

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

Newsletter

Friday 21st August 2026

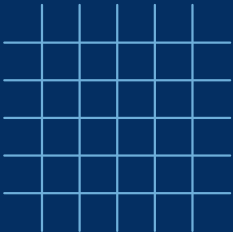


Upcoming Events



27 th August	Daffodil Day - Gold coin donation - wear yellow/green to school
28 th August	School Assembly - TKW Year 4,5,6 - Poetry & Speech Finals
31 st August	Teacher only day - SCHOOL CLOSED
4 th September	House T-Shirt day Orienteering Team Champs Y5&6
8 th September	Board Meeting
9 th September	Ricoh Sports Tournament - Y5&6
10 th September	Year 4-6 Kapa Haka Mini Fest at PNINS
11 th September	School Assembly - TKA Palmerston North Intermediate Normal enrolments closing date
15 & 16 th September	Celebration of learning evenings 5:30 - 6:30pm
24 th September	PNINS Information evening for students attending 5:45 - 7pm
25 th September	Term 3 Ends
12 th October	Term 4 Begins
22 nd October	Year 4 Sleepover & Ngā Manu

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



Update from the Principal



Kia ora koutou,

Halfway through the term already, it certainly feels like Term 3 is flying by!

On Monday, we welcome Cohort 6 of our New Entrants. We have 10 new students joining us, with three of these families being brand new to our Hokowhitu School community. A huge welcome to them all! To our new whānau, we are delighted to have you with us and hope you enjoy your journey here at Hokowhitu.

Sickness & Attendance Update The last couple of weeks have been challenging with high numbers of student absences across the school. It is so important to keep children at home when they are unwell. On the flip side, we want to ensure students are back in class as soon as they are feeling better. We completely understand that managing work commitments, house-wide bugs, and judging when your child is ready to return is a delicate balancing act. A huge thank you for your ongoing support as we navigate this challenging flu season together.

Whānau will still receive automated attendance notification emails if a child reaches the Ministry of Education thresholds of 5, 10, or 15 days absent in a term. These emails are generated regardless of the reason for absence. We are very aware that most absences this term are completely legitimate due to winter illnesses. Thank you for your understanding, and as always, if you need any support regarding your child's attendance, please feel free to reach out to us.

Reporting to Parents & Celebrating Learning Our reporting system is currently going through a period of refinement to align with updated Ministry guidelines. Last year, we sent reports home at the start of Term 4 and held our Celebrating Learning Evening in Week 2. This year, we will be holding our **Celebrating Learning Evening in Week 9 of this term (Tuesday and Wednesday evening from 5:30pm)**. Written student reports will then go out at the end of Week 9 in Term 4.

Daffodil Day (Date Change) Please note that we have shifted our Daffodil Day celebrations to **Thursday 27th August**. Students are encouraged to come dressed in yellow or green and bring a gold coin donation. All funds raised will go to the Cancer Society to support vital research, prevention programmes, and patient support services.

STRIVE Focus: Whakataki – Investigate: This strive focus has been evident around the school at the moment! On Thursday afternoons, TKT and TKA have been exploring the Arts, with students opting into a range of creative sessions, including learning different instruments. Mr Onnes shared his photography expertise in a special session, and Mr Cooke even found a frog in the swimming pool, which sparked huge curiosity across the classrooms and led to impromptu lessons about frogs! Miss Tayler took care of our amphibious guest today and will find it a suitable home in its natural environment.

Next week is shaping up to be another busy one. On Monday, a group of eight Year 5 and 6 students will be attending a Technology Day out in Ashhurst. On Thursday, we celebrate Daffodil Day, Friday morning we have a whole-school assembly, and in the afternoon we have the Year 4 Poem and Year 5/6 Speech finals. Meanwhile, Miss Tayler continues to train our dedicated Jump Jammers as they make their final preparations for the Strictly Jump Jam competition next Saturday!

