

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

Newsletter

Friday 8th May 2026



Upcoming Events

11 th May	School Cross Country
14 th May	Pink Shirt Day
15 th May	Teachers Only Day. SCHOOL CLOSED Teachers will involved with Math Professional learning
29 th May	School Assembly 9am
1 st June	Public holiday for the King's Birthday. SCHOOL CLOSED
5 th June	Noon - 2.30pm Year 5/6 Interschool Cross Country for selected ākonga
9 th June	5.30pm Board meeting in the staffroom - everyone welcome. Come along if you are interested in finding out more about the role of a trustee
30 th June	School Production

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





Update from the Principal



Kia ora koutou,

It was great to see so many families at our kura on Wednesday and Thursday evening. It was a pleasure watching children share their learning and interact so positively with their teachers and whānau.

Board of Trustees Update

At the Board meeting on Tuesday, Philip Steer tendered his resignation, effective from 8th June. Philip is our current Presiding Member and has been on the Hokowhitu School Board since 2013. All four of his children have attended our school, with the youngest leaving last year. Philip has been a highly valued member of the Board and his contribution to Hokowhitu School cannot be overstated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Philip for the immense effort he has put into our Kura over the years. As our Presiding Member, his steady hand and deep knowledge have been invaluable - particularly in providing guidance and support to me during my first term as Principal. We appreciate everything you have done to help make our school a great place, Philip. We wish you and your family all the very best.

PTA Information Afternoon

We invite you all to a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) information afternoon on **Tuesday 12th May (next week)**.

- **2:45pm** - Meet and mingle on the TKP deck (by the junior playground)
- **3:10pm - 3:30pm** - We will move into a classroom where Mrs. Amy Westergaard and I will discuss the purpose of a PTA and what it involves.

Afternoon tea will be provided for adults, and supervision will be available for children. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents and learn how you can add value to our school. We look forward to connecting with you then.

Strategic Consultation

In the coming weeks, the Hokowhitu School Board will be consulting with our community to review our Strategic Plan. This process is a wonderful opportunity for us to live our school value of **Investigate - Whakataki**.

Just as we encourage our students to be curious, think creatively, and explore all possibilities, we are "investigating" what our community needs, what your aspirations are, and what matters most to you. We want to hear your voice so that our future direction truly reflects our people.

We will be sending a survey out in Week 5, and we are also looking for other ways to capture your voice. Please stay tuned!

Professional Learning & Teacher Only Day

A reminder that **Friday 15th May, is a Teacher Only Day — SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED**. On this day, teachers will be involved in professional development regarding the new Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum. Our learning coaches will also be participating in training focused on "Understanding and Responding to Behaviour Safely."

Thank you for your support on Teacher Only Days. These allow our staff to continue developing high-quality teaching practices in order to improve the learning outcomes for our ākonga.

We have another busy week coming up. **School Cross Country is on Monday** - see more information below. Kia pai tō rā whakatā - Have a great weekend!

Ngā mihi nui,

Reece Hawkins

CROSS COUNTRY

We are excited for our annual cross country event. The children have been practicing hard in preparation for this event.

We ask that children wear appropriate shoes for this event, they are welcome to wear their house t-shirt for the day and can change into shorts for the event only (optional).

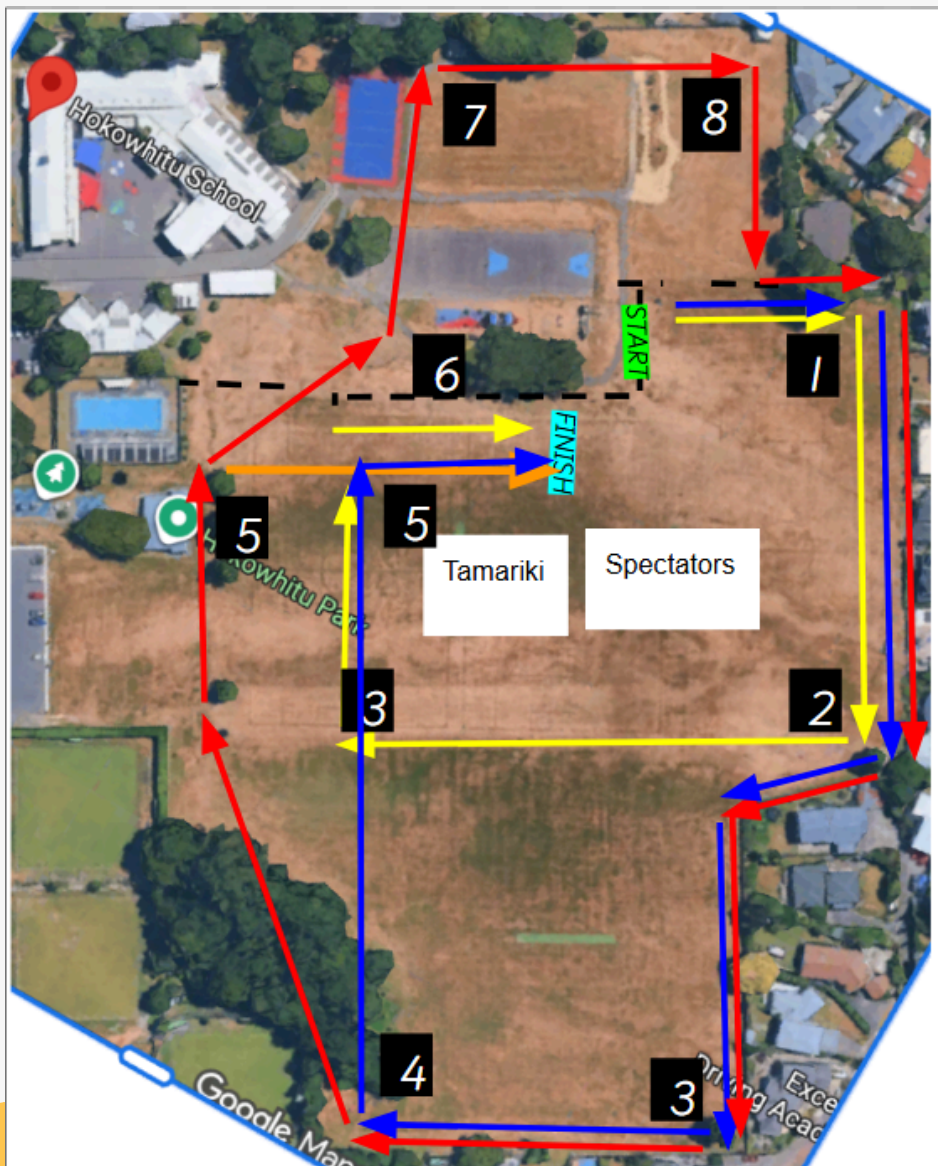
We request that parents are respectful and stay off the course at all times. (Please see map below).

