

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

Newsletter

Friday 5th Feb 2026



Upcoming Events

12th February	5.00 - 6.30pm Pool Party - everyone welcome! (see below for details)
13th February	House meeting day - wear your house t-shirt today if you have one.
17th February	5:30pm - Board Meeting
19th February	Library bus
20th February	9am School Assembly - TKA
24th February	9:30am Triathlon - Years 4, 5 & 6
3rd March	11:30 Swimming Sports - Year 3 & 4 2pm - Swimming Demo - Year 1
4th March	Interschool Triathlon -Yr 5/6
5th March	2pm - Swimming Demo Year 2

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



Update from the principal

Kia ora koutou. Nau mai haere mai,

Welcome to all of our new and returning whānau. It was fantastic to see tamariki bound through the gates eager to commence the 2026 school year. We had over 30 new students start on Wednesday, ranging from new entrants to Year 6. We wish you all a smooth transition to life at Hokowhitu School.

Our school newsletter aims to provide school wide and community information along with sharing and celebrating the successes of our tamariki. More specific information pertaining to your child's Kete comes out in the beginning of the term Kete newsletter.

The 2026 school year is shaping up to be another busy one. Curriculum changes continue to be rolled out, as do changes in assessment and reporting formats. Time continues to be spent by our staff to ensure that these changes are managed effectively. As the year progresses we will keep you informed.

A key focus at the beginning of the year is for whanau teachers to connect with their students and establish sound relationships. We aim to create environments where tamariki feel that they belong. As a school we also strive to reach out to our whanau. We highly value the connection between home and school.

Please join us at the upcoming POOL PARTY. This is a chance for you to mix and mingle with staff and other whanau.



STAFFING

We have warmly welcomed a number of new staff members to our team. Ms Kat Wills takes up the Deputy Principal position, coming to us from PNINS. Miss Emma Mollet begins her teaching career in Te Kete Aronui. Whaea Emily Davis, Miss Hazel Brown, and Tim Onnes join our team of Learning Coaches. It's great to have you all on our team.

Mrs Julie Cranshaw will be leaving us at the end of Week 7. She has been appointed as the Deputy Principal at Te Kura o Wairau. We congratulate Julie on this achievement and wish her all the best in her new role. We thank Julie for her experience and excellent contributions she has made to our team.

POOL PARTY



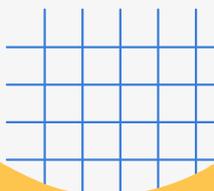
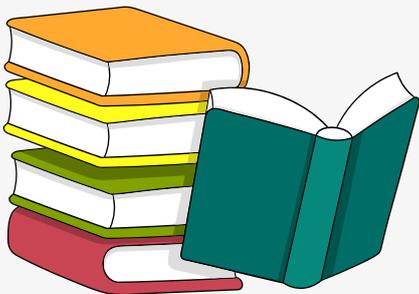
POOL PARTY - next Thursday 12th February, 5 pm start We hope you have our first 'social event' for this year clearly marked on your calendar. The pool party is an informal way to mix and mingle with staff, meet other families, have the opportunity to meet Board/PTA members and generally have some fun.

Every Hokowhitu School pupil will receive a ticket for a free sausage (cooked by our Board members), the PTA will be selling additional sausages (\$2.00), nachos (\$5.00), something sweet (\$2.00), and bottled water (\$1.00). Bring the family, come along with some cash and enjoy an easy dinner. The pool will be open for the children to have a swim, we will put out some sports equipment and staff will be available to chat. We hope to see you there.

2026 TEACHING TEAM

Senior Leadership Team	Reece Hawkins - Principal, Kat Wills - Deputy Principal, Carlee Hodge - Assistant Principal
Te Kete Waka huia (TKW)	Whaea Liz (Longley) - Kete Leader, Ms Andrea Caldwell, Ms Anna Blay
Te Kete Ponumu (TKP)	Mrs Tracey Orr - Kete Leader, Mrs Kirstine Hintz, Mr Andrew Shirley
Te Kete Manawa (TKM)	Ms Hilary Salter - Kete Leader, Mrs Kathryn O'Connor, Mrs Julie Cranshaw
Te Kete Aronui (TKA)	Mrs Priscilla Gifford Moore - Kete Leader, Ms Stacey Tayler, Mr Clayton Evans, Miss Emma Mollet
Te Kete Tangaroa (TKT)	Mr Sam Sloan - Kete Leader, Mr Elisha Masoe, Mrs Jenny
Learning Support Coordinator	Mrs Naomi Thompson
Part time teaching staff	Ms Gwenna Finikin, Mrs Jo Mullinger, Mrs Merryn Hawkins, Mrs Liz Easton, Whaea Hannah (McKeag), Whaea Hannah (Puts), Mrs Michelle Mikkelsen, Mrs Helen Griffin

Next week I will introduce our invaluable support staff.



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

Now Open on Kindo

SUMMER HOCKEY T1 2026 - All year levels

Games will be played on **Tuesday/Wednesday** - at The Twin Turfs - Beginning on the 24th Feb-1st April. Games times will be from 3.45-6pm.

Coaches will be needed for all teams to ensure that we can enter them into the competition.

Registrations close at 12pm on FRIDAY 13th February (unless teams are full prior to this date)

- Unfortunately no late registrations can be accepted.