Have a fantastic weekend, everyone. Hopefully, we are through the worst of the winter bugs and look forward to seeing everyone back on board next week!

Ngā mihi nui,

Reece Hawkins

Tumuaki / Principal



REGIONAL MATHEX COMPETITION

On Friday 14th August Hokowhitu took two Year 5 and two Year 6 teams to the regional Mathex competition at the Awapuni Showgrounds. The kids had a great time and applied themselves to some pretty tricky maths problems. Amid tough competition our two A-teams performed well finishing middle of the field in the competitive grade. From our two non-competitive teams the Year 6 B team achieved a Gold award and the Year 5 B team a Silver award. A big thanks to the parents who provided transport on the day.



- Mr Evans

YEAR 5 & 6 MATHEX COMPETITION

Today, our Year 5 and 6 students from TKA and TKT took part in an exciting Mathex Competition in the hall.

Working in teams of four, students tackled 20 challenging questions covering a range of mathematical topics. Teams had to work quickly and collaboratively, using their problem-solving and mathematical thinking skills to earn points.

While the teams were busy solving problems, they also had the opportunity to earn bonus points by completing some hands-on construction challenges, including creating a 3D cube and a square-based pyramid.

Throughout the competition, Mr Sloan kept everyone up to date with the House Points, adding an extra element of excitement and competition to the event.

It was fantastic to see our students working together, thinking creatively and putting their mathematical skills to the test. Well done to everyone who participated!



- Mrs Gifford Moore



Achievement Awards



Te Kete Wakahuia

Oliver - For working so hard to blend sounds as you read. Tino pai!

Taiamoni - For working so hard on your reading. Kā rawe!

Charlie - For sharing your great knowledge on the Life Education Bus. Kā rawe!

Clara - For being a great helper on the Life Education Bus. Tino pai!

Violet H - For showing great enthusiasm at smash cricket. Ka pai!

Lisa - For being brave and trying new things at Kete fitness. Ka rawe!

Esom - For super neat handwriting, Tino Pai!

Leia - For sharing lots of your thinking on the Life Education Bus. Kā rawe!

Te Kete Pounamu

Gloria - For fantastic bowling skills at Smash Cricket.

Samu - For displaying fantastic bowling and batting skills at Smash Cricket!

Musa - For displaying excellent batting skills at Smash Cricket. Tino pai!

Ian - For displaying enthusiasm at Smash Cricket at succeeding at 'smashing' the ball. Ka rawe!

Evie - For being an expert at 'groups of' during maths multiplication time. He whetū koe!

Sanumi - For being a knowledgeable mathematician during class mathematical discussions. Ka pai!

Uriah - For showing enthusiasm and great ball skills during our Smash Cricket sessions. Ka rawe!

Te Kete Manawa

Alex - For actively taking part in the Life Ed discussions with Tim.

Rhyan - For looking at and following the music to play the boomwhackers well.

Reeyana - For sharing your great knowledge of previously taught spelling rules during literacy review.

Arlo - For a super effort writing your own poem for our poetry competition

Sam - For a great effort with your dictated sentences and applying new spelling patterns and rules correctly.

Juliette - For reading instructions and using different denominations of money.

Lyla - Welcome to Hokowhitu School and Te Kete Manawa. We are excited to have you join us.

Ahmad - For a great effort during our Smash Cricket sessions.

Neave - For taking responsibility with your learning and asking for support if needed in maths.

Te Kete Aronui

Ayson - For delivering a funny and entertaining poem.

Luke - For your awesome cricket skills in SmashPlay Cricket.

Finley - For your awesome skills designing a 2 story house on TinkerCAD.

Manik - For great graph work and presentation skills!

Romaan - For teaching other students how to use Canva.

Liana - For great contributions during our Life Education Bus activities.

Eddie and Kiel - For presenting your poem with confidence.

Louis - For great effort with the maths challenge.

Benny - For presenting your speech with a good pace, clear voice and confidence.

