



HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th October 2025

Important Upcoming Events 2025

10 October	Reports come home in school bags today
13 /14 October	Class/ kete/individual/sibling photos being taken over these days If you'd like a photo taken with siblings here at school, the form MUST be returned before the photographer arrives on the 13/10.
15/16 October	5.30 - 6.30pm Celebrating Learning Evenings - everyone welcome 15 October -Surnames A- L , 16 October - Surnames M - Z
17 October	Final day for calendar/diary/notebook/fridge magnet art orders to be returned 9am School assembly TKW on the stage sharing some of their learning. Everyone welcome
21 October	5.30pm Board meeting - in the staffroom. Everyone welcome
23 October	NZEI (the Teacher's union) have potentially called all eligible primary teachers/support staff/principals to strike on this day. See below for the information we have to date
23/24 October	Year 4 sleepover and Ngā Manu visit
27 October	Labour Day public holiday, <u>School is closed</u>
30 October	TKW trip to the Michelle Robinson performance of The Magic Lamp
31 October	9am Whole school assembly - TKM sharing their learning. Everyone welcome
6 November	9am Years 4 - 6 athletic sports (postponement date is 10 November)
13 November	TKW ball. (Cuteness overload)
14 November	9am Whole school assembly TKP sharing some of their learning. Everyone welcome
21 November	House t-shirt day
25 November	Y1 - 3 fundamental skills display (postponement 27 November)
28 November	9am Whole school assembly - TKT sharing some of their learning, Everyone welcome
9 December (save this date)	5.00pm Christmas carnival 6.00pm Prizegiving 7.00pm Year 6 graduation
15 December	1.45pm Transition in 2026 classrooms
16 December	12.45pm Classes finish for 2025

Do keep checking this calendar, as there will be new items added as soon as possible!



UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to term 4 - it is always action packed! A very special welcome to the 11 new ākonga who have joined our kura this week. We held a mihi whakatau on Monday morning to formally welcome everyone who has started at our kura since the beginning of term 3.

ASSESSMENT, SCHOOL REPORTS AND CELEBRATING LEARNING

The final written report for 2025 has come home today in schoolbags.

The Ministry of Education has issued statements to let everyone know that the new curriculum expectations in literacy and numeracy have changed - MORE is being expected of the ākonga.

This means that some teacher judgments about below/at/above expectations may differ from previous years, simply because teachers are working hard to bring the learners up to the new expectations. This is along with introducing concepts that they have not been taught previously.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOUR CHILD HAS 'GONE BACKWARDS' OR 'STOPPED LEARNING'. The goal posts have been shifted and so it is more challenging to be 'at' or 'above' expectation at the appropriate year level.

'Celebrating learning' evenings are next week. We hope that you can come along on one of these nights and take the opportunity to view learning and chat with staff.

As a guide we request that the tamariki with surnames starting from A - L come on the 15 October and those with surnames from M - Z come on the 16 October. However, if your allocated evening is not suitable, do come on the other night.

Please note: Waka Iti will not be 'open' on the Celebrating Learning evenings. Mrs Hawkins will be making individual appointments with all parents/caregivers over the coming weeks.

SUN HATS

Our school policy requires that all tamariki wear our regulation navy blue bucket sunhat in Terms 4 and 1 of each year. The NZ sun is fierce and sunburn can be most uncomfortable and sometimes dangerous.

Our school policy states 'no hat, no play', so please ensure everyone has their hat at school each day.

Sunhats are available for purchase from the school office for \$15.00 (or alternatively from Academy Apparel) if you need one. We have hats in stock right now.



CHESS TOURNAMENT

The children really enjoyed the trip to Christchurch and the opportunity to play against the best chess players in the country. All players got at least one victory or draw from the two days of play. Thank you to all our school community for supporting the team to attend this event.



CALENDAR ORDERS

A reminder that Calendar Art, notebooks , cards, and fridge magnets (all great Christmas presents) are available for viewing and ordering until the end of next week. Every child has done a special piece that has their name and age on it - a great keepsake and gift. These will be printed and distributed to families in Week 8, term 4.

KAPA HAKA PERFORMANCE

On Saturday 1st November our kapa haka group will be performing in the Square as part of the Diwali Mela. We are very excited about this amazing opportunity. A notice has gone home to those tamariki involved. Parents/caregivers please ensure that you have read the notice and return the permission form as soon as possible - if your child would like to participate. Ngā mihi!

POTENTIAL STRIKE ACTION

You may have seen recent media coverage about a planned NZEI Union teacher and support staff strike on Thursday 23rd October.

At this stage, this is not official because a formal strike notice has not been presented to school Boards. We have been advised that if the NZEI decides to go ahead with the strike, it will issue the strike notice on the morning of Monday 20 October.

If an official strike notice is received, our school Board will then review whether there are enough non-union staff available to safely keep the school open. If not, the Board may decide to close our school for the day on Thursday 23rd October. The Board will communicate its decision as soon as possible after receiving the strike notice.

For now, please keep this possibility in mind as you plan ahead. We'll provide an official update from the Board as soon as more information becomes available.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Ngā mihi kia koutou,
Lin Dixon

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Te Kete Wakahuia

Waka Iti would like to welcome **Sophia, Olive, Kyrie B, Kyson, Indigo, Joseph, Bella** and **Jasmine** to our class. You've all had a fantastic week. Happy school days!