Approximate times of the events on Monday.

- 11.05am - Year 6 Girls
- 11.15am - Year 6 Boys
- 11.25am - Year 5 Girls
- 11.35am - Year 5 Boys
- 11.45am - Year 2 Girls
- 11.50am - Year 2 Boys
- 11.55am - Year 1 & NE Girls
- 12.00pm - Year 1 & NE Boys
- 12.05pm - Year 4 Girls
- 12.10pm - Year 4 Boys
- 12.15pm - Year 3 Girls
- 12.20pm - Year 3 Boys



We look forward to seeing you supporting our tamariki.



- Year 1 (1 lap)
- Year 2 (1 lap)
- Year 3 (1 lap)
- Year 4 (1.5 laps)
- Year 5 & 6 (2 laps)
Second lap
- Fence
- Marshalls

SPORTS EQUIPMENT DONATION

A huge ngā mihi nui to Kirsten and the team at the Sport, Education, Community & Cultural Foundation (SECC) for their generous donation of Softball and T-Ball kits for Hokowhitu School. Your support helps our tamariki stay active, confident, and excited about sport and games. We are truly grateful for your koha and commitment to our school and community.

THANK YOU



PINK SHIRT DAY

Pink Shirt Day is about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusiveness.

Pink Shirt Day is **Thursday 14th May** here at Hokowhitu School - So wear a pink shirt or accessory to school that day so show your support!

No donation required - please do not bring any money to school. If you would like to donate to the cause please visit [Donate - Pink Shirt Day](#).



STOP BULLYING

NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

As part of Sign Language Week, our students have been busy practicing and learning about this important official language of Aotearoa. During our House meetings, students worked hard to learn how to sign a song, we hope to see the results of the students hard work in assembly next week. Ask your tamariki if they can show you some of the signs they learned!



KINDO: PAY IT FOWARD

A big thank you to the many families who are now using Kindo for school payments; it certainly makes things easier for everyone.

You may have noticed the "Pay it Forward" option on the Kindo app. This is a wonderful way for our community to support one another. These contributions help cover costs for families who may be finding extra school expenses difficult, and they also assist in funding school projects that sit outside of Ministry of Education funding. We truly appreciate the generosity of those who choose to support our school and other families in this way.



\$2 Donation

Your contribution will support a student in our community who is facing financial barriers.
Your donation hāne ānoroa ehuānte uhu.

\$2.00

Add to cart



\$5 Donation

Your contribution will support a student in our community who is facing financial barriers.
Your donation hāne ānoroa ehuānte uhu.

\$5.00

Add to cart



\$10 Donation

Your contribution will support a student in our community who is facing financial barriers.
Your donation hāne ānoroa ehuānte uhu.

\$10.00

Add to cart



\$20 Donation

Your contribution will support a student in our community who is facing financial barriers.
Your donation hāne ānoroa ehuānte uhu.

\$20.00

Add to cart

PLEASE

THANK
YOU

URGENT CALL FOR SECONDHAND UNIFORM

We are running very low on second hand uniform stock, especially our bigger sizes. If you have any Hokowhitu School uniform that you don't need anymore or your kids have grown out of, we would love to take it off your hands. This includes house T-shirts if you no longer need them. Please drop off to the office anytime. We appreciate any donations!



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

STAFF GRADUATIONS



A big congratulations goes to two of our staff members who graduated this week.