Aditya - For your great delivery and content in your speech.

Te Kete Tangaroa

Taylah - Working hard; learning new ways to multiply

Liam - Presented his speech with excellent expression

Yolisa - Improvement in our multiplication stater.

Grisha - Excellent presentation of his speech on everyday heroes.

Ava - Showing great bravery to present her speech on everyday heroes.

Ajay - An outstanding speech on why we need everyday heroes to protect the oceans.

Daeun - For knowing your speech so well! You looked up and engaged the audience.

Te Whakaira - For fantastic work on your speech over the last few weeks.



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 Hokowhitu Blacksticks - Year 3-4 team

We had a great mix of Year 3 & 4 players, Sid, Hunter, Conor, Ava, Ina, Jack, Juleitte, Everly and Isaac. They demonstrated some excellent passing and it was great to see the connections with players on field and realising that moving the ball around was the best way to score goals.

Some wonderful goals were scored and some great defence had. It was a pleasure to coach this group of enthusiastic youtube hockey guns. A big thank you to Larry for combining our teams to train together as a group, Connie for stepping in when the coach couldn't make it, and also to Isaac's sister Olivia for assisting with the substitutions each week.

- Amy



REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN VIA KINDO



Summer Soccer - All years
Registrations are now **open**

T-Ball - Under 7's & 9's
Registrations are now **open**



Summer Hockey - All years
Registrations are now **open**



Touch Rugby - All years
Registrations are now **open**

Volleyball - Year 4, 5 & 6
Registrations are now **open**



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

TENNIS

Programme Details: Tennis Manawatu
 Eligibility: Students in School - **Year 6 Students ONLY**.
 Duration: 6 weeks
 Day/Time: Tuesdays, 3.45pm – 5pm
 Venue: Vautier Park, Puriri Terrace, Roslyn, Palmerston North
 Start Date: Tuesday, 20th October 2026
 Finish Date: Tuesday, 24th November 2026
 Entries close: Wednesday, **14th October 2026**

Please click the link for more information and to register with Tennis Manawatu - [Tennis Manawatu](https://clubspark.kiwi/TennisManawatu)



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

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

Junior rugby https://www.manawaturugby.co.nz/community-rugby-1/junior-1 Winter soccer https://www.centralfootball.co.nz/competitions-1/fixturesresults-1/manawatu-2			Tennis https://clubspark.kiwi/TennisManawatu Cricket www.sporty.co.nz/mca
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If you have any sports queries please email our Sports Coordinator
c.hodge@hokowhitu.school.nz





SPIDER-MAN



JESSIE

OOSHIES FOR LITTLE HEROES

GOT SPARE OOSHIES AT HOME?

We're collecting **new or spare** Ooshies to donate to children in the **Children's Ward**, bringing a little extra joy and comfort during what can be a scary time.

Whether it's **one Ooshie** or a **whole handful**, every donation can help brighten a child's day. 

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Simply drop your spare Ooshies into our Ooshies Collection Box at your local school.



All Ooshies collected will be donated to **children in hospital**.



COLLECTIONS CLOSE

11 SEPTEMBER 2026

A small toy. A little distraction. A big smile.

HQ



MICKEY MOUSE



MULAN



GOLD R2 D2





Community Notices



THE FLU (INFLUENZA)

