

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL



Friday 24th April 2026

Newsletter

Upcoming Events



1st May	School Assembly Reports go home
5th May	Board Meeting
6th May	5:30pm - 6:30pm Celebration of Learning
7th May	5:30pm - 6:30pm Celebration of Learning
11th May	School Cross Country
14th May	Pink Shirt Day
15th May	Teachers Only Day Teachers will involved with Math Professional learning
29 th May	School Assembly 9am

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.

It was wonderful to welcome back all our tamariki this week. I hope they are well-rested and ready for a busy 11-week term. We have had new tamariki and their whānau join our kura, a very special welcome to you.

I recently received a heartening email from an ex-parent who shared a photo of five former Hokowhitu students who are currently serving as prefects at Palmerston North Boys' High School. Lenny, Silas, Leejun, Seongjin and Jonathan completed Year 6 in 2019. Many of these boys have had younger siblings also come through Hokowhitu, some of whom are still in attendance today. It is always a pleasure to see our past students making the most of opportunities in front of them.

Our school is now fully fenced. This has made a significant visual difference to our grounds. It assists us greatly in monitoring tamariki while they are still learning about boundaries and safety. As the mornings can be very busy at the gate, please remember that students should not be dropped off before 8:30 am.

We have a busy term ahead, starting with **reports going home on Friday, 1st May**. These will look a little different from our previous beginning-of-the-year reports. The aim of these changes is to align our reporting with the new curriculum and ensure consistent, nationwide reporting on student achievement and progress.

Following this, we look forward to our **'Celebration of Learning' evenings on Wednesday, 6th May and Thursday, 7th May**. This is a fantastic chance for your child to share their learning with you and to touch base with their teachers. If you have any specific questions or concerns regarding your child's learning, I encourage you to arrange a separate time with their teacher to sit down and discuss these in more detail.

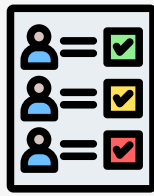
Our school-wide theme for this term is Mahi Tahī—the belief that by working together, collaborating, and using teamwork, we can achieve great things. This will be especially important as we prepare for our **School Production on Tuesday, 30th June**. Alongside this, we have a number of other events, including our whole-school Cross Country, the Interschool Ki o Rahi tournament, and much more. Please keep an eye on the calendar at the top of the newsletter for upcoming dates.

Please also look out for a beginning of term Kete newsletter that will have come home in your child's book bag or school bag earlier this week. The Kete newsletters contain information relevant to the Kete that your child is in.

Finally, we farewell Mr. Sloan for the term, as he has been awarded a teacher's sabbatical. We wish him well and cannot wait for him to return in Term 3 to tell us all about his experiences. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Mikkelsen, who will be joining us full-time to replace Mr Sloan for the term. We also welcome Whaea Fahren who joins our team of Learning Coaches. It's great to have you on our team. We are excited about the term ahead and cannot wait to see all the amazing things our ākonga are going to achieve.

Ngā mihi nui,

Reece Hawkins



ATTENDANCE



We recently received the Ministry of Education's Term 1 Attendance Report. In Term 1, 79% of our students attended school regularly (meaning 90% of the time or more). We want to continue to improve on this, as the government target is to have 80% of students attending regularly. Let's see if we can "crack" the 80% mark this term! Of course, children should always stay home when they are genuinely unwell, but when they are well, being at school really matters. Missing even a few days can make it harder for students to keep up and feel confident in the classroom. As part of our attendance management plan students who have been absent for more than 10 days last term will be receiving a formal email expressing concern about absences. Here is a link to our [Attendance management plan](#).

Attendance Matters at Hokowhitu School

Our Goal

- 80% of students attending 90% or more of the time
- Early support for students who need help
- Working in partnership with whānau

Attendance is required under the Education & Training Act, 2020

How we respond

0 - 5 days absent

- Build good habits and communication

5 - 10 days absent

- Teacher contacts home
- Support provided

10 - 15 days absent

- Contact from the Senior Leadership Team
- Meeting with family
- Plan put in place

15+ days absent

- Contact from the school Principal
- External agencies involved

We all have a role

Whānau

- Notify the school if your child is away
- Support daily attendance
- Talk to us early if there are challenges

Students

- Arrive on time
- If late, sign in at the office
- Be ready to learn

School

- Record daily attendance
- Contact families about attendance
- Work with whānau to create support plans if necessary

Where are we now?

In Term 1, Hokowhitu School had **79%** students regularly attending.

Our message to whānau

Every day at school matters! 

If attendance is becoming difficult, please contact us early, we are here to help.

To maximise your child's academic progress - they need to be at school regularly.



KAPA HAKA



Our Kapa Haka roopu meet every **Thursday lunchtime** to learn waiata, haka and poi. Te Pae Tamariki has traditionally been in Term 2 but is happening later this year. Due to this there will be no early morning Kapa Haka until closer to this time. A notice will go home to whānau when we have a confirmed date.

Ms Blay and Mr Masoe



ANZAC DAY CEREMONY



This morning, we had a wonderful ANZAC Assembly at Hokowhitu School. We were very lucky to have Corporal Andrew Lawson, from the New Zealand Defence Force, come and speak to us all. Each Kete created a beautiful ANZAC wreath, which was laid at the foot of our flagpole. Our student leaders did an excellent job of running this special assembly. There are many ANZAC ceremonies happening around the Manawatu district across this weekend (see community notices).

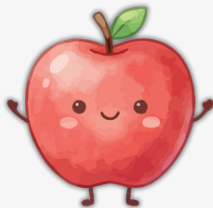


KIDS' LIT QUIZ COMPETITION

On Thursday 23rd April, two of our teams proudly represented the school at the annual Kids' Lit Quiz competition held in Feilding. Students put their literary knowledge to the test across a wide range of topics, showing enthusiasm, teamwork, and a love of reading throughout the event. While we didn't place overall, our B team had a standout moment, tying with two other teams for the highest score in one of the rounds. Unfortunately, they were just pipped at the post in the quick-fire tie-breaker question, but it was an impressive achievement and a highlight of the day. We are very proud of both teams for their efforts and the way they represented our school. Congratulations to **Georgia, Freddie, Anita, Felix, Paxton, Isla F, Annie and Pippa** for their participation and teamwork.



WELL DONE!



YUMMY STICKER PROMOTION



We are all going again for the Yummy Sticker Sports Gear promotion this year!! Stickers are due in this year by 20 October, you will find sticker sheets here [Yummy Sticker Sheet](#)

Time to COLLECT Yummy stickers for our School's share of

\$200,000

SPORTS GEAR

Download extra sticker sheets at yummyfruit.co.nz

EAT YUMMY APPLES & BRING YOUR STICKERS TO SCHOOL!

Achievement Awards



Te Kete Wakahuia

Phoenix - For being a kind and thoughtful member of our classroom. Tino pai.

Remai - For fantastic counting in maths. Ka pai.

Nurmahammad - For working hard in literacy to learn the sounds.

Sophia - For super speedy let's spell work. Tino pai.

Rūma Whā welcomes **Gurrehmat, Serena, Olive, Finn, Hunter** and **Aarav** to Hokowhitu School. You have all started with the coolest attitude to learning!

Te Kete Pounamu

Welcome to Te Kete Pounamu **Samu!** We hope you have a great time at our kura.

Colin - For being a role model to others on the mat - Tino pai!

Jack - For including excellent detail in your independent writing - Ka rawe!

Breanna - For trying hard to focus on your learning and striving to be the best you can be. Ka pai!

Mizgine - For focusing well in workshops and trying your best. Tino pai!

Hannah - For being a fantastic role model for others in TKP. Tino pai!

Zac - For explaining his thinking like a mathematician during whole-class maths. He tino pai tō mahi.

Toby - For showing amazing enthusiasm during our rich maths addition task. Ka mau te wehi!

Yoona - For helping others to complete their ANZAC day wreaths during art. Ka rawe!

Te Kete Manawa

Mehar - For a really focussed effort with your ANZAC Art. Ka pai!

Ava - For a great effort with your column addition (with regrouping)

Jacob - For great work using column addition (with no regrouping) to solve problems successfully.

Zane - Welcome to Hokowhitu School and especially to Te Kete Manawa.

Juliette - For confidently explaining her photos of her trip to Japan.

Cyrus - For being a really caring class member and supporting a new student.

Sia & Everly - For fantastic contributions with our writing focus on conjunctions.

Lucy - For great self managing in maths and responding to feedback.

Remy - For listening in maths and showing he can do all tasks independently.

Te Kete Aronui

Welcome to Te Kete Aronui **William!** You have had such a great start and have settled in well into our classroom.

Mia - For having a great start to Term 2 and always being willing to help!

Avyaan - For your amazing creative piece of writing and always having a great attitude.

Cara - For writing a great ANZAC experience GIST sentence.

Deekyn - For displaying STRIVE by Stepping Up and taking on challenges.

Zhaydhen - For applying herself to learn the times tables facts.

Liana - For solving maths problems quickly and accurately.

Manik - For solving challenging maths problems quickly.

Paikea - Great work with adjectives to make interesting sentences!

Kiel - For great work in maths with fractions of quantities.

Hunter - For excellent work making sentences and summarising in literacy.

Te Kete Tangaroa

Felix - Great perseverance with revisiting and retaining in maths.

Oliver - Excellent work with transformation.

Aaryan - Outstanding vocabulary knowledge in Reading.

Carter - Making a focused start in workshops.

Leo Z - Stepping up as a library monitor.

Quinn - Excellent work with finding the perimeter of irregular shapes.

Raiden - For getting along well with others in the playground, and helping others to feel included and have fun.

Dauen - For great work in writing, identifying all the elements of a TIDE paragraph.

Lohan - For fantastic work on Angles in maths this week.



Sport

Term 1 Wed 4/2-Thur 2/4	Term 2 Mon 20/4-Fri 3/7	Term 3 Mon 20/7-Fri 25/9	Term 4 Mon 12/10-Fri 16/12
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Sports you will register through **kindo** to play for Hokowhitu School -


<https://shop.kindo.co.nz/>

*Uniform hire is required for all sports except Netball

COACHES - If you can, please send through a photo of the players of the day for the newsletter. We love to share the kids achievements! office@hokowhitu.school.nz

<p>Badminton - yrs 5 and 6 (Registration - kindo beginning term 1)</p> <p>Summer Hockey - All yrs (Registration - kindo beginning term 1)</p> <p>Netball - All yrs (Registration -kindo beginning term 1)</p> <p>T-Ball - yrs 1-3 (This team is continued from Term 4)</p> <p>*All Term 1 Sports registration's are now closed</p>	<p>Basketball - yrs 3-6 (Registration - kindo term 1)</p> <p>Winter hockey - All yrs (Registration - kindo term 1)</p> <p>Table Tennis - yrs 4-6 (Registration - kindo term 1)</p> <p>*All Term 2 Sports registration's are now CLOSED</p>	<p>Badminton - yrs 4-6 (Registration - kindo term 2)</p> <p>Basketball and winter hockey carry on this term.</p>	<p>T-Ball - yrs 1-3 (Registration - kindo term 3)</p> <p>Summer hockey - All yrs (Registration - kindo term 3)</p> <p>Summer soccer - All yrs (Registration - kindo term 3)</p> <p>Volleyball - yrs 4-6 (Registration - kindo term 3)</p> <p>Futsal - yrs 3-6 (Registration - kindo term 3)</p> <p>Netball - All yrs (Registration - kindo term 3)</p> <p>Touch - All yrs (Registration - kindo term 3)</p>
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Sports available through outside agencies
See this link for ALL sports in the Manawatu -
<https://www.sportmanawatu.org.nz/findasport>

<p>Junior rugby https://www.manawaturugby.co.nz/community-rugby-1/junior-1</p> <p>Winter soccer https://www.centralfootball.co.nz/competitions-1/fixturesresults-1/manawatu-2</p>			<p>Tennis https://clubspark.kiwi/TennisManawatu</p> <p>Cricket www.sporty.co.nz/mca</p> 
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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/>

The poster features a central image of a wicker basket filled with fresh brown eggs on a wooden surface. To the left, a cracked egg shows its yolk. The text is in bold, black and white fonts on a yellow background. At the top left is the logo 'THE EGG PROJECT' with the tagline 'all things good'. The main headline reads 'JOIN THE EGG PROJECT FUNDRAISER TODAY!'. Below this, two price options are listed: 'FREE RANGE DOZEN - \$9.50' and 'CERTIFIED ORGANIC DOZEN \$11.50'. A paragraph of smaller text explains the subscription process and collection details. At the bottom, the unique code 'SCH-003' and the website 'WWW.THEEGGPROJECT.CO.NZ' are displayed.

THE EGG PROJECT
all things good

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 \$3102 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



Anzac Day services

Next date: Saturday, 25 April 2026 | 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM



Palmerston North will come together to honour the sacrifices of New Zealand's servicemen and women this Anzac Day, Saturday 25 April.

This year's commemorations mark a significant milestone, recognising 100 years since the unveiling of The War Memorial - Cenotaph in Te Marae o Hine – The Square, as well as 110 years of the Palmerston North RSA.

The city's official services will take place in Te Marae o Hine - The Square, with the dawn service at 6am, followed by the civic service at 9am.

The Biggin Hill Trust at Ohakea will be flying over as part of our Civic Service. This year is particularly special, as it will be the first time the Spitfire, Mustang, and Avenger have flown together over our city.

Road closures will be in place around Te Marae o Hine – The Square during the morning to safely accommodate the services and parade.

Anzac Day services across the city

Palmerston North Dawn Service - 6am, Te Marae o Hine

Ashhurst Dawn Service - 6am Ashhurst RSA, Cambridge Ave

Palmerston North Civic Service - 9am, Te Marae o Hine – The Square

Bunnythorpe Service - 10.30am Corner of Dixons Line and Raymond Street

Ashhurst Civic Service - 12pm Ashhurst RSA, Cambridge Ave

There will also be temporary road closures in Ashhurst to support the services there.

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



te manawa
TE PAPAIOEA PALMERSTON NORTH

Exhibitions coming soon



16 MAY - 11 OCT | FROM \$5

Air Playground

For curious kids of all ages, experience the science of aerodynamics and the amazing invisible elemental force of air through 10 interactive exhibits. Developed by a team of Scienceworks experts from Museums Victoria, this exhibition is jam-packed with hands-on interactive experiences for the whole whānau.

Admission:

- Child (3-14 years) \$10.00
- Adult \$5.00 (Community Services Card-holders free)
- Family 2+2 or 1+3 \$25.00 (additional children \$5.00)
- 2 and under free

Please ask us about discounts and pricing for large groups and school visits.

**MUSEUMS
VICTORIA**

A Museums Victoria Touring Exhibition



Sensory Play Station

Fridays at 9am - 1pm
Children's area @ Central Library

Subject to staff availability
and only during school term



NEW ZEALAND RED CROSS BOOK SALE

King's Birthday Weekend 2026

Friday 29 May, 10am-8pm
Saturday 30 May, 10am-6pm
Sunday 31 May 10am-4pm
Monday 1 June, 10am-2pm

Barber/ Bell Hall

Waldegrave Street, Palmerston North

100,000+ books Games,
DVDs, jigsaws, Music,
comics and more!



**NEW ZEALAND
RED CROSS**
RIPEKA WHERO AOTEAROA

All proceeds go to New Zealand Red Cross in their mission to help improve the lives of vulnerable people here in New Zealand and overseas.

