



# Glen Eden Primary Takahē Team Newsletter Term 1 - 2026



## Nau mai, haere mai Welcome to Term 1

### Topic Focus

This term our learning focuses on **Kaitiakitanga** – caring for ourselves, others, and our environment. We will also spend time building strong relationships as students and teachers get to know one another. Tamariki will learn to share our school pepeha or their whānau pepeha, to introduce themselves in te reo Māori and celebrate their cultural identities. We will develop a shared understanding of our school values: **whakawhanaungatanga, kairangi, ako, and manaakitanga.**

### Health PE Focus

Swimming is our main P.E. focus this term.

- **Weeks 2-3:** Daily swimming (Monday-Thursday) with lessons.
- **From Week 4:** Swimming three times a week, plus optional lunchtime swims (Year 4 on Wednesdays, Year 3 on Thursdays).

All students are expected to take part. Weekly P.E. with Mr Shouaib. Please ensure children bring a **water bottle, shoes, and sun hat.**

### General Reminder

It is extremely important for students to wear sun hats and to have water bottles on hand everyday. Classes have sunscreen which students are encouraged to use.

## Takahē Team

The Takahē Team includes four Year 3-4 classes (Rooms 1, 5, 11, 15) and one Year 2-3 class (Room 9).

- **Belongings:** Please name all items (hats, togs, towels, clothing, scooters). Teachers can provide markers if needed.
- **Reading:** Guided and self-selected books will be sent home. Some students will reread texts to build fluency. Some students have Reading Eggs logins, that can be used at home. These will be glued into homework books. All students need a **book bag** (Students can reuse last year's or purchase from the office for \$6).
- **Mathematics:** We have begun the term with **Statistics** for three weeks, then move to **Number and Algebra** in Week 4. Basic facts for practice will be added to homework books.
- **Communication:** School newsletters, the **Hero** system, and Facebook are our main communication channels.
- **Trip:** Our Term 1 trip is to the **Waitākere Transfer Station** for the Zero Waste Programme. (More details to come).
- **Meet the Teacher:** Join us for a **Whānau hui, open classroom, and sausage sizzle on 25th February at 5pm.** This is a chance to meet teachers, view classrooms, and ask questions

## Introducing the Takahē Teachers 2026



**Room 1 - Ngaire Williams (Team leader)** Email at [ngairew@geps.school.nz](mailto:ngairew@geps.school.nz)

Kia ora, my name is **Ngaire Williams**, and I have been part of Glen Eden Primary for many years. I really enjoy working with our Glen Eden whānau and tamariki. I have lived in West Auckland all my life and currently live locally in Glen Eden with my husband, Owen. We have three grown-up children.

Outside of school, I enjoy reading, swimming, gardening, camping at the beach, travelling, and motorbike riding (as the passenger!). I'm really looking forward to getting to know you and your whānau this year.

Swimming days: **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday**. Library day: **Thursday**



**Room 5 - Sam Hogan** You can contact me by email at [samh@geps.school.nz](mailto:samh@geps.school.nz)

Kia ora, my name is Sam Hogan. This will be my fifth year in Room 5 and I'm super excited to work with Ruma Rima this year and to be teaching year 3-4 again. I was born in Cairns, Australia but moved with my family to New Zealand when I was 8 and have lived here in West Auckland ever since!

I have a lot of hobbies and interests; movies, games, music, and anything you might call nerdy! I live with my wife, another teacher here, Mrs Hogan- and our dog Jessie! Our class time swimming days are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with a lunchtime swim on Wednesday for Year 4s and Thursday for Year 3s.



**Room 11 - Bradley Balthrop-Lee** You can contact me by email at

[bradleyb@geps.school.nz](mailto:bradleyb@geps.school.nz) Kia ora!! My name is Bradley Balthrop-Lee, and I'm the teacher in Room 11. I am from the state of Georgia in the U.S., and my family and I have just moved to Auckland from the US in September 2025. I love to read, write, and do anything that is outdoors or in nature!. I have been teaching for 14 years and am so excited to start my 15th year at GEPS! Our swimming days are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Our library day is Monday.



**Room 15 Jess Maoate** You can contact me by email at [jessicam@geps.school.nz](mailto:jessicam@geps.school.nz)

Kia ora, my name is Jess Maoate, and I am the kaiako in Room 15 from Tuesday to Friday. Mrs Tampeo will be teaching on Mondays. I was born and raised in West Auckland and now live in Laingholm with my husband and two boys. I began teaching at Glen Eden Primary 8 years ago. I love teaching at GEPS!

Our swimming days are Tuesday and Wednesday, with a lunchtime swim on Wednesday for Year 3s and Thursday for Year 4s. Our library day is Monday.



**Room 9 -Moana Hatton** You can contact me by email at [moanah@geps.school.nz](mailto:moanah@geps.school.nz)

Kia ora! I'm Moana Hatton and I am the Kaiako in Room 9. I have been teaching for seven years and I enjoy working alongside the staff and tamariki of GEPS! I enjoy spending time at the beach and going camping with my whānau. Our swimming days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and our library day is on Fridays.