



Bell Block School Information Booklet 2022





Welcome from the Principal



Welcome to Bell Block School. We are very proud of our school and the achievements of its students both past and present. Bell Block School has a rich history and for over 150 years it has served the families of Bell Block.

Our dedicated teachers provide a caring and supportive learning environment for all our students and focus on ensuring that each student's academic and social needs are catered for. While our teaching programmes have a strong focus on academic achievement, we also provide a wide variety of other opportunities for students to experience success both inside and outside of the classroom. The students enjoy taking on lead roles in the biannual school production and our amazing Kapa Haka group. Students enjoy success and camaraderie in a range of sporting opportunities including our school triathlon and athletics sports. Academically, our students perform very well in international competitions as well as national achievement testing.

All students benefit from working in small groups with teachers, teacher aides, other adults and other students with similar skills and interests. Students who need extra help in reading, mathematics or with learning English also receive support to improve achievement. Each of our four teams (Junior, Middle, Senior and Intermediate) have Teacher Aide provision providing additional learning support.

Our school vision is an important part of building our positive culture with a termly focus taught across the school. We present awards at assembly to students in each class modelling the value we are focusing on for that term. We also work hard to develop positive citizenship and are a restorative school. This means we not only support those students with challenges but also reward the students who consistently show the school values. Each class has a circle time each week where the staff actively teach positive behaviour and work through positive responses to challenging situations.

The Year 7/8 students take part in a week-long out of town camp every two years. The Year 5/6 students also have a local camp every second year. Parents are always keen participants in camps, many taking annual leave to be a part of this experience.

Over recent years a wide variety of digital technologies have been purchased which are enhancing the learning for our students, allowing them to become effective, independent learners.

We enjoy having our families in the school and provide a number of opportunities to see the students in action from sports days and arts performances to our fortnightly celebration assemblies.





We value the input of parents, grandparents and other community members who work closely with the school to support the learning of our students. We have an open-door policy and encourage families to make contact and ask any questions they may have.

Sport has always been a keen interest for students at Bell Block School and we encourage this by fielding a large number of sports teams, including touch, basketball, hockey, netball, football, rugby, rugby league, in line hockey, canoe polo and cricket. Swimming sports and the triathlon are eagerly awaited annual events. We are fortunate to have daily use of the Bell Block Methanex Aquatic Centre in Term 1 and the end of Term 4. Bell Block students swim several times a week during these times. The teachers and teacher aides follow the Swim Safe Programme to enable them to help our students become competent swimmers who enjoy the water.

We have a newly developed technology programme available to our intermediate students. There are six different subjects offered each year – Hospitality, Music, Manufacturing, Digital Technology, The Arts and Dance and Drama.

Due to an increasing roll over the past years the Ministry of Education introduced an Enrolment Scheme to ensure there is sufficient space for children at school. All students who live in the Home Zone are able to enroll automatically. Usually there are a number of spaces for Out of Zone students. Please come and talk to me if you are interested in enrolling your child.

I enjoy talking with parents of our students and encourage you to call in and share your ideas with me and if I can be of any assistance to you, please email or phone me.

Conrad Hailes
Principal





School History

The name of Bell Block comes from Francis Dillon Bell (later Sir) who purchased the Bell Block land (1500 acres) in November 1848 from the local Puketapu people.

Formal schooling in Bell Block goes back 158 years. The settlers of the district first requested the Superintendent of the Province for a site for a chapel, school house and cemetery in September 1854. Grants for schools were unheard of then and a site for a chapel only given. The Primitive Methodists, who were the first to give any kind of education to the early settlers of New Plymouth, allowed the use of their chapel (built 1855) situated on the corner of the now Devon and Mangati Roads. They also helped in procuring a teacher, Mr Joseph King, from Sydney. Record of the actual opening date of the school appears to have been lost but in 1856 the roll was reported as 17.

In 1872 and under the Taranaki Education Reserve Act of 1871 a school was built on a triangular piece of land lying between what was then Chesney and Devon Roads approximately where the senior classrooms are now. It had two rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. In 1878 by another Act public education became "free, secular and compulsory" and was provided for from the general finance of the country in addition to educational endowments. By 1886 the original school was inadequate (roll 82) and the Education Board had a new one built. The old one was dismantled and removed for use elsewhere. The new school also had two rooms and a porch although the classes by now were combined with boys and girls no longer being kept in separate rooms. The grounds were not adequate for sports as part had to be used as a horse paddock where ponies were left while the children were at school.

