or after School or at breaks (11.05 -11.20am or 12.50 - 1.25pm). Staff are involved in Professional Development Meetings on Monday afternoons until 4.45pm. Teachers will be in class from 8.45-9am. Teachers email addresses are available on the Skool Loop App which you can download free to your mobile.

Dental Therapist:

The Mobile Dental Clinic is a part of the Health Waikato DHB. They visit annually. Contact details are 021 356 384 or 0800 TALKTEETH (0800825583).

Educa:

Educa is an online platform which we use across our school which gives you another insight to your child's learning and achievements. Your teacher or child can share learning stories in Educa and you can provide feedback. Your child's teacher will send you an invite via email.

Education Outside the Classroom:

We have a comprehensive school camp programme in line with our vision. During your child's time here at Pirongia School they will experience a minimum of three camps at a variety of venues with a variety of experiences. Parent volunteers are a key part of our programmes; those that volunteer are required to be police vetted, un-vetted volunteers can be vetted 2 months prior to camp date.

Emergency Plan:

The School has an Emergency Plan for Fire, Earthquake and Lock downs to guide staff and students in the event of an Emergency. The assembly area is the back field. Please ensure you are signed in at the office if you are on-site as a parent help. Remember to sign out on departure, as this is part of the plan.





INFORMATION ABC

Enrolments:

How to enrol your child..

If you have an older sibling or are enrolled in our local Playcentre or local Childcare Centres, we should have your child's details on our 'Projected Forecast' list.

It is useful for the school to know well in advance of any expected enrolments or newcomers to our community.

Parents of New Entrant children will be contacted approx. 8 weeks prior to your child starting with an invitation to "Little Trekkers" (our transitioning programme).

For all other enrolments ie; transferring from another school, new to the area/country etc please collect an Enrolment pack from the office.

Cohort Entry has been adopted by Pirongia School. Children will be able to start school in cohorts but only after they have turned 5. There will be 2 entry points per term, one on the first day of term and one at a mid-point during the term. Please contact the office for these dates.

Enrolment Scheme:

Pirongia School has an enrolment scheme to avoid overcrowding or the likelihood of overcrowding. All students who live within the home zone are entitled to enrol at the school.

To view our Enrolment zone please visit our school website or call us at school and we can confirm. Any places available to 'Out of Zone' students will be advertised termly in the school newsletter.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

There is a wide range of sporting and cultural activities on offer within school and our local community. These are notified well in advance in the school newsletter, on our daily school notices and on our Facebook page.

First Aid - Medical Conditions:

Our Office staff and all teachers have First Aid training. If your child is unwell at school we will endeavour to contact you. If we are unsuccessful we will try to reach the person you have given as an emergency contact. If we are still unable to contact anyone and the child requires medical assistance, we reserve the right to arrange this on your behalf, which may include calling an ambulance.

If your child has any medical condition the School must be informed immediately. If your child requires medication to be kept at School, please fill in a medical form (available from the office), name and label medication carefully and it will be locked in the Medicine Cabinet (the exception to this is asthma medication which can be carried by the child if necessary). Please help us by ensuring all your contact details are kept up to date, should we need to contact you regarding your child.



INFORMATION ABC

Fundraising:

The School, through the P.T.A. is involved in fundraising activities for the purchase of additional equipment and resources. These activities include School events eg; swimming sports, athletics, Ag day, catering. Any further ideas are welcome. Your assistance is always appreciated in these ventures. From time to time our classes may fundraise for a specific activity, event or camp.

Hazards Register:

If you see something in our School environment that is not safe for Students or Teachers, or other people on site, please let the Office or Staff member know and we will place it on the Work Register for our Caretaker to action.

HomeBooks:

In our Year 0 to 2 classes, HomeBooks provide the opportunity to share Learning and School-Life. The HomeBook outlines Reading, Spelling and sometimes Number Knowledge and daily learning successes as well as other information that needs to be shared between teachers, students and parents. The HomeBook also has useful information for helping students at home in reading, writing and mathematics. It is an essential communication tool that needs to be sighted and signed daily - Monday to Thursday. Digital notices and weekly emails are used for our Year 3 to 8 classes.

