

- TOMARATA SCHOOL -



School Description

A LITTLE COUNTRY SCHOOL WITH A BIG HEART

Welcome to Tomarata School. We are a small, diverse and exciting full primary (Years 1-8) rural school with an amazing bunch of children, teachers and support staff. We are well supported by our friendly community, with all the benefits of a stunning country location and environment.

For learning spaces we have 3 blocks of new, attractive classrooms, including the 'Rata Room' for Visual Art, Dance, Drama and Music activities as well as a classroom for Digital Technology/STEAM activities or special events. We also have a hall, library, swimming pool, playing field, astro-turf courts, adventure playground, shade sails, a small orchard, worm farms, vegetable gardens, chickens, a butterfly garden, bee gardens, a 'Recycled Garden' and a much-loved sandpit. We are a Garden to Table Enviro school, as well as doing Trees for Survival.

Just five minutes away, our school has its own Nature Classroom. Every week, one class spends the entire day outdoors, soaking up unique discoveries and education outside of the classroom – laughter, chatter and music echo throughout the area. A natural creek runs through pristine farmland where the eels and koura hide! Our children love to feed them. Native bush surrounds a campfire where the skill of cooking

outdoors is taught. Here the tamariki learn about being kaitiaki of this special place, identifying birds, plants and insects that abound. They learn to read the signs of seasonal changes. Rain, hail or shine, the children make the most of this experience, with a new shelter providing respite from bad weather.

Our tamariki are very caring, showing empathy and understanding towards each other. They live and breathe our GROW values every day: Growing through learning from mistakes; Respecting each other with empathy and understanding; Ownership of actions; Working together harmoniously. Nurture the seed and it will blossom - Poipoia te kakano kia puawai is Tomarata School's whakatauki.

Our children love their learning programmes, enjoy contributing their 'student voice' and relish the opportunities for leadership that are provided. We believe that students need to be exposed to a wide variety of strategies, challenges and experiences in order to be successful achievers in today's society. It is our goal to grow and nurture each student's potential through authentic engaging programmes to foster a lifelong love of learning. These programmes provide coherent pathways to future learning, preparing them for their role as confident citizens of Aotearoa who understand where they have come from and where they are going.

Structured Literacy, Inquiry-based Problem-Solving Maths and Te Whare Tapa Wha Health and Wellbeing programme are a strong focus for us all. What does that mean? Essentially, it allows us to get to know every child - noticing strengths, valuing efforts, mistakes and progress too.

Every child is welcomed and cared for at Tomarata School. We acknowledge the unique cultural and individual differences of our students, and value parents and whanau as active participants in their children's learning.

We have four Houses - Kiwi, Kereru, Kakapo and Kea.

We are well served by highly dedicated, committed and talented staff and Board of Trustees. We are fortunate to have a very supportive community.

Tomarata School at a glance:

- Close relationships with local preschools & kindergartens
- Strong environmental & sustainability character
- Garden to Table programme
- Trees for Survival programme
- Own Nature School with shelter 5 minutes from school
- Vegetable gardens, orchard and chickens
- TigerTurfed courts and large fields
- Rural outlook with an Annual Show Day
- Swimming programme Terms 1 & 4 in the school pool
- Strong engagement with Pakiri & Rodney Rural Schools
- Close proximity to Wellsford & Mangawhai