



Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

Term 1 - Week 2 - February 14, 2025

KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

Nau Mai, Haere Mai, Mihi Mai

Welcome back to the 2025 school year!

We are super excited to be back at school, and although most staff were back after the 20th of January, we only really feel like we are truly back when all the tamariki come back to school. The energy and excitement on the first day was wonderful to see.

We held a mihi whakatau to welcome our new whanau to school, including Matua Penn and his whanau. There was a beautiful sense of whanaungatanga or belonging which we pride ourselves on. Thanks to all our current whanau who also came along in support. Thank you.

Have you had a chance to have a look at the new look Ruru teaching space, and reconfiguration of the office area? There is now a disabled access toilet in the space, which is accessible from Te Mangaroa, making it easier when local groups use this space after hours.

Ruru teaching space includes a large break out space, making more room for children to learn and grow!

There is also an office space for teachers on release to be able to find a quiet zone to work.

Our overarching theme this year is "Our Stories" and through this idea we will explore; Aotearoa New Zealand Histories, The Performing Arts, Health and Technology across the school year.

Term 1 / Wāhanga 1	Term 2 / Wāhanga 2	Term 3 / Wāhanga 3	Term 4 / Wāhanga 4
Belonging Whanaungatanga "Our Place" Stories Question: What are the stories of "Our Place"? How do the different stories create a sense of belonging?	Creativity Auahatanga Classic Fairy Tales/Stories Question: How can I recreate a story with an audience in mind?	Resilience Manawaroa My Own Story Question: What could be my life story? What is my story so far?	Kindness Manaakitanga Role Models Stories Question: What is a role model? Acts of kindness towards people, groups, environment

Coming Events:



Week 3 - Feb 17-21

ICE BLOCKS FOR SALE \$1 FROM TUESDAY!

Feb 18 - Board Meeting 6pm

Feb 19 - Meet the Teacher Night

Feb 21 - Swimming Sports

Week 4 - Feb 24-28

Feb 25 - Zone Swimming vs PBS (Years 5-8)

Week 5 - Mar 3-7

Week 6 - Mar 10-14

Mar 11-13 - Kotare & Korora Combined Class Camp

Mar 12 - WPSSA Swimming

Week 7 - Mar 17-21

Mar 18 - EPro8 Yr 7/8 Comp

Mar 19 - EPro8 Yr 5/6 Comp

Our Place to Grow and Learn together
 Ko tātou kura, kia tipu, kia ako ngātahi



Meet the Teacher Evening

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 19th February

From 5:30pm

There will be a chance to visit each class learning environment, listen to a brief chat about the class programme and meet the teacher.

Bring along a picnic dinner for your whanau

More details to come -
we are just finalising some details with staff

We value Whanaungatanga at Whangarei Heads School, so welcome you all to come along to meet the school team, the Board and connect with one another with a whanau picnic evening.

2025 School Team

Ariki / Leadership team:

Kelly Mercer, Tracey Morgan, Dane Higgison

Kaiako / Teaching Team:

Kārearea: Penn Evans / Tracey Morgan

Kōtare: Jamie Love

Kōrōra: Sharon Allen / Emily Drake

Ruru: Dane Higgison

Tui: Sara Robinson / Fiona Ellis

Piwakawaka: Alex Hunter

Release teacher: Fiona Ellis

Kaimahi / Support Staff:

Office admin: Courtney Telfer

Learning Support Assistants: Jenny Snell, Dulcie Hering

Caretaker: Greg Ferrar

Librarian: Aileen Ashman

WHS Board

Rebecca Brown - Presiding Member

David McDonald

Emily Bengé

Amy McDonald

Luke Ogle

5:30 Rebecca Brown and Kelly Mercer will welcome you in the undercover area

Time to visit classrooms: Find out how it works in "Our Place to Grow and Learn together".

5:45 Piwakawaka

6:00 Tui

6:15 Ruru

6:30 Korora

6:45 Kotare/Korora - camp info meeting

7:00 Kotare

7:15 Karearea - class talk, AIMS and camp meeting

There will be a bell ringing to signal the start of the next class talk



What do we bring?

- A picnic dinner and a blanket
- There will be a sausage for each of you from the Board, but you will need something else to eat.
- You can bring a koha for the sausage, and there will be some drinks on sale; but this is by no means necessary.
- Bikes and scooters to enjoy the track
- There will be games on the field for you to enjoy. Whanau Leaders will help with this, but we would love to see parents join in as well

Last chance to Sponsor this community event - All sponsors need to confirm by 21st February to be included in print advertising.



Sponsor the
Funky Fish!