House Competitions:

Every student in the school is placed in a house on enrolment. The interhouse competition builds a sense of belonging and involvement in school activities, with a healthy rivalry and fun aspect. The colour of each ribbon has a further significance representing key characteristics Pirongia Community would like their children to leave school with. Students are involved with sporting, academic and cultural interhouse competitions throughout the year.

Kakapo	Kiwi	Kea	Tui
Kia Wehi Values	Kia Ora Wellbeing & Attitude	Kia Maia Strength	Kia Mōhio Thinking & Learning
This represents our heart, our culture and values.	Symbolic of ensuring students hauora is taken care of along the journey.	Symbolic of the Waipa river which flows beside our village.	Symbolic of the learning we're making together towards our summits, the best each of us can achieve.



INFORMATION ABC

Internet: Keeping Children Safe

Pirongia School has a policy and set of procedures concerning the use of computers and the Internet. This includes signing an internet safety agreement each year. We make every effort to keep our children safe when using the Internet. In support of cyber safety, we suggest you as Parents/Caregivers:

- Talk with your child about online dangers
- Put the computer in a family area of your home, so that you can keep an eye on what is happening
- Have a password only you know that must be entered before your child goes online
- Limit the time your child can spend on the Internet
- Spend time online with your child exploring positive sites.
- Randomly check your child's email.
- Keep a copy of the school internet safety agreement as a guideline at home.

Kaupapa Māori:

Bicultural practice is an important focus at Pirongia School. An establishing Whānau Group provides consultation to the staff and management to ensure that tamariki (children) enjoy genuine culturally appropriate experiences. Māori students are fostered and encouraged to learn and grow with a strong cultural identity, and all students learn the history of our area, including our connection to our local mountains, rivers and marae, Pūrekireki.

All tamariki have the opportunity to participate in cultural experiences, including – Kapahaka, Learning Te Reo Māori, Matariki (Māori New Year) Celebrations, Pōwhiri and whakatau (Welcome ceremonies), Manaakitanga (Host responsibility), Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori language week), Tuakana-Teina based learning (Older learners assisting younger learners), Ako (reciprocal learning), Māori leadership opportunities, Tiakitanga (Caring for others). The Whānau Group also provides a support network for whānau within our school community.

Leadership:

Every child in Pirongia School is encouraged to lead by example. We provide opportunities for Senior pupils to take leadership roles in our School in the form of School Councillors, Peer Mediators, House Captains, School Librarians, Road Wardens and Bus Monitors. Senior pupils also assist with the school duties, such as Sport Shed, Recycling, Enviro Warriors, Rainy Day Monitors, Lost Property and Bins.





INFORMATION ABC

Learning Conferences and Reporting to Parents:

Our learning conferences enable key people in the Learning journey to come together. That being the child, the teacher and whanau. Together we share progress and success and set future learning goals. Our Learning Conferences take place twice a year. A written report will be sent home following our Learning Conferences.

Learning Support Co-ordinator:

Jill McKenna works at Pirongia School Mon-Fri 11.30-3pm with the school to ensure and action children needing extra support for learning and behaviour. To contact Jill please email lsc@pirongia.school.nz

Library:

Our School has a modern, well-resourced Library. The Library operates as an extension of the classroom during school hours. Children are encouraged to borrow books to read at home on a regular basis. You are most welcome to come and choose a book with your child. We hold a annual book fair for a school fundraiser where you can make great purchases and many activities are run including a themed dress-up day, snuggle up with a book in the evening, special people who love to read and a grandparents picnic. There will be a charge for books lost or damaged beyond repair. Any queries about missing library books etc please do not hesitate to see your child's classroom teacher. We encourage the use of the Te Awamutu Library, which is free to all Waipa residents.