In 1935 the Education Board finally decided to make a grant for more playing fields and in 1936 a large area on the northern side of Chesney St. was purchased, the street closed and a large playing area made. In 1952 Fitzroy School was becoming overcrowded as for nearly 10 years previously Hillsborough and Tarurutangi Schools had been closed and students bused to it. The Education Board decided to build a new modern school at Bell Block and bus the students here instead. The building of 1886 was shifted to a position near the entrance to the school grounds. A small swimming pool for learners was opened in November 1952.

With the population of Bell Block growing rapidly, as many new areas of land were being subdivided into residential sections, this school too was soon inadequate and prefabricated buildings were brought in. In 1959 there was a roll of 280 pupils with 10 teachers. A new pool was constructed in 1968 and the old one demolished. This pool is still in use and is incorporated in the new complex built 1989/90. In 1973 the combined school and community hall was opened.

In 1978 the roll was 609 with 20 teachers and 19 classrooms in use. In 1979 the roll was nearly 700. This was alleviated with the opening of Puketapu School in 1980 and the roll dropped back to 554, and has decreased further with changing population patterns. The roll has risen over the last five years and is now governed by an enrolment policy. Over the last few years we have added a new sand pit and an adventure playground.

A PTA was formed in 1993 to coordinate educational, social and fundraising activities within the school community.

The school is well established and set in attractive and well cared for grounds. Historically Bell Block School has been noted for its achievement in academic, social, cultural and sporting fields with past pupils often featuring prominently at New Plymouth Girls' and Boys' High Schools and Inglewood High School, Tertiary organisations and beyond.





Staff 2022

Principal

Deputy Principal/SENCO

Mr Conrad Hailes

Miss Danielle Hill

Junior Team Year 1 / 2

Room 1

Room 3

Room 4

Room 5

Room 6

Miss Monique Johnson (Team Leader T3)

Miss Tracey Jacobsen (Team Leader T1)

Mrs Raewyn Clarkson

Miss Monique van Beers

Miss Charlotte White (Team Leader T2)

Middle Team Year 3 / 4

Room 7

Room 8

Room 9

Room 10

Miss Robin Voss

Miss Caitlin Amos

Miss Alicia Venter

Mrs Alex Thompson (Team Leader)

Senior Team Year 5 / 6

Room 11

Room 12

Room 13

Room 14

Mrs Katie White

Mrs Lynda Lamb

Mrs Wendy Foster (Team Leader)

Mrs Rachael Stanton

Intermediate Team Year 7 / 8

Room 17

Room 18

Room 19

Room 20

Mr Adam Groen

Mr Kade Forsyth

Miss Hannah Ross

Mrs Renee Pearce (Team Leader)

Reading Recovery

Specialist Teacher

Part time Teachers

TBA

Mrs Amy Peters

Mrs Aleisha Parkinson, Mrs Jan Dempsey, Mrs Jodie Leach,

Mrs Lisette Charlton

Executive Officer

Office Manager

Sports Co-ordinator/Admin

Librarian

Mrs Kim Hill

Mrs Kim Thomas

Mrs Gayle Davis

Ms Cindy Manukonga

Teacher Aides

Mrs Rhonda Sarten

Mrs Jan Whitmore

Mrs Angela Mephram

Mrs Michelle Hight

Mrs Carol Lopusiewicz

Mrs Jo Hutchinson

Kapa Haka Tutor

Caretaker

Cleaner

RTL

SWiS Social Worker in School

Whaea Raewyn Ashby

Mr Colin Rutherford

Mrs Helen Langlands

Miss Tennille Yandle

Ms Kayla Harris





Bell Block School Board

PRESIDING MEMBER Greg Watt

OTHER MEMBERS Suzanne Bradburn
Kevin Stretton
Casey Rook
Paul Walden
Lynda Lamb (Staff Rep)
Conrad Hailes (Principal)
Kim Hill (Minute Secretary)

Parent and Teacher Association

CHAIRPERSON Kerri Jordan

TREASURER Leonie Benton

SECRETARY Gayle Davis

OTHER MEMBERS Conrad Hailes, Danielle Hill, Jodie Leach, Nicky Jeffries, Racheal Hanser, Billie Roach, Neil Ryan, Debbie Mitchell, Renee Barlow, Jamie Adlam, Lisette Charlton, Cindy Manukonga, Jodi Metcalfe, Michelle Pignéguay, Mark Harris, and Shannon Withers.