30TH MARCH

www.funkyfishing.co.nz

WHANGAREI HEADS

SCHOOL

Funky
Fish '25

FISHING AND DIVING COMPETITION

Ice Blocks Return!

Karearea students have been hard at work, planning and preparing for the return of Lunchtime Ice Block Sales! This year, you are welcome to purchase a **\$10 prepaid ice block card** per child - and yes, you can pay for this via internet banking, reference with: ICEBLOCKS and your child's name. I will issue your child with their pre-paid card as these \$10 payments drop into the bank account.

Individual ice blocks can still be purchased as usual, but these are strictly **cash only**.

Ice Blocks will be sold in the undercover area at 1pm - after usual lunchbox consumption is complete. All profits raised will be put towards Karearea class activities and events.

Thanks for supporting our intermediate class!



*\$10 Pre-paid Ice Block Cards
Pay for 10 iceblocks, get your
11th free!*

Library Books

At the end of 2024 we had over 60 unreturned books in the school library. Many have trickled back in, but if you find any long overdue books under a bed or down the back of the couch please don't hesitate to send them back to school - you can either drop them at the school office, or directly to the library.



Concerns / Complaints

We strive to do our best, and always have your child's best interest at heart. But from time to time you may have a concern or question that needs answering. It is best to approach this early, and with the right person.

In the first instance a message or call to the class teacher can often clear up any miscommunication or confusion.

However, if your concern is growing please follow the process below.

Whangarei Heads School



Complaints Procedure

Make a time to meet with the class teacher to discuss your concern.



If you don't feel you were "heard" or the matter wasn't resolved then contact Tracey Morgan (DP)



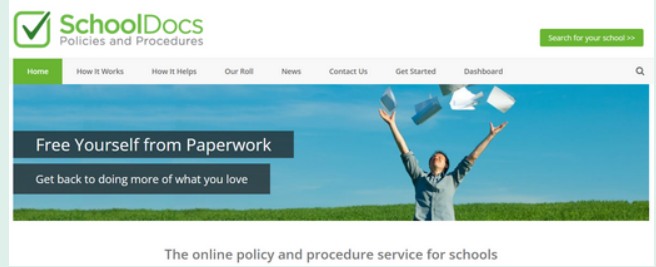
If you don't feel you were "heard" or the matter wasn't resolved then contact Kelly Mercer - Principal



If your concern hasn't been resolved by the previous steps then a formal complaint can be made to the Board.

You can find the steps for making a Formal Complaint on School Docs or contact Courtney at the office to send you a copy of the process.

School Docs: <https://www.schooldocs.co.nz>
Password: Caring



School Docs site

School Docs is where we have all our School Policy and Procedures available for you to access.

You just need to log on; find our school.

User name: Whangareiheads

Password: caring

Welcome

Sign in to SchoolDocs

Username

Whangareiheads

Password

caring

Show

2025 Term Dates:

Term 1 Ends - April 11:

Term 2 - Mon 28 April - Fri 27 June

Term 3 - Mon 14 July - Fri 19 Sept

Term 4 - Mon 6 Oct - Wed 17 Dec

2025 Parent Contributions

Parent contributions or school donations have been invoiced for 2025.

Families of 2+ students are \$240 annually.

Individual students are \$140 annually.

You are welcome to pay these in set amounts, eg \$60 per term for families, or \$35 for individuals, or set up an automatic payment throughout the year at a frequency that works for you.

Please reference these payments clearly when paying via online banking.

These parent contributions are considered donations to the school, and are used to purchase resources that the school needs to enhance the experiences of our tamariki schoolwide.

We thank you for your support for making these payments in a way that suits you best!



Thanks
for your
Donations




Te Manawa Tahī

Do you have concerns about your child? If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional well-being or behaviour, Te Manawa Tahī have specialists available so you can discuss your concerns directly with them. Te Manawa Tahī is a learning support hub where you can talk to educational professionals about your child's learning needs.

This is a free service.

All hubs are open from 9:00am until 12:00pm unless otherwise stated.

Date	Hub Locations	Term 1 2025, Weeks 1 to 5
Wednesday 5 th Feb	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wednesday 12 th Feb	Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā	
Thursday 13 th Feb	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Thursday 20 th Feb	Onerahi Community House, 130 Onerahi Road, Onerahi	
Wednesday 26 th Feb	Dargaville Early Years Hub, 28 Hokianga Road, Dargaville	
	Whangaruru School, 9.00am – 10.30am, 2916 Russell Road	
Thursday 27 th Feb	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wednesday 5 th Mar	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	

Date	Hub Locations	Term 1 2025, Weeks 6 to 10
Wednesday 12 th Mar	Bream Bay Community