Lost Property:

We ask parents to name all children's clothing and belongings that come to school so that it can be returned if lost. The School takes no responsibility for loss. Unnamed property is put into the Lost Property which is stored in the Hall. Children need to take responsibility for checking for lost items as part of their ability to be self managing. Unclaimed clothing is donated to charity at the end of each month during the term and at the end of term. We can't stress enough the importance of naming clothes.

Lunch Orders:

On Fridays, Our PTA does a lunch fundraiser for most Fridays of the term for \$5.00; check the newsletter for the week's selection. Orders must be in by 9.00 am Friday unless specified via the newsletter for some lunch orders ie; Pita Pit who need to have numbers earlier. Place money, food option, child's name and room number into an old envelope and pop into 'Bob the Box'. You can pay online to the PTA account which is provided in the newsletter. You may be asked on occasion to provide a spoon or fork for some lunches such as; macaroni cheese, burgers, spaghetti bolognaise. Lunch helpers are always welcome to assist.



INFORMATION ABC

Lunchtime Activities:

We are fortunate to have staff who are willing to give up their lunch times to provide activities for children to participate in. These include sporting, cultural and musical opportunities. The lunch time sports include: Monday Sports Club, Swimming Pool, Soccer, Hockey, Netball, Volleyball, Long Distance Swimming, Tug-of-War, Supervised Rugby and more! Our Library is open for children to work, read or research in. A variety of games are available ie; chess, connect 4, lego etc.

Mobile Phones at School:

If students need to bring a cellphone to school, they must sign a contract given out by the classroom teacher and phones are to be handed into the office before 9am, to be secured for the day before being collected after school. Feel free to contact the office if a message needs to be relayed to your child during school time.

Music:

We encourage children to learn a musical instrument. We have Symphonic and Rock bands for middle and senior pupils who are currently learning an instrument or can read music. Mr Gemmell co-ordinates after school music lessons for a variety of instruments. This is a year long commitment, available to students from Year 4 up.

Newsletter:

We have a weekly newsletter on Wednesdays. These are emailed to all caregivers and are also available to view on our School website, www.pirongia.school.nz and on the Skool loop app which you can download to your phone enabling you to access the newsletter and other important school notifications ie; postponements etc, The newsletter is the number one way we communicate with our school community. If you have any item you would like advertised in the Newsletter, please contact the Office at office@pirongia.school.nz. There is a nominal fee for this. Please understand that School news is our priority. We will endeavour to publish your notice as soon as practical.





INFORMATION ABC

Office Hours:

The office is staffed between 8.00am and 4.3pm each day. If the phone is not answered please leave a message on the answer phone. If you need to get a message to your child regarding pick up, bus etc please make sure you phone back and speak to either Debbie, Krista or Keren in case the phone message isn't retrieved in time.

Parent Helpers:

Parent helpers work directly with a child or group of children providing extra support in Reading or Spelling and receive some basic training for this role. Please contact the Class Teacher directly to become involved. As a school we very much appreciate and encourage the involvement of adult supporters in the School programme. Parents/Caregivers/ Grandparents may wish to become involved in in-class activities such as Parent Tutor Reading as a regular time commitment (please arrange with Class Teacher) or as general helpers with more time flexibility (please let the Office know). If you are able to assist with your skills or hobbies you could share (e.g. gardening, accounting, carpentry, welding, pottery, love of reading, sports training etc), we would love to hear from you. If you are wanting to attend school camps or outings, Police Vetting forms are available from Keren in the office. If you are working on-site please remember to sign in and out at the office. There is a sign in book on the counter.

Photocopying & Laminating:

The School has both a black and white and a colour photocopier along with a laminator. Individuals and groups are welcome to do copying at a nominal charge.