Amy - Thank you Amy for showing all our new people what to do by being helpful and kind. Ka pai!

Aquila - Well done for sliding letter sounds together to read words and sentences. Ka rawe!

A big Hokowhitu and Waka welcome to **Kyrie G.**

Ellie - well done for thinking about a sentence to write during whole class writing.

Hania - You are excellent at helping your friends during literacy

Isabella - Great work for thinking about a fantastic sentence during shared writing.

Emily - for being a great helper in class this week

Tiesha - for fantastic reading. Tino pai.

Keepa - for super work in maths. Kā rawe

Colin - for keeping our garden tidy. Thank you!

Ruby - for excellent reading and writing.



Te Kete Pounamu

Hanna-Moana - for being a heart word super star!

Ivan - for neat and fluid handwriting!

Aryan - for fantastic, fluent and expressive reading - Ka pai.

Hayze - for making good choices in the playground. Ka pai Hayze!

Harrison B - for joining in class discussions more often. Kā rawe!

Shay - for taking great pride in your handwriting. Kā rawe!

Lucia - for making personal connections to texts at literacy. Tīno pai!

Aisha - for awesome story writing at literacy follow up. Ka pai!

Jacob - for amazing input in our firewise learning. Tīno pai!

Te Kete Manawa

Zara - For making a great start to the term in maths and always trying your best.

Vanshika - For demonstrating a clear understanding of kiwi icons in your kiwi art.

Eli - For completing 100 multiplication questions within 10 minutes.

Abel - For solving problems quickly and accurately during rich tasks.

Tejo - For making a great start to the term in maths and always trying your best.

Dan - Welcome to Hokowhitu School and Te Kete Manawa. We are excited to have you!

Axel - For an outstanding effort with your self management skills.

Cara - For always presenting your literacy work beautifully and giving your best.

Ayson - For great contributions to our word study and spelling of the patterns and rules.

Max - For winning Harakeke's STEAM challenge by designing a great paper rocket.

Te Kete Aronui

This week we would like to celebrate students' who have earnt their pen licence. This means they are able to use blue pens in their school books because their work is consistently neat and set out well.

Congratulations to the following children:

Junoo, Ameerah, Yuleena, Joy, Felix, Aliza, Evie, Eliza, Paikea, Paxton, Isla D, Madison.

Te Kete Tangaroa

Welcome back! It has been lovely seeing all your bright smiling faces ready to start Term 4. Once again, we have a busy term ahead of us and we look forward to the learning journey ahead with you!

A special welcome to **Violet** who has joined this term.



Important Information for Parents & Guardians

- Please respect the privacy of all ākonga when taking photos or videos.
- Please do not publish any photos containing other children from any school event.
- Please look out for kete newsletters - these include additional specific dates/events for that kete.

Ways to Contact The Office When Your Child Will Be Late Or Absent

Email - office@hokowhitu.school.nz

Phone (You can also leave a voicemail) - 06 357 9667 **School cell phone** (txt or phone) - 027 357 9021

App - See how to download the App here: <https://hokowhituprimary.apps.school.nz/>



SPORT

Sports available at Hokowhitu School for 2025

All term 4 sports are now closed.

Couches - If you would like to send through any player of the day's, photos or a summary of any of the games for the newsletter, we love to celebrate and share those in the newsletter. Please send through to office@hokowhitu.school.nz



THE EGG PROJECT



How to order:

- Jump onto the website www.theeggproject.co.nz
- Click up the top on the blue bit where it asks if you have a unique code.
- Use the code SCH-003 at to sign up, select what eggs you want as a one off or set up a subscription, confirm and pay.
- If you need help with anything—ordering, subscriptions, or just want to talk eggs—flick me an email. I'm just sitting here chatting with the eggs anyway (they're great listeners, but not so hot on tech support). Pip@theeggproject.co.nz

Hokowhitu School has fundraised more than \$2254.00 so far by having whānau purchase these eggs. Along with being so fresh, the eggs are also much cheaper than the equivalent at the supermarket.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

A poster for 'Karate Classes for Kids and Adults'. It features a young girl in a white karate gi, smiling and in a ready stance. The text on the poster includes: 'KARATE CLASSES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS', 'Mondays & Thursdays @ 6pm & 6:30pm', 'FREE TRIAL CLASSES', a QR code, and 'USKUNEWZEALAND@GMAIL.COM'. At the bottom, it says 'CENTRAL PALMERSTON NORTH' and 'USKU-KARATE.NZ'.

A poster for 'Saturday Music'. It features a colorful watercolor-style logo with the words 'Saturday Music' and musical notes. The text on the poster includes: 'Music lessons for children aged 4 - 13', 'Enrolments open!', 'Teaching the following instruments: cello, choir, clarinet, drums, flute, french horn, guitar, ukulele, junior flute (fife), keyboard, music basics, orchestra, recorder, saxophone, trombone, trumpet and violin.', 'Enrol now for 2026!', 'www.saturdaymusic.org.nz', 'Email: contact@saturdaymusic.org.nz', and 'Providing affordable Music education for the children of Manawatū'.