

# HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

## Newsletter

Friday 5th Dec 2025



### Upcoming Events

5 December	All library books must be returned by today at the latest - stocktake time!
8 December	TKP/TKA and TKM end of year celebration day
9 December	5.00pm Christmas carnival 6.00pm Prizegiving 7.00pm Year 6 graduation
10 December	TKT end of year celebration day - see separate notice
11 December	TKW end of year celebration day - see separate notice
12 December	2026 kete/teacher and stationery lists sent home this afternoon
15 December	8.30am Coffee and muffin thank you catch up for 'over and above' parental contributions to our kura over 2025 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,

Our attendance this week was 74% of ākonga attending school for at least 90% of the time. We noticed that the wet start to the day on Wednesday resulted in lots of absences, so this reduced our attendance rates for the week. Well done to those who put on their raincoats, braved the rain and attended.



## SWIMMING

Yippee! The swimming pool is now open. Please send your tamariki daily with their togs, towel and goggles (if required). We strongly recommend rash tops to protect from sunburn too. Please trust us - teachers will not take the children swimming if conditions are unsuitable. The solar heating and pool cover means that the water is often as warm or even warmer than the air temperature too.

## PNCC UPDATE ON VARIABLE SPEED LIMITS

The council is planning to implement a variable 30 km/h speed limit on Albert Street and is asking for your feedback on the matter.

The consultation is on

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Have-your-say/Have-your-say-on-our-Draft-Speed-Management-Plan-2025>

And the proposed changes on Albert Street outside our school are on

<https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Have-your-say/Have-your-say-on-our-Draft-Speed-Management-Plan-2025/Hokowhitu-School-St-James-School>

## INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

Congratulations to everyone who represented our kura at the interschool event earlier this week. Special congratulations to the following people who placed in the top five of their event.

**Mason M** 1st in discus

**Afokoula** 2nd in shot put

**Maximus C** 3rd in hurdles

**Luca O** 3rd 800m

**Charlie T** and **Rory E** - both 4th in 100m sprint

**Joslyn** 5th 800m.

Ka aroha ra - well done!



## **CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AND PRIZEGIVING**

Excitement is building for the carnival and prizegiving next Tuesday evening. Come along any time from 5pm and enjoy selecting kai from one (or more) of our stalls. PLEASE try to have smaller notes or coins, as we only have a limited cash float. Remember to bring along a picnic blanket (or deck chair) so you can find a good place to sit and enjoy the prizegiving that will start at 6pm. We ask that the tamariki are accompanied by an adult for this event (not just dropped off). As this is a formal school event, the children are to be in full school uniform please.

The graduation ceremony for the Year 6 ākonga (and their whānau) will take place in the school hall immediately after the whole school prizegiving.

## **UNIFORM**

A reminder that the 'phase in' period for the new uniform pants/shorts/skorts finishes at the end of this year. From the commencement of 2026 everyone will be wearing the navy blue options. Nothing changes for the polo shirts or fleeces.

New uniform items are available from Academy Apparel (in Broadway Avenue), so it might be a good idea to get this sorted before the new school year sneaks up on you.

Second hand polos and fleeces will continue to be available from the office at school (limited size range as we rely on donated items for these).

## **BOOK/SPORT UNIFORM AMNESTY**

A final call for any books (readers or library books) OR school sports uniforms - please have a look around this weekend and urgently return any you may find. Thank you

## **ROAD PATROL ORANGE CELEBRATION**

It was great that our hard working road patrol team were recognised this morning for their mahi throughout the year. It is a huge responsibility to be on road patrol, and their service is required in all weather conditions too. Following a march down Broadway Avenue, the patrollers got to enjoy a movie. Thank you for mahi patrollers.





## **SUPPORT SERVICES - outside of school programmes**

Below are some services that provide programmes to support parenting as well as children who may need support with emotional regulation, behaviour, and anxiety. Sometimes it's hard to know where to start when you need some extra support.

1) **Triple P** - This is a Parenting programme and is run in the evenings.

- Strategies to help understand and manage your child's behaviour
- Gives you skills to raise happy and confident kids
- Become a prepared, positive and confident parent

Phone 06 3551655 to register

<https://www.parentlinemanawatu.org.nz/triple-p-general>

2) **Project Calm** - Parent and child: This is an 8 week course. 1 hour session a week after school.

- Parent attends alongside the child
- Child learns skills in mindfulness, relaxation, self compassion, and problem solving
- Parents learn about managing issues, thinking issues and social difficulties

Phone 06 3558561 to register.

<https://manawatusf.org.nz/project-calm>

3) **Te Manawa Family services** - Whānau Connect are services for tamariki and rangatahi aged 9-17 and their whānau who have been impacted by family violence.