School (Learning) Donation:

The school donations are set by the Board of Trustees each year and are very important for the successful funding of a large number of activities at school. The learning donation allows funds for our budget that government funding is not able to adequately address such as extra staffing to enable small class sizes, individual and small group learning, On-site specialist technology teachers, art option, music and learning assistance programmes, Life Education, Stepsweb, Athletics, visiting artist performances, and bus trips to prizegivings and to sporting events etc ie; senior athletics. The donation is set at \$220 per child. This donation can be paid in full at the beginning of the year or paid off throughout the year and maybe eligible for a tax credit.





INFORMATION ABC

School Hours:

School starts at 9.00a.m each morning and finishes at 2.55 p.m. Children should be at school no earlier than 8.30am. They should have enough time to put their things away neatly and prepare for their day. The School does not have an early closing on wet days. Only bus children, afterschool care & music students with lessons immediately after 3pm, may remain on site. Children can return to play after 4.00pm.

Special Programmes:

We employ Jill McKenna our LSC (Learning Support Co-ordinator) who co-ordinates programmes specifically for students with learning needs. Our School provides an extensive range of interventions to accommodate a wide range of student needs. We also have Support Staff who assist students with their learning they work with children of all abilities.

Staff Meetings:

These are held every Monday afternoon from 3.15pm - 5pm approx. Teachers are unavailable during these times so please keep this in mind when phoning or trying to make appointments.





INFORMATION ABC

School Bus:

We have a school bus service managed by the Te Awamutu Combined Schools Transport Management committee who contract to Go Bus. In the morning, parents must ensure that children are on time and safely waiting for the bus to arrive. After School, children who travel on buses assemble for the checking of Bus Rolls. If you have not informed the office but are picking up your child, please tell the duty teacher, office, bus monitor of the change. If parents would like children to travel on a different bus on any occasion, please notify the office so that bus rolls can be amended. We take the view that behaviour on buses is a shared responsibility between the bus company, parents and the school. Misbehaviour which endangers other pupils is not acceptable. The school reserves the right to withhold permission to travel on buses in these cases. All bus students and caregivers are required to sign a 'code of conduct form' annually. Only students that live within the TEZ boundaries are entitled to the free service and anyone outside the TEZ (Schools Transport Entitlement Zone) is required to pay \$100 per bus student per term. This payment must be made within the first 2 weeks of each term to the school.

Stationery:

Stationery lists will be sent home at the end of each year so that you can purchase all requirements over the holidays so that your child is ready for school work on Day 1. If you purchase from Paper Plus Te Awamutu or online through OfficeMax, please give our school name at the checkout as Pirongia School will receive a small percentage of their takings. Most stationery top up requirements are available through the year from the Office and stationery replacement notices will be sent home as necessary from the class teacher.

Sun Safe:

Pirongia School is a SunSmart School. Encourage children to wear clothing that protects skin from sun. Each classroom has sunblock available. Staff act as role-models by wearing hats outdoors and on duty. Lunch is eaten in the shade. Brimmed sunhats are compulsory in Term 4 and Term 1. Be sure to name your child's hat. Hats are available at the office \$14 (plain) or \$27.50 (school logo). We strongly recommend and encourage the use of rash vests for swimming.





INFORMATION ABC

Swimming:

During the swimming season all children are expected to swim every day. During this time, children should come to school with togs, towel, rash vest and swim bag every day. Basic water safety, confidence and swimming skills are taught at this time from Year 0-8. Pirongia School is extremely fortunate to have a 25m pool that is maintained to a high standard and is available for school and community use Dec - April.

Swimming Pool:

The pool is open for the summer months Dec-March approx. for teaching instruction and also the holidays and after school from 4pm for use to the community. A key system operates and the keys are available at the Office for \$100. A key is for one family only and must not be shared with others. Key holders have the responsibility of ensuring that appropriate behaviour is followed by pool users. Normal school rules apply when using it and primary school aged children must be supervised by an adult. No dogs, food or drink allowed in the pool area, pool rules to be obeyed at all times, and the school reserves the right to withdraw keys if the conditions are not met. Swimming caps are desirable and applying sunscreen at least 30 minutes prior to entering the pool.