Any questions please email s.tayler@hokowhitu.school.nz



BADMINTON - Open for years 5-6

- Date: Thu **12 Feb** to Thu **19 Mar** 2026 (6 weeks of play)
- Venue: CET Arena 4, 61 Pascal Street, Palmerston North
- Who: Open to Yr5, Yr6, Yr7 & Yr8 players from all local schools (consideration is given to Yr4 if appropriate)
- Cost: \$45 per player
- Time: 3:30pm to 5:30pm
- Teams: 3 players per team (boys, girls, or mixed)
- Deadline: Sunday 8th Feb 2026



NETBALL Term 1 - All year groups

Will be open soon, keep an eye out for an email and app notice by 4pm today.

CRICKET - Open for years 1-6

Check out the many Smash Cricket offerings we have and get amongst the FUN!

Smash Play (Year 1-4s) - <https://www.sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/smash-play>

Smash It! (Year 3&4s) - <https://www.sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/smash-it>

Smash Yard! (Year 5&6) - [sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/smash-yard-1](https://www.sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/smash-yard-1)

Yeah! Girls Smash (Year 5&6 - Girls only) - <https://www.sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/yeah-girls-smash>

NOTE - This is a club sport, please register via the above links



SMASH CRICKET
YEAR 1-4

MANAWATU CRICKET

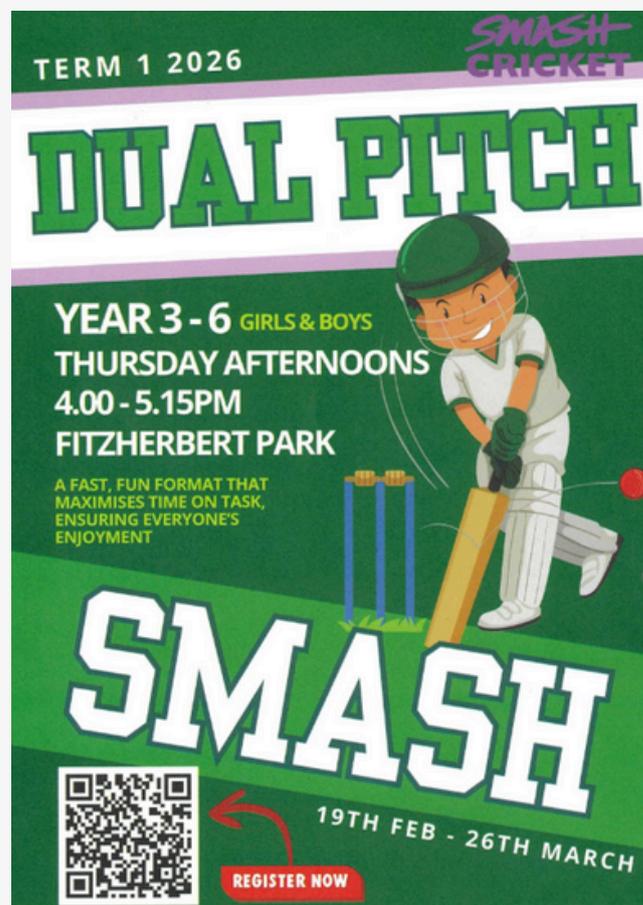
REGISTER HERE!

SMASHplay Smash it!

COST: \$25

DAYS, HUBS & TIMES:
scan the QR code to find out further information

juniorcc@mca.org.nz



TERM 1 2026

SMASH CRICKET

DUAL PITCH

YEAR 3 - 6 GIRLS & BOYS
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
4.00 - 5.15PM
FITZHERBERT PARK

A FAST, FUN FORMAT THAT
MAXIMISES TIME ON TASK,
ENSURING EVERYONE'S
ENJOYMENT

SMASH

19TH FEB - 26TH MARCH

REGISTER NOW

“Our vision is for Cricket to be a game for all New Zealanders; a game for life. A game that can be played anywhere, by anyone. A game that we play the Kiwi way,” - New Zealand Cricket.

We are focused on providing quality experiences for all young cricketers. With a focus on game play and values, our aim is for cricket to provide enjoyment, alongside the social and personal development playing sport with friends brings.

FREE COUNSELLING AT SCHOOL IN 2026

We have been supported by Lynne Cranston over the last four years. Lynne has decided to work closer to her base of Feilding. But we are lucky to have Dave Dawber come on board to support the tamariki at our school.



In partnership with Gumboot Friday, your child can receive up to four free counselling sessions - right here at school. This support can only be accessed once per child.

I'm Counsellor Dave. I've worked with children of all ages since 2007, supporting tamariki with anxiety, anger, low mood, and big feelings in a safe and caring way.

Sessions take place at school, but bookings must be made by whānau through Naomi Thompson, Learning Support Coordinator.

To arrange support for your child in 2026. Please contact Naomi Thompson n.thompson@hokowhitu.school.nz for more information and the referral documents.

<https://www.talkingworks.co.nz/listing/dave-dawber/>

JOIN THE EGG PROJECT FUNDRAISER TODAY!

FREE RANGE DOZEN - \$9.50
CERTIFIED ORGANIC DOZEN \$11.50

SET UP A SUBSCRIPTION OR ORDER YOUR EGGS ON THE WEBSITE BEFORE TUESDAY AND THEY WILL BE READY FOR COLLECTION FROM THE OFFICE ON THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL. WE WILL GIVE THE SCHOOL BACK \$100 PER DOZEN.

YOUR UNIQUE CODE SCH-003

WWW.THEEGGPROJECT.CO.NZ

The Egg Project

- 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 \$2689 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

**2026 New Year
New Students
Welcome**



沖繩剛柔流

www.karate.org.nz
**GOJU RYU KARATE
PALMERSTON NORTH**

沖繩剛柔流

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
WEB: www.karate.org.nz



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

**Providing affordable Music education for
the children of Manawatū**