

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

Newsletter

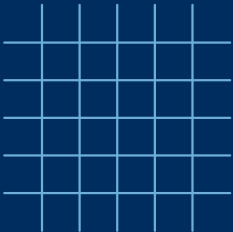
Friday 16th October 2026



Upcoming Events

22 nd October	Year 4 Sleepover & Ngā Manu
23 rd October	School Assembly - TKT Calendar Art orders close 4pm
26 th October	Labour Day - Public holiday - School Closed
27 th October	Board Meeting
30 th October	House T-Shirt Day
5 th November	School Athletics Day - Year 4-6
6 th November	School Assembly - TKM
20 th November	School Assembly - TKP
26 th November	Parent Information Evening - Reporting to Parents 5:15pm Ross Orientation for Year 6 Students
1 st December	Fundamentals - Year 1-3 Board Meeting
4 th December	School Assembly - TKW
8 th December	Christmas Carnival & Prizegiving
11 th December	Reports go home
16 th December	Term 4 Ends at 12.45pm

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 e te whānau, and welcome back to school for Term 4!

I hope all our tamariki have had a wonderful, restful break. Term 4 is always packed with action, summer sports, athletics, end-of-year celebrations, exciting learning opportunities, and hopefully getting the school pool up and running near the end of the term! We are so pleased to see everyone back full of energy and eager to jump right into their learning.

A special welcome to our new tamariki and whānau joining us this term! We have 8 new entrant students starting school for the very first time, along with 3 other tamariki who have recently moved into our area.

Staff Update, we welcome two new staff members for Term 4: **Tara Nyström**, who is team teaching alongside Merryn Hawkins in Rūma Toru, and **Kaitlyn Burr**, who joins us as a Learning Coach in TKA. Welcome to the Hokowhitu team!

National Chess Tournament Success, a massive congratulations to our incredible chess players who represented Hokowhitu School at the National Tournament over the school holidays! They played with extraordinary focus, skill, and determination. More than that, they truly exemplified our school STRIVE values, showing resilience, respect, and excellence on a national stage. We are immensely proud of you all!

2027 Planning & Class Organisation, we are already beginning the process of organising our classes and staffing for the 2027 school year. To help us plan effectively and ensure accurate class sizing, we kindly ask all families to inform the school office as soon as possible if your child will not be attending Hokowhitu School in 2027. Likewise, if you know of anyone moving into our area, or have preschool-aged children looking to enrol for 2027, please encourage them to get in touch with us! Your timely communication helps us create the best possible learning environments for all our tamariki.

Reporting and Assessment, in a few weeks, teachers will begin final end-of-year assessments and report writing. As shared throughout this year, there have been updates to our reporting and assessment systems. The main changes reflect the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum, alongside updated terminology used to share your child's progress and achievement against their year-level expectations. Over the coming weeks, I will share further details to help you navigate these updates. We will also be hosting a **Parent Information Evening on Thursday 26th November at 5:15pm** focused on reporting to parents.

Friendly Reminders

- **Sunhats:** Regulation navy blue bucket sunhats are compulsory in Term 4 for all outdoor activities and playtimes. Please ensure your child has a clearly named hat so they can enjoy the outdoors safely (no hat, play in the shade!).
- **Morning Drop-Offs:** Please ensure children are not dropped off before 8:30am. Teachers are busy preparing for the day prior to 8:30am, so students are not supervised before this time. If you require early drop-offs, aPlus before-school care is available on site.
- **Traffic & Parking:** Please take extra care when parking outside the school, ensuring driveways and the bus stop area remain completely clear at all times.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we kick off our final term of the year. Let's make it a fantastic one!

Ngā mihi nui,

Reece Hawkins

Tumuaki / Principal



NATIONAL CHESS FINALS

On the first weekend of the holidays our champion chess team travelled to Auckland to compete in the National Chess Finals. They played very well over the two days, coming 23rd out of 32 teams. It was an up and down competition with having to face the defending champions in our very first round, but coming back to take a couple of wins to end the first day. Day two saw much better results with our team winning both their final rounds. All our players came away with wins and an amazing experience to remember for a long time. Well done Jamie, Rory, Jaxxon and Quinn and thanks to their families for supporting them during the event.



CALENDAR ART

2027 Calendar art now available to order via KINDO shop. Orders close **FRIDAY 23rd October** - no late orders can be accepted.

Link to calendar art via kindo - [Calendar Art Orders](#)

Magnetic Pads - \$14

Notebooks - lined or unlined - \$17

Diaries - \$17

Cards - \$14

Calendars - \$14



*The design will be your child's artwork!

Achievement Awards

Te Kete Wakahuia

Welcome to **Ali**. We hope you have a great time during your learning journey at Hokowhitu School.

Oliver - For your great maths work. Tino pai!

Shinbee - For your fantastic buddy reading. Ka rawe.

Clara - For writing interesting sentences. Ka pai!

Zeen - For asking lots of questions when learning and talking about new vocabulary. Ka rawe!

Rūma Toru would like to warmly welcome **Gurudaypartap, Remy, Claire, Lila, Nusrat, Jude, Ezra,** and **Breeze** to school. You have all had a fantastic first week. Tino pai!

Malachi - For fantastic effort at cutting and colouring.

Archie - For trying very hard to form letters correctly.

Ahad - For trying new things at Kete sport.

Haratua - Haratua - for using letter sounds to decode and read words. Tino Pai Rawa!

Serena - You always join in with learning and try new things, you are striving to do your best!

Te Kete Pounamu

Colin - For improved focus and fluency when reading.

Kiyara - For your friendly welcomes in the morning - thank you for starting our day in such a positive way!

Wyatt - For working hard to understand the fractions of a group. Tino pai!

Tali - For being a focused learner, who has a positive attitude throughout the school day. Ka rawe!

Kyrie - For writing numbers quickly, using the correct formation. Ka pai!

Calvin - For being amazing at fractions more than 3/4 of the time. Ka mau te wehi!

Bentley - For being a kaitiaki and watering our plants to keep them alive. Ka pai!

Casey - For being an amazing enviroteam member and kaitiaki of our environment. Tino pai!

Te Kete Manawa

Rhyan - For making a great effort in literacy by following instructions and completing work.

Unga - For trying hard to complete work quickly and learning that mistakes are ok.

Ben - For a great recall of literacy vocabulary that you learned last term.

Yarik - For giving good reasons to justify why you classified certain foods as eating lots of or eating less of during inquiry.

Hanna-Moana - For making good choices and being ready to learn by paying attention.

Hayze - For focusing and making great choices to complete the best work he can in maths.

Everly - For your enthusiasm and commitment to working hard on Lexia every session.

Harrison - For a fantastic job of placing quarter fractions equally on an empty number line.

Lily - For sounding out words and using your knowledge of sounds to spell words correctly.

Te Kete Aronui

Welcome to **Emily** and **Ayah**, who have joined TKA and Hokowhitu School! We hope you have a fabulous last term at our school!

Benny - For showing great understanding and applying strategies when solving division methods in maths!

Qasim - For settling back into school routines, showing kindness to others, and displaying persistence in all your learning!!

Claudia - For making accurate 3D nets.

Clyde Y - For making accurate 3D nets.

Manha - For stepping up in your new monitor role for Term 4.

Aria - for stepping up in your new monitor role for Term 4.

Connor - For working hard to apply handwriting skills consistently across all bookwork.

Huatahi - For working hard to create descriptive sentences.

Liana - For persevering to master tricky maths processes.

Madi - For being 'on fire' in Literacy, with fantastic recall!

Emily - Welcome to Hokowhitu School, what a fantastic start.

Conor - Great work describing and making 3D shapes.

Te Kete Tangaroa

Welcome Back & Ka rawe!

A huge well done for returning to school ready to learn and focus. It has been fantastic seeing you settle in so quickly, step up to new challenges, and make the most of all the opportunities around you. Keep up the brilliant work!

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



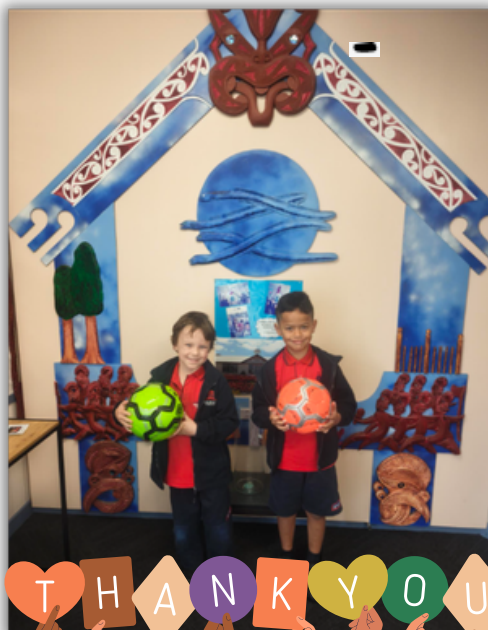
App

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

Sport

All sports through the school for term 4 are now **closed**, please check back at the end of the term to see what sports will be available in term 1, 2027.

A big THANK YOU to Ozias and his whanau for their generous donation of brand new soccer & basketballs! This is very much appreciated by all.



Smash Cricket

Smash Play is New Zealand Cricket's fun, game- based programme for young tamariki. It's all about fun, games and making mates, with no experience or gear needed. Palmerston North Hub Ongley Park, Palmerston North Mondays 4 – 5pm, starting 2 November Wednesdays 5 – 6pm, starting 4 November \$30 for Term 4, or \$50 for Term 4 + Term 1 Register here:

[Smash Cricket](#)



Gifted soccer boots

We have kindly been gifted two pairs of second hand soccer boots:

Yellow/Black pair - Sz US12 (UK11)

Blue Pair - Sz US3 (UK2)

If you are in need of a pair for your child, please pop into the office to collect.

*Both pairs still available.



Sport results

Hokowhitu Raptors (Football) - Had a great first game of the season! Just lost 2-1. Adam was the goal scorer. Player's of the day were Adam and Isaiah! - Well done. -Talia (coach)

Coaches - If you would like to send through any results or players of the day, please email to office@hokowhitu.school.nz to feature in the newsletter.



If you have any sports queries please email our Sports Coordinator c.hodge@hokowhitu.school.nz



Community Notices



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

MoE Community Partnerships Team
invites you to a Webinar in partnership
with Netsafe



An Introduction to Online Safety for Families



Helping whānau keep tamariki and rangatahi safe online



Carrie-Ann Chamberlain

Programme Manager at Netsafe



In this webinar, we'll explore:



- how children and young people spend their time online



- the tools and settings that can help keep them safer



- simple ways to build healthy digital habits as a family



- what to do if something goes wrong online and where to get help



Monday Oct 19 2026

6:00PM - 7.30pm

[Register Here](#)

Stronger together. Safer online.





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 \$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.



Charming Miniature Train Rides at Marriner Reserve



Event Details

Sunday, 18 October 2026
🕒 1:00 pm

Highbury, Palmerston North, Manawatu-Whanganui
[Show full address](#)

gold coin donation

All Ages
Targeted age groups