Teacher Release - Relievers:

Classroom teachers are released from their classroom teaching responsibilities for a number of reasons; including professional development, CRT (Classroom Release Time 10 hours per Term; an entitlement as part of conditions of employment), and of course Sick Leave and/or Personal Leave.

We are fortunate to have part time staff who provide release that is consistent and a number of high quality day-to-day relievers available to us. Occasionally due to demand we are in a position of not being able to get a reliever, the classes are 'adopted' amongst the other classes within their team or school wide. All teachers have packs available for students when/if this occurs.

Tech Arts:

At Pirongia School we provide our own high quality Tech Arts programmes now called Exploration. Unlike other Full Primary rural schools, we do not go to an Intermediate School. Our Year 7 and 8 students experience a range of Specialist Technology and Arts options that include Music performance, Drama, Hydraulics, Entrepreneurship/business, Garden to Table, Robotics, Media art. Exploration held on Thursdays from 11am.

SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR YEAR 7 & 8 STUDENTS IN KAWAKA TEAM

Uniform expectations for our Kawaka Team:

We love our Kawaka uniform for our year 7 & 8 students.

Our uniforms were designed with our active students and our creative curriculum in mind. Our uniform is unique to our school and allows our students to participate in all school activities with confidence.

Year 0 to 6:

Although our wider school does not have a set school uniform, we do ask that our students of all year levels wear the grey school polo shirt every Friday. Full brimmed hats are compulsory during terms one and two. An optional item is our house t-shirts. A lot of students love to wear these on sports days. Please purchase your school full brimmed hat and house t-shirt from the school office.





INFORMATION ABC

Warrant of Fitness for Children:

Send your children to school with a warrant of fitness.
They need the following...

- Plenty of sleep - ten hours of sleep for primary children is recommended.
- To be well fed! Children learn better with a balanced diet and regular mealtimes. Breakfast is essential before a 6 hour school day. Children need both mid morning and lunchtime food and drinks.
- To be secure. Pirongia pupils come from caring homes. Children need reassurance and to have realistic expectations from their Parents.
- To have a positive attitude. If children expect good things to happen at school in all areas of learning, they will have a keen and sparkling approach to their day. Your worries, fears and niggles can impact heavily on a child.
- To have the correct gear. It is the child's responsibility to organise comfortable working clothes, stationery, lunch, library books and swimming togs. We encourage independence and self organisation.
- To be on time. We ask that children arrive at School after 8.30 am and before 8.50am, exception being bus students. This allows them to be ready for the day, greet their friends and their teacher.

Pirongia School Code of Conduct:

At Pirongia School we have the fundamental beliefs that...

- All children have the right to learn uninterrupted by other children.
- All teachers have the right to teach.
- All children have the right to interact positively at our School without physical, emotional or verbal abuse from others.
- All members of the School have a responsibility to look after the School environment and equipment for the benefit of all.