Creating safe relationships where young people thrive

- Build self esteem, resilience, safety
- Dynamic programme using movement and creativity to learn essential life skills
- Communication, teamwork, and mindfulness.
- Goal setting and resilience.

[admin.pn@temanawa.org.nz](mailto:admin.pn@temanawa.org.nz) 027 323 8332 - for referral. <https://temanawa.org.nz/>

Naomi Thompson, our learning support coordinator is a great person to talk to if you want to discuss support options.

Have a fantastic weekend everyone.

Ngā mihi kia nui,  
Lin Dixon  
Tumuaki/Principal





## **UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD**

Tēnā koutou,

The Board recently held its last meeting for the year, and we began by noting that it would be Lin's last meeting. Lin's time at Hokowhitu School will be recognised in a number of different ways over the next few weeks, but here I would like to acknowledge her consistently positive and patient approach to working with the Board. Board meetings aren't famous for being exciting! Nevertheless, they are important for the life of the school, and Lin has always put a huge effort into making sure they run well, that we have the information we need, and that even when we have tricky issues to discuss we can do so in a productive and respectful manner. It will be very strange not having Lin at the table next year, but we're sure she will find a way to cope with not having those Tuesday night meetings in her life!

Much of our business this time was focused on next year, and we're grateful that Reece and Carlee have also been attending our meetings to ensure good continuity. We approved an Attendance Management Plan, which we're required to have in place for next year as part of the government's focus on boosting attendance. We also reviewed a draft budget, which we will approve at our first meeting next year—thank you to Natasha and Ewan for your work on this.

We wish all our school community, students, and staff a relaxing, joyful, and safe summer break.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou,

Philip Steer



# Achievement Awards



## Te Kete Wakahuia

**Joseph** - For wonderful counting and joining in at Maths time. Ka rawe!

**Harvin** - For being willing to give all the new things at school a go. Kia kaha!

**Tyler** - Well done for coming into the classroom by yourself and doing all of your morning routines. Ka pai!

**Thomas** - For using humour when writing his long vowel stories. Ka rawe!

**Alexander** - For a great term of learning! Ka pai.

**Oliver** - For great ideas at storywriting time. Ka rawe!

**Aaravdeep** - For working hard on your spelling. Kā pai.

**Akein** - For always being prepared for oral language time.

**Jack** - For taking time to prepare your oral language presentations. Tino pai rawa.

**Carter** - For excellent addition and subtraction skills. Kā pai.

**Lana** - For blending sounds in words to read. Kā pai.

**Musa** - For neat handwriting. Kā pai.

## Te Kete Pounamu

**Zayn** - For being a great collaborator during whole class rich maths tasks. Tino pai!

**Sam** - For having great knowledge of the world around him. Ka pai!

**Ansh** - For being a 'switched on' learner in all areas of school. Ka pai!

## Te Kete Manawa

Te Kete Manawa - what a great week you have all had. To celebrate we will have our End of Year Celebration on Monday 8 December 2025 to acknowledge your awesomeness.

## Te Kete Aronui

Congratulations to the following students for receiving their Pen Licences this week:  
**Romaan, Harley, Ryder, Te Kekerewai, Lohan**

## Te Kete Tangaroa

**Lucy** - Excellent work on her information report

**Taylah** - Improvement in prototec

**Ronav** - Excellent work with the yearbook

**Ava K** - For being such a joy in TKT!

**Mila P** - For trying hard with her maths and asking for help. You are a star, Mila!

**Isabella** - For always being kind and respectful - we appreciate how you quietly role model to those around you

**Dwayne D** - For your awesome attitude. You are a thoughtful and respectful member of our kete. Ka rawe!

**Jade** - For being kind, we love how you support your friends!

**Mario** - For being friendly and asking questions to get to know others



## 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

## Hockey

The Red Sticks closed out an incredible summer hockey season with a commanding win over Whakarongo! It's been a season to remember—with just one loss to College St and steady improvement in every game. The team showcased fantastic stick skills, sharp passing, and clever eliminations, especially in those final matches.

A huge congratulations to all the players for their effort and teamwork, and a big thank you to the parents for your unwavering sideline support. Special appreciation goes to Lily, our dedicated referee, for not only keeping the games fair but also offering guidance and encouragement throughout the season.

It's been an absolute privilege to coach this team. Keep up the great hockey—we can't wait to see what you achieve next!

Michael - Coach







## The Egg Project

- Jump onto the website [www.theeggproject.co.nz](http://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](mailto: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

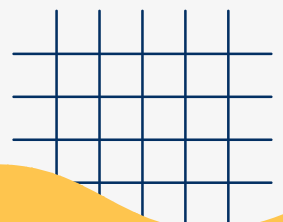
### Measles in Manawatū - advice from Health NZ

As you may be aware, there have been confirmed cases of measles in our community. We are asking your support in sharing these important messages with whānau.

- Check that everyone in your family born after 1 Jan 1969 has had two doses of measles vaccines after the age of 12 months
- Call 0800 282 926 or visit [info.health.nz/measles](http://info.health.nz/measles) to check your immunisation status or to book your vaccine
- If you have any queries about measles, please call Healthline 0800 611 116
- If you think you have measles, stay at home and call Healthline immediately

### IMPORTANT

**Emails have been sent to families that have not yet provided confirmation of immunisation. Ministry of Health guidelines state that proof of immunisation status is required to avoid needing to quarantine at home in the event of a measles outbreak at school.**



2026 New Year  
New Students  
Welcome

Goju Ryu  
**KARATE**



沖繩  
剛柔流

[www.karate.org.nz](http://www.karate.org.nz)  
**GOJU RYU KARATE**  
**PALMERSTON NORTH**

LOCATION: Hokowhitu School Hall  
Albert St, Palmerston North  
TIMES: Tue / Fri Juniors 6pm-7pm  
Seniors 7pm - 8pm  
(advanced - 8:30pm)

CONTACT: Clayton, 021 2082 012  
EMAIL: [claytonsensei@gmail.com](mailto:claytonsensei@gmail.com)  
WEB: [www.karate.org.nz](http://www.karate.org.nz)

沖繩  
剛柔流

## EPIC HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

IS YOUR CHILD OR  
TEEN INTERESTED  
IN TECHNOLOGY?



JANUARY 2026

For beginner & advanced coders  
Ages 9&10, 11&12, 13&14, 15 to adult  
Fun, Free & Educational!

Sign up at [codingnz.com/holidays](https://codingnz.com/holidays)



## A VERY PALMY Christmas



### Tree Lighting

Te Marae o Hine  
The Square  
4 December  
6 - 9pm



### Christmas Parade

Te Marae o Hine  
The Square  
7 December  
2 - 3pm



### Christmas Concert

Te Marae o Hine  
The Square  
7 December  
3:30 - 7:30pm



#### Ticket Information

Free Admission

#### Dates

Sun 7 Dec 2025, 2:00pm-7:30pm



# I Tri'd the Tri Series

## KIDS TRIATHLON

For Kids 4-12 Years



Manawatu & TRC  
Toyota



Register at  
[www.triclub.co.nz](http://www.triclub.co.nz)

## WIN SPORTS GEAR OF YOUR CHOICE FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

Manawatu Triathlon Club wants to reward schools with the best student participation numbers in the upcoming, "Manawatu and TRC Toyota I Tri'd the Tri Series 2026" for kids 4-12 yrs. Prizes of sports vouchers will be presented to the winning schools. \*Note the winning schools will be determined by taking into account roll size & numbers of students taking part. There will be prizes for different categories of schools

**PRE-ENTER ONLINE BY 30th  
JANUARY 2026  
PAY ONLY \$25**



RUN - BIKE - SWIM

For kids  
4-12 YEARS

### FIVE EVENT DATES

Mon 2nd FEB 2026  
Mon 9th FEB 2026  
Mon 16th FEB 2026  
Mon 23rd FEB 2026  
Mon 2nd MAR 2026

# KIDS TRIATHLON

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### COURSE DISTANCES

4-6 years 300m run / 600m cycle / 1 length swim *in teaching pool*  
7 years 750m run / 1.5k cycle / 25m swim  
8-9 years 750m run / 1.5k cycle / 50m swim  
10-12 years 1.5k run / 3k cycle / 100m swim

### EVENT LOCATION

Sikoglund Park and Freyberg Community Pool  
Palmerston North

### HOW TO ENTER

1. Complete the entry & consent form waiver by the 30th January  
**Enter online at [triclub.co.nz](http://triclub.co.nz)**

2. Register on race day from 4:30pm (First race 5:20pm)

We must receive full payment and signed Parent's/Legal  
Guardian's consent form waiver to complete your registration.

### ENTRY FEES By 30th Jan

- Individual child (all 5 events) \$25 OR
- Family of 3 or more (all 5 events) \$75

### ENTRY FEES After 30th Jan

- Individual child \$30 OR
- Family of 3 or more \$90

<https://www.triclub.co.nz/events/2025-i-trid-the-tri-series>

<https://www.facebook.com/Palmy-I-Trid-the-Tri-Series-165002316882569/>

### GOT A QUESTION?

To find out more please call Andy or Lenka (021 0349989)  
or Deb (027 439 0651)

  
**MANAWATŪ**  
Triathlon Club



Manawatu & TRC  
Toyota

