



# Glen Eden Primary Tui Team Newsletter - Term 1 - 2026



## Nau mai, haere mai Welcome to Term 1

### Topic Focus

Our topic this term is centred on **Kaitiakitanga** – caring for ourselves, others, and our environment. The beginning of the year is also an important time for students and teachers to get to know one another and build strong relationships. We will also be building a shared understanding of our school values: **whakawhanaungatanga** (relationships), **kairangi** (striving for excellence), **ako** (learning together), and **manaakitanga** (care and respect for others).

### Swimming

The main PE focus for this term is swimming. Our pool is a wonderful resource for students to develop water confidence and safety, as well as their swimming skills. Every week Tui classes will have 3 class sessions and 1 or 2 lunch time swims. Swimming is compulsory, all children are expected to participate in these swimming sessions.

### General Reminders

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



### Tui Team

Welcome back to the 2026 school year! We extend a warm welcome to all our new Tui whānau. Tui Team consists of four composite classes: Rooms 2, 7 and 10 and 13. Our Tui students have the opportunity to join teams and volunteer for various duties around our kura.

### Homework

Tui students are encouraged to read, practice basic facts and complete unfinished class tasks for their homework during the week. Any additional practice students get at home is beneficial but at no time should homework become arduous. All students are provided with a homework book but will need some sort of book bag to transport books between home and school. Students are responsible for ensuring their work is returned to school the next day.

## Introductions to the Team:



**Room 2 - Aaron Pulman:** Hi, I am in my eighth year at GEPS and third year at Year 5 and 6 after having taught Year 3 and 4 for the previous 5 years. I am a born and bred West Aucklander and live in Henderson with my wife Shannon and our Year 9 daughter Kelsie. I'm a keen sports fan and love the outdoors, particularly fishing. I'm looking forward to a great year in Tui and helping the kids to embrace the cool opportunities being a Tui student offers.



**Room 7 - Kelly Fakalata (Team Leader):** Kia ora, I'm Kelly Fakalata. I have many years teaching experience with a range of students from Year 3 to Year 8. I first taught at GEPS in 2012 and have been here in a range of roles since. I have four children, all of whom have spent their primary school years at GEPS. The youngest is still currently here in Year 4. When I'm not at school I'm usually providing a taxi service for my children and supporting them loudly from the sidelines of their many sporting activities.



**Room 10 - Aimee Hogan:** Kia Ora, I am Aimee Hogan and I'm in my ninth year teaching at GEPS. I have previously taught year 3 and 4 before moving up to teach year 5 and 6 a few years ago. I have a huge passion for reading and have managed to make my own mini library at home. I absolutely love being a part of Tui team and all the awesome opportunities our tamariki get to experience.



**Room 13 - Monica Topia** - Kia Ora, I am Whaea Monica and I am in my ninth year at GEPS, and teach in our Year 5-6 Maori bilingual class. I enjoy travelling with my whānau, sports (especially netball), and watching my daughters play sports. I am fluent in Te Reo Māori and love sharing my knowledge within our kura. I have three daughters, all of whom have attended our kura.



**PE & Sport - Jack Shouaib:** Kia Ora, I'm Jack and will be teaching PE to all Tui classes throughout the year. I am in my third year at GEPS, and in New Zealand, as I am from Wales. I will also be organising all interschool teams and events, and hoping to build on a very successful year last year! I like to run and play football (soccer...), and love to hit the beach and camp on my weekends.

You can contact your child's teacher via their school email, they will get back to you as soon as it's convenient for them.

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