For further information or to volunteer please email: pta@bellblock.school.nz

2022 Term Dates

TERM ONE

Monday 31 January – Thursday 14 April

TERM TWO

Monday 2 May – Friday 8 July

TERM THREE

Monday 25 July - Friday 30 September

TERM FOUR

Monday 17 October – Wednesday 14 December (12pm finish)

For a calendar of events visit:

http://www.bellblock.school.nz/BELL_BLOCK_SCHOOL/CALENDAR.html





Curriculum

All NZ Primary Schools are required by law to teach certain subjects and skills. They are:

NZ Curriculum Areas

- Language – oral and written, reading, spelling and visual language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Technology
- Health
- Sport
- Physical Education
- The Arts – dance, drama, art, music
- Māori

Key Competencies

- Participating
- Managing Self
- Using texts and symbols
- Thinking
- Relating to others

Special Programmes:

1. Students with special learning needs including those not achieving at their chronological age and students who have talent and a passion in different areas of learning.
2. Reading Recovery which is provided at the 6 year old level for those students who need extra help with reading.
3. Spring maths programmes cater for some students not achieving at their expected level in maths.
4. Teacher Aide support for each team to assist with students not achieving at the expected level.

There is a pastoral care team that meets regularly to discuss the above categories of students to ensure that these students are catered for.

Digital Technology:

We provide a range of technology devices available to all our students and teachers. This includes items such as iPads, chrome books and robotic equipment. These are tools that are used to enhance teaching and learning, by both students and teachers.

International Competitions:

Our most able students from Year 3 up can choose to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments in Science, Digital Technology, English, Mathematics, Writing and Spelling. These competitions give students an opportunity to challenge themselves against others in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific.





School Library:

The library is a modern environment suitable for the changing needs of students in this technological age. Classes are time-tabled to use the library and students are also encouraged to exchange books or conduct research during lunch breaks and at other times when classes are not using the facility.

Students are encouraged to take books home for their own enjoyment and to share with parents and/or caregivers. All students are taught how to respect and care for books, and we would ask that this be supported at home. Please be aware that an invoice for any books lost or not returned will be sent home to enable us to replace them. Our Librarian, Cindy Manukonga, is available to assist students and also runs a number of activities during break times throughout the week to suit all ages and levels at school.

Māori Culture - Kapa Haka:

All classes integrate Te Reo Māori as part of the regular school programme. Overnight and day visits to our local marae on alternating years are included in class programmes. Our Kapa Haka groups practice once a week and are led by Whāea Raewyn Ashby. The groups share their skills at assembly and represent our school proudly at special events.

Music:

Music is part of our Intermediate Team programme and there are also opportunities to learn a musical instrument with after school providers.

Technology:

The school has just finished creating a new Technology Room, and our Intermediate students attend Technology classes where they learn hands on skills in practical settings from manufacturing to hospitality and music, dance and drama to coding and robotics. Students get to try each of the six subjects across the year and look forward to sharing what they have created and learned with their families at the Technology Showcase, held at the end of each term.





Starting School for the First Time

Starting school is a milestone in a child's life. It's a big event for parents and caregivers too. We hope that the following information will help you and your child.

Preparing for School:

- ✓ Be positive and talk about starting school in a matter-of-fact way so your child feels relaxed.
- ✓ Visit the classroom prior to the first day.
- ✓ Orientation mornings are held each term, and weekly visits are held on a Tuesday / Thursday for you and your child to spend time with the teacher and other students in the classroom. Children are encouraged to have at least three visits before starting school.
- ✓ Develop independent personal skills -
 - ❖ teach your child how to dress themselves, manage their lunch boxes, go to the toilet independently, wash their hands, tidy up after themselves and look after their belongings.
- ✓ Help prepare your child for learning to read and write by -
 - ❖ providing a variety of experiences and encouraging discussion about those experiences
 - ❖ reading to your child every day and discussing the story with them
 - ❖ showing them how to hold pens, pencils and crayons correctly and encourage them to draw and 'write'
 - ❖ help them learn to write their name. (We use a capital letter for the initial letter and lower case for the rest)
 - ❖ playing alphabet games to help your child recognise and name the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. Alphabet books and letters on the fridge are helpful.
- ✓ Help develop early mathematical concepts by -
 - ❖ counting games, cooking together
 - ❖ learning to recognise colours and shapes
 - ❖ identifying patterns on clothing etc.
 - ❖ developing a 'mathematical' vocabulary such as bigger than, biggest, smaller than, smallest, between, under, over, before, after.
- ✓ Don't panic if your child can't do some of these things at first, as all children develop individually.
- ✓ Above all, a positive self-esteem is vital, and is best fostered by plenty of praise and encouragement, with consistency of parent's expectations.

Transition to School:

- ✓ Children settle best in the mornings if they arrive early enough to unpack their bags themselves and have a little play.
- ✓ Talk to them about their lunch, and what would be suitable to eat at morning tea and lunchtime. We encourage all students to have a water bottle in class.
- ✓ Make sure your child can put on and take off school clothes easily, especially during the swimming season. It is essential that **ALL** clothing is named.





The First Day:

If you are worried or nervous on the first day, try not to transmit these feelings to your child. It is best to arrive at the school between 8.30 and 8.45 am. This will give the teacher time to spend with you. Your child will be shown where to hang their bag and shown where the toilet is.

Tell your child at which point you will be leaving. It is best to leave by 8:50am so the teacher has time to settle them. Different children have different needs. Talk about this with the teacher when you visit the school if you are unsure.

Our PTA run a gathering for parents with students starting on their first day. This is a great way to relax and meet other parents and hear a little more about the school.

Settling In:

- Most children take going to school in their stride, but they may need some time to settle in.
- Starting school is tiring for a five year old. Your child will need plenty of sleep for the first few weeks. It is best for them to be in bed by 7:00pm or earlier.
- Settling in to school is likely to be easier if you can help your child take responsibility for themselves by setting up little home routines e.g. set a time to share your child's home reading, set up a routine for putting the reader back in the bag, let your child know that you want to read and respond to school notices.
- The BOT tries to keep the numbers in the junior school low to maximise the adult/student ratio. For that reason, students in the new entrant room may move to another class during their first year at school.

Home Learning:

- Home reading is the main focus in the first two years at school.
- Support from home is a vital part of the learning to read process.
- Your child will read for a week at school, then bring all those books home to read the following week. Reading familiar books several times is an important part of learning to read as it helps to develop confidence and fluency. They will also have a small list of words to learn.
- Remember that reading should be a pleasurable experience for both child and parent.
- At the early stages of reading, some of the skills the children learn are:
 - finding the cover and turning the pages correctly by the corner
 - knowing where to start
 - pointing and matching one to one
 - pointing from left to right
 - developing a knowledge of letters and sounds (lower case first then upper case)
 - developing a sight vocabulary of high frequency words using the pictures to predict the story.
- Playing card and board games at home is a fun way of helping to develop Mathematical understanding, as well as having lots of opportunities to practice counting and recognising numbers.





General Information

Attendance:

Regular and punctual attendance is very important. A student who is unnecessarily absent misses valuable and important learning opportunities. Poor attendance patterns can affect a student's life chances. Truancy has to be acted upon by the school (Education Act 1989). Research shows that absence of more than 10 days per year has a direct negative effect on student achievement.

Once enrolled in a school, attending school is a legal requirement, and parent/caregivers have a responsibility to ensure his/her/their child attends school unless sickness or another legitimate reason prevents this occurring. Legitimate reasons would include urgent dental or medical appointments, or bereavement.

Shopping, celebrating birthdays, hair-cuts and the likes are events that are best suited, and can be planned for, out-of-school time. If you need to take your child/ren from school during the day please sign them out using the tablet at the office. If the school grounds are closed under Covid restrictions, please phone the office to make arrangements for your children to be collected. Students need to be signed out at the office and accompanied to the gate by a staff member.

Absences:

For the safety of all students, the school is required by law to follow up all unexplained absences of our students. It is a time consuming and often expensive process for our office staff to contact caregivers of absent students, who have not informed us that their child is away. Please make sure that the office is informed of all student absences and a reason for the absence, either in person, via the parent app or by email to absence@bellblock.school.nz.

Bicycles:

We recommend that only students who are in Year 5 or older ride bikes to school unaccompanied by an adult. Helmets are compulsory and security chains desirable. We have a bicycle enclosure, however due to security, bikes and scooters should not be left in there overnight.

Buses:

The Bell Block School bus service leaves the school at 3:10pm. When the bell goes at 3:00pm students line up outside the library and the roll is marked. If your child normally goes on the bus but you decide to collect them, please inform the office.

Celebration Assemblies:

School Assemblies are held every two weeks on alternate Fridays at 2pm. These assemblies are a time of sharing and positive interaction. We have guest speakers, awards, notices, Triple A Awards and sharing of learning. We welcome parents/whanau to attend as often as they can.





Contact / Emergency Information:

Please keep the school records up to date with details of address and phone contacts. You can check this on the parent app. Should your child require more than the first aid available at school, we will try to contact you or your emergency contact. Failing this we will get help and inform you at the earliest possible opportunity.

Lost Property:

Please name your children's clothing. Unclaimed clothing is kept in the lost property. During the term and at the end of the year, lost property is displayed and then any unclaimed clothing is donated to charity.

Morning Tea and Lunches:

Food is available from our School Tuckshop every day. Lunch must be ordered before school. Lunch and morning tea food is delivered to classrooms. Text ordering is available by contacting Nicky on 021 024 20269. Facebook 'The Tuck Shop Bell Block School'.

Newsletter:

A school newsletter is issued every Tuesday via the parent app and is also available on the school website www.bellblock.school.nz. Information about school events, sports, meetings, community activities, upcoming events, surveys etc. are advertised in these newsletters. It is very important that at least one adult reads the newsletter every week and notes the items and dates which relate to your child.

Parent App:

The school parent portal is called '@school Mobile' and is our main form of communication. When you enrol, setup and login details will be sent to you automatically. If you need assistance to get set up, please contact the office. The app can be used to submit an absence, sign permission slips, read newsletters, view reports and receive important communications from school.



Parental Responsibilities:

In order to provide the best possible learning environment, curriculum and teaching methods, schools need continuing information and support from parents. The aspiration of parents and the school can be fully realised only through frankness, co-operation and acceptance of the role and responsibilities of each.

So that students can achieve the most progress with their schooling, we ask parents to:

- provide information to the school about factors relevant to the child's school performance and welfare
- ensure their child is at school on time unless the child is unwell and that they fully participate in school life
- assist the school in building a positive attitude and self-concept for each student.
- give active support for their elected representatives on the Board and PTA.





Pastoral Care:

The health, safety and welfare of our students is very important to us. Where we have concerns, we will contact parents. The school has access to the following agencies –

Police Education	Hearing and Vision Testing
Children's Health Camp	Public Health Nurse
Psychologist	Speech Language Therapist
Special Education Service	Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour
Resource Teacher Literacy	Social Worker in Schools
Mobile Dental Clinic	

We are fortunate to have the services of Kayla Harris, our social worker. Access to Kayla is available to students, parents and staff. She can be contacted through the school SENCO.

Scholastic Book Club:

Book Club gives our parents and students the opportunity to purchase good books at a reasonable price. Organised by Cindy Manukonga, catalogues with order forms are sent home throughout the year. If you wish to purchase books, the preferred method of payment is online via the Scholastic 'Loop' app or you can return the order form to school with the correct money in an envelope to the office Drop Box. Please note – cheques are not accepted. The school benefits from each order processed, earning reward points to purchase new and up-to-date books for our library.

School Council:

The Year 8 students apply through an election process to become a Whānau Leader. Each whānau has two leaders which are selected by the staff with input from students, along with the Head Boy and Girl and the ICT Leader. Miss Hill meets with these students each week throughout the year, developing their leadership skills. Matters discussed include student welfare, student centred activities, fundraising and the well-being of the school generally. These positions are for half the school year with positions available in February and July although not all positions will have new leaders at mid-year.

School Hours:

8.25	Classrooms open
8.55 – 10.00	Learning time
10.00 – 10.05	Brain Food
10.05 – 11.00	Learning time
11.00 – 11.05	Supervised eating with the teacher
11.05 – 11.30	Playtime
11.30 – 1.00	Learning time
1.00 – 1.10	Supervised eating with the teacher
1.10 – 1.40	Lunchtime
1.40 – 3.00	Learning time





School Production:

Every alternate year the school produces a major musical production which involves the whole school. Our last production was 'Madagascar Jr'. We were very proud of our students' performance.

Sports:

Students are encouraged to participate in a range of summer and winter sports both at school and in outside-of-school competitions.

School sports teams are entered in local competitions for cricket, touch, hockey, netball, miniball and basketball. Teams are generally coached by parent volunteers. Registrations are made online via a link notified in the school newsletter and parent app. Late registrations will not be accepted and your child will miss out on team selection.

Stationery:

Stationery lists are sent home with reports at the end of the year but are also available on the school website. OfficeMax also carries our stationery list and you can order online at myschool.co.nz.

Toys/Valuables at School:

We prefer that children do not bring money, toys or valuables to school other than that required for school purposes. We cannot accept responsibility for any lost or damaged personal items.

Triple 'A' Awards:

These are awarded at the Celebration Assembly each fortnight. Students are chosen by the classroom teacher for the awards under certain criteria. Each student who receives a Triple A Award has their photo taken for the school newsletter.

Trips/Sporting Activities:

All cash/permission slips coming into school must be deposited in the school 'Drop Box' located in the office. If the office is closed under Covid restrictions, slips should be returned to the classroom teacher. Please ensure the correct money and permission slips are in an envelope or plastic bag and contain your child's name and room number. Alternatively, we encourage parents to pay via internet banking using the school bank account number 15 3956 0057371 02 and child's name and trip/activity as reference. (Please also remember to indicate on the permission slip that you are paying online). EFTPOS is available in the office for your added convenience.

Please Note: If payment and/or permission is not received by the due date your child will not be able to attend the trip. This can upset some students so please help us get every student on our trips.

Whānau Groups:

Each class in the school belongs to one of our four whānau groups. Piwāiwaka, Tākahe, Kotuku and Kereru are the basis for some of our school activities and include students from all age groups as well as an opportunity for interaction with staff from other areas of the school. A Whānau Shield is presented to the winning whanau at the end of each term.





The Bell Block School Board:

Our Board consists of five elected Parent Representatives, one elected Staff Member and the Principal. Members are elected every three years by the school's community. The Board meets twice a term and community members are encouraged to contribute their ideas and expertise to the Board. The Board develops the vision for the school and decides on the educational policies to be implemented in the school in order to achieve the vision. It is responsible for developing a strategic plan for making decisions on the school needs in terms of curriculum, buildings, grounds, equipment, finances and the appointment of staff.

Parent and Teacher Association:

The PTA Committee meets bi-monthly and there is one Annual General Meeting each year to elect members.

The role of the PTA is to provide a forum for parent discussions on educational and curriculum issues, as well as fundraising for supplementary school equipment. The PTA, in consultation with the staff, targets specific school resource needs. In the past funds have been directed to the purchase or upgrading of items such as library books, reading material, physical education and sports equipment, computers, the hall sound system, the Friendship Seat and the sandpit. Most recently, the PTA fundraised for a new Astro Turf. Fundraising events not only bring the school community together but enhance the already high profile of the school within the wider Bell Block community.

HEALTH SERVICES:

Public Health Nurse:

The school's Public Health Nurse is concerned with the total health needs of students within the school. Contact phone number is 753 7790 ext. 8780. You are welcome to phone her and arrange a time to meet at school or in your home.

Dental Therapist:

We have a community dental clinic in New Plymouth that will provide dental services for your children. Phone 757 3405. Students are seen annually or more often if they are at risk. Pre-schoolers enrolled at the clinic (two and half years old) are contacted when due for treatment - usually six monthly.

Hearing and Vision:

Hearing and Vision tests are carried out on New Entrants and Year 7 students each year. Parents who are concerned that their child's vision or hearing has deteriorated can phone 758 5203 for a clinical test.