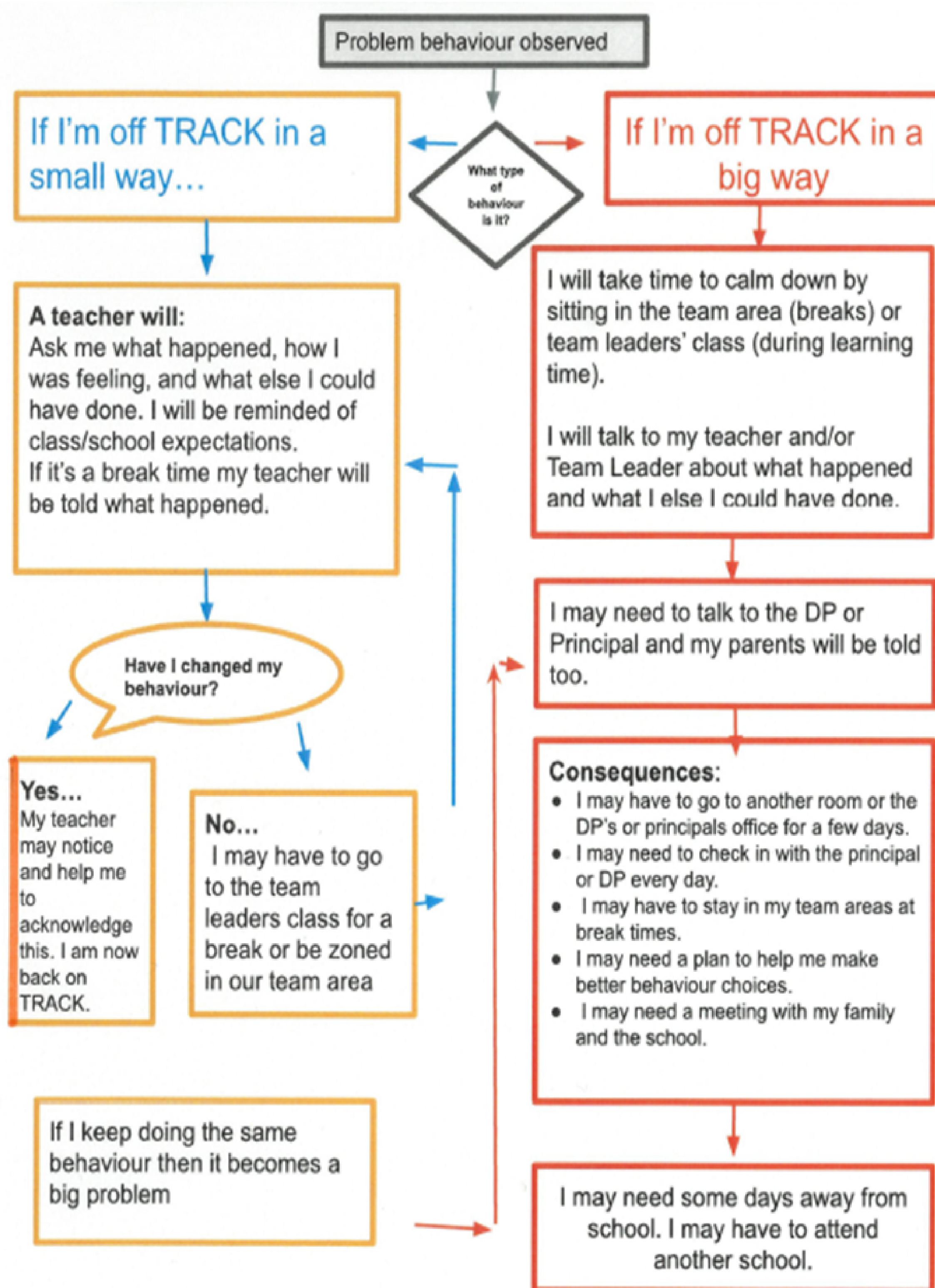


CONNECTED
Kia hono

CAPABLE
Kia kaha

CONFIDENT
Kia māia

General Procedure for Managing Problem Behaviours at Pirongia School



CONNECTED
Kia hono

CAPABLE
Kia kaha

CONFIDENT
Kia māia

CAPABILITY BACKPACK

SELF AWARE

Pirongia School learners are developing a strong and positive sense of identity.

CONTRIBUTOR

Pirongia School learners are able to collaborate positively with others. They are able to give back and make a difference to their class, school and community.

THINKER

Pirongia School learners are critical and creative thinkers.

SELF AWARE

CONTRIBUTOR

THINKER

COMMUNICATOR

EXPLORER

CAPABILITY

COURAGEOUS

Pirongia School learners persevere and show resilience when faced with new challenges.

EXPLORER

Pirongia School learners wonder, seek, use and create new knowledge.

COMMUNICATOR

Pirongia School learners actively listen, think, articulate and share their ideas. They can do this in a range of ways and use a range of tools to help them.



SCHOOL FLAG

THE MOUNTAIN LIES AT THE HEART OF OUR SCHOOL FLAG
This flag was designed in 2000 by Sam Gisler (year 8).
The black and white represent our school colours
and the four colours represent our School Houses.





PIRONGIA SCHOOL SPORTS

Term	School Sporting Opportunities	After School Sporting Opportunities
1	Class PE Programme Lunchtime Interhouse Sports Junior Swimming Displays Senior Swimming Sports Lower Waipa Interschool Swimming Long Distance Swimming Visiting Outside Agencies	Touch Miniball/Basketball Local Cricket Clubs Pirongia Squash Club Local Football Clubs Junior Golf Pirongia Tennis Club Local Schools Football Competition
2	Class PE Programme Lunchtime Interhouse Sports Lower Waipa Interschool Winter Champs Weekly Community Sports Sessions Lunchtime Sports Club	Pirongia Netball Club Pirongia Rugby Club Hockey Miniball/Basketball Local Football Clubs
3	Class PE Programme Lunchtime Interhouse Sports School Cross Country Lower Waipa Interschool Cross Country Weekly Community Sport Sessions Lunchtime Sports Club	Pirongia Netball Club Pirongia Rugby Club Hockey Miniball/Basketball Local Football Clubs
4	Class PE Programme Lunchtime Interhouse Sports Senior Athletics Junior Athletics Lower Waipa Interschool Athletics	Touch Miniball/Basketball Local Cricket Clubs Pirongia Tennis Club Weetbix Kids TRYathlon



PIRONGIA SCHOOL SPORTS

School teams are organised for miniball (basketball), touch, hockey and sometimes volleyball. We advertise starting dates and information for families in our weekly school newsletter, on our school Facebook page and on our daily morning school notices. Students sign up via paper forms that are available at the office once advertised (sometimes digital sign up forms are available). Parent helpers are required for coaches, managers and team helpers.

Other Sporting Opportunities:

The Pirongia Rugby, Netball, Tennis, Golf and Squash Clubs offer junior rugby, netball, tennis, golf and squash to our students. We advertise through our normal platforms (social media, newsletters etc). The codes are organised by volunteers from the community.

Rugby -

Pirongia Rugby Club - Neil Florence, 021967899 or visit their Facebook page (Pirongia Rugby Juniors). Games are played on Saturdays around the Waipa district. The rugby muster is normally around early March.

Netball -

Pirongia Netball Club - Ella Muckle, emuckle@pirongia.school.nz or visit their Facebook page (Pirongia Netball Club). Games are played on Saturdays at the Te Awamutu Netball Centre outdoor courts. The trials are normally around early March.

Tennis -

Pirongia Tennis Club - Shaun Bicknell, pirongiatennisclub@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page (Pirongia Tennis Club). Sessions take place on Friday evenings at the Pirongia Tennis Club in Term 4 and Term 1.

Golf -

Pirongia Golf Club - Neil Florence, 021967899.
Sessions take place on Tuesday afternoons at the Pirongia Golf Club.

Squash -

Pirongia Squash Club - Kara Prout, karamprout@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page (Pirongia Squash Club).

Pirongia School Sports Events:

Students take part in Swimming Sports in Term 1, Cross Country in Term 3 and Athletics in Term 4.



Sports Coordinator
Ella Muckle
emuckle@pirongia.school.nz



PIRONGIA SCHOOL SPORTS

Year 7 & 8 Sports Camp:

Selected students attend a 5 day camp where they participate and compete in a variety of sports against other schools from the region.

Students apply the year before or at the beginning of the year by filling in a notice.

Interhouse Sports Competitions:

Pirongia School holds lunchtime house competitions that students can opt into. Term 1, long distance swimming. Term 2, "Piroccer"/soccer or netball. Term 3, "Pirockey"/hockey and volleyball. Term 4, Tug of War. We also have Staff vs Year 8s sports competitions once a term!

Lunchtime Sports Club:

Ollie Ward and Ryley Emery from Te Awamutu Rugby Sports and Recreation Club come to Pirongia School once a week in Terms 2 & 3 to run fun, active games and PE sessions with classes. They also run a lunchtime sports club for those that wish to take part.

Interschool Sports Competitions: Lower Waipa Cluster Events

Pirongia School is part of the Lower Waipa cluster of schools that involve Paterangi School, Koromatua School, Ohaupo School, Ngahinapouri School, Ngutunui School, Korakonui School, Pokuru School and Te Pahu School. There is a major sporting event held each term for selected students to take part in.

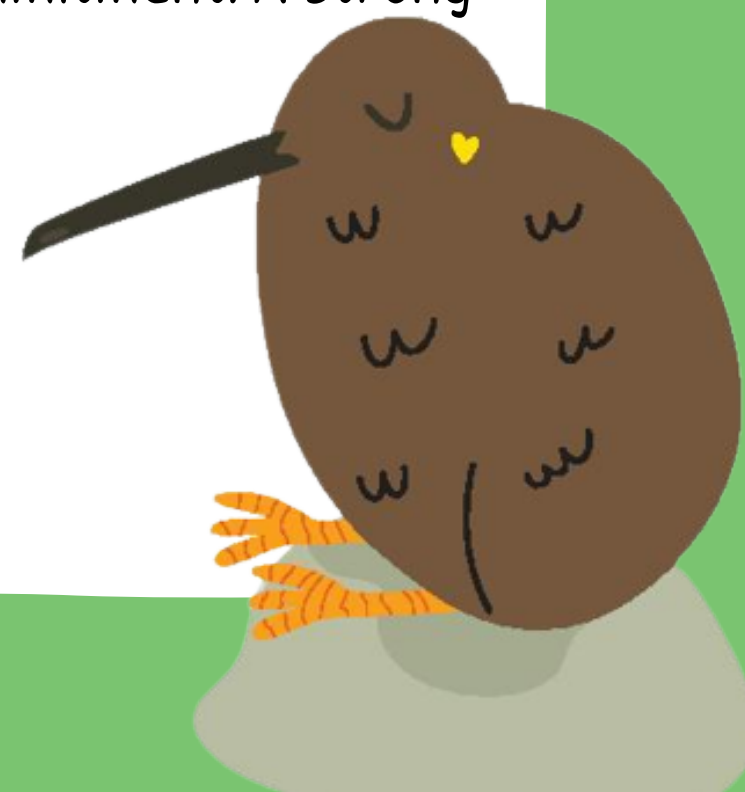
Term 1, Swimming. Term 2, Winter Champs Sports Day. Term 3, Cross Country. Term 4, Athletics.

Waikato Full Primary Schools Association:

Pirongia School belongs to the WFPSA. The Waikato Full Primary Schools Association provides quality sporting, academic and cultural events for year 7 and 8 students from the full primary schools of the waikato, bay of plenty, thames valley and king country. It gives opportunities for children to meet and compete with their peers at the highest regional levels and highest quality venues. Term 1, Swimming. Term 3, Cross Country. Term 4, Athletics.

AIMS Games:

The Zespri AIMS Games gives 11, 12 & 13 year olds an opportunity to compete as an individual or a team against their age in NZ & invited countries across 25 codes (Badminton, Basketball, BMX, Canoe slalom, Cross country, Football, Futsal, Golf, Gymnastics, Hockey, Indoor bowls, Netball, Rock climbing, Rugby league, Rugby sevens, Squash, Swimming, Table tennis, Tennis, Water polo, Sailing, Gym sport, Hip hop). AIMS Games is an annual sporting event held in Tauranga. The tournament is the biggest sporting event for 11 to 13 year olds in NZ. Students sign up depending on their interest, skill and commitment. A strong parent/caregiver backing is required. Teachers do not attend this event.



**You're off to
great places!**

Today is your day!

**Your mountain
is waiting, so...**

Get on your way!

-Dr Seuss