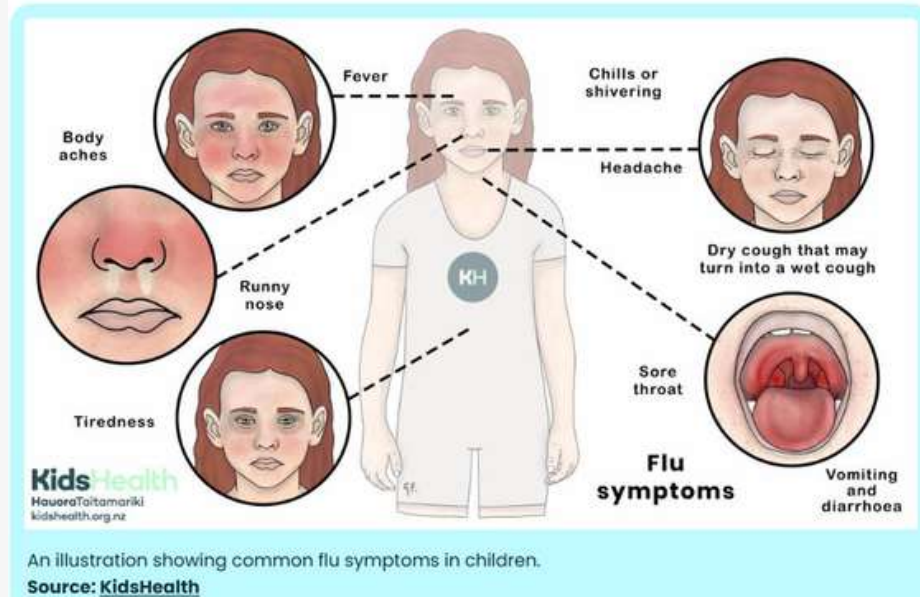
The Flu (influenza) has been surging across schools in the Manawatu and around New Zealand

The flu (influenza) is a virus that spreads quickly between people. Flu causes symptoms like a fever, runny nose, cough or upset stomach. There can be different types or strains of flu that can make you sick each year.

Please follow the link for more information and treatment.

- [Flu in Children](#)

Symptoms of the flu



SCABIES

Scabies cases are surging through parts of the North Island, including in Palmerston North and in several schools.

Scabies is a skin condition caused by a parasitic mite (a living thing). Scabies usually produces a very itchy rash. Please follow the link for more information including symptoms & treatment: [Scabies information](#).

AOTEAROA NEWS: Scabies Cases Surge Across North Island

Schools & Clinics Issue Warnings

What's Happening:

- Tairangi School Porirua reports concern
- Pukekohe Family Health Care reports rise
- Spreads via close contact

Symptoms:

- Intensely itchy rash, worse at night
- Small red bumps

Advice:

- See GP promptly
- Whole household may need treating
- Wash bedding in hot water



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

\$200,000 SPORTS Gear

Download extra sticker sheets at yummyfruit.co.nz



FREE

Build with dad, grab a snag

Father's Day Family Event

Thursday 3rd September

Food offering may differ store to store,
check your local store booking page for more details.

Activities and fun for the whole family

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Celebrate Father's day with the Palmy Bunnings team and local community groups. Enjoy an evening packed with FREE family-friendly activities including face painting, DIY projects, kids crafts, games, tasty treats and more!
Book online now!

Don't miss out,
register now!

Help your community vote

Register your interest to work
at the 2026 General Election.

We want people from local communities to work in voting places and help people vote. The 2026 General Election will be held on Saturday 7 November and we're taking registrations from people who are interested in working with us.

We need people with different skills and backgrounds right across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Whether you want to work for several weeks or just on election day, there are roles for everybody, from students to experienced leaders.

For more information about the roles available, and to register your interest in working at this important event, visit work.elections.nz today.

**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
TE Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri



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 \$4211 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.

BALLOT FOR OUT OF ZONE TERM 1 AND 2 ENROLMENTS 2026

A ballot (if required) will be held on Wednesday 9 September 2026 for new entrants who reside out of our school zone, but wish to enrol at our kura, starting in Terms 1 or 2 of next year. We also have a number of spaces available in year 4 and 6 for 2027.

Do you have a child turning 5 over this period? Do you know someone else who wishes to enrol with us, but we do not yet have their enrolment details?

Everyone (including siblings) who reside outside our enrolment zone **MUST** have enrolment information into the office **Tuesday 8 September 2026** so that we can accurately gauge how many spaces we have.