Whaea Emily, learning coach, graduated from Massey University with a Bachelor of Arts, major in psychology with a minor in education.

Whaea Emma, teacher, graduated from University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Education (Tchg), Whaea Emma also was the Senior Scholar Award recipient. This means that Whaea Emma received the highest marks across her course at The University of Auckland.

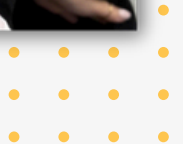
We are all incredibly proud of our two incredible graduates!



Emily



Emma



Achievement Awards



Te Kete Wakahuia

Vy - For amazing effort in learning English!

Achindra - For great handwriting.

Emily - Welcome to Hokowhitu School! We are so happy you have joined our kete.

Taiamoni - For sharing your special day with us. We loved learning about 'White Sunday/Fakamē'.

Tyler - For working hard on your letter formation. Tino pai

Sage - for sharing her glue stick.

Celeste - for making sure the lids are on the glue sticks.

Te Kete Pounamu

Tali - For becoming super fast at writing your numbers correctly to 20. Ka pai!

Gemma - For becoming super fast at writing your numbers correctly to 20. Ka Rawe

Olive - For being a calm and polite member of Te Kete Pounamu.

Kiyara - For an improvement in your handwriting and for participating in whole class literacy.

Kyrie - For showing enthusiasm at literacy when reading a chapter book. Ka mau te wehi!

Nevaeh-Leigh - For the amazing extra sentences you wrote at literacy workshop. Tino pai!

Tiesha - For creating an awesome imaginative story book at home. Ka rawe!

Te Kete Manawa

Zoe - For a great effort with column addition when adding two 4-digit numbers.

Unga - For being organised and showing good time management in literacy.

Ina - For your beautifully presented bookwork and completion of tasks in literacy.

Shay - For being pro-active and asking for help in maths.

Hazel - For working hard to only use capital letters for proper nouns and sentence starters.

Marley - For having amazing manners, being a great listener and a model student.

Lily - For doing great work in maths and always trying your best.

Evie - For crafting some thoughtful questions as part of our writing focus.

Willow - For reading word problems carefully and choosing the best maths strategy.

Te Kete Aronui

Griffin - For really stepping it up this term and being ready to learn. Keep it up!

Mason - For your perseverance with subtraction methods in maths.

Lucy & Nikau - For proving you can do hard things, well done for an amazing effort and perseverance with Cross Country practice.

Beaudi - for creating a class definition for Area in maths.

Claudia - for completing a detailed park including area and labels.

Jude - for writing an informative report about magnetism.

Mia - For helping another student master maths strategies.

Vanshika - Opting to complete two options in activities.

Pray, Carter, Adam - For working hard to master subtraction with 2 digits.

Te Kete Tangaroa

Ameerah - For being an excellent school librarian.

Taylah - Incredible transformation work in maths.

Olivia J - Showing atawhai and supporting her peers.

Emelia - For showing perserverance in weaving and during our disappearing picture challenge.

Harry - For being a great friend and classmate. We will miss you in TKT!

Nehan - For showing enthusiasm for learning when you shared your paper/weaving/disappearing trick!

Joanna - For a beautifully made Mother's Day card

Abhi - For great focus in maths

Olivia H - For stepping up and solving a tricky situation before it got big.



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/>

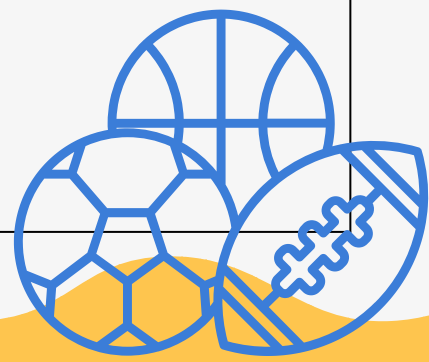
*Uniform hire is required for all sports except Netball

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 basket of fresh brown eggs on a wooden surface, with a cracked egg and a fried egg nearby. 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, it lists 'FREE RANGE DOZEN - \$9.50' and 'CERTIFIED ORGANIC DOZEN \$11.50'. A paragraph explains the subscription process: '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.' At the bottom, it provides the unique code 'SCH-003' and the website '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 \$3862 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



GROWING TOGETHER LEARNING COMMUNITY HUB 2026

Supporting parents of children with diverse learning needs.
No diagnosis required.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- FREE sessions covering 8 Informative Topics
- Expert Advice & Guidance
- Peer Support & Networking
- Resources Sharing
- Complimentary Refreshments

FIRST SESSION

Topic

Welcoming & MoE Support

Speaker: Ministry of Education

Date: 21 May 2026

Time: 3:30 to 4:30pm

Location: Wilkins Theatre, Te Manawa Museum, Palmy

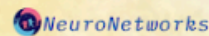
[REGISTER HERE](#)



FURTHER SESSIONS: June - Oct, Thursdays 12 - 2pm
Dates will be confirmed

CONTACT: Manawatū Multicultural Council
Ph: 06 358 1572
Email: este@mmcnz.org.nz

TOGETHER WE GROW STRONGER



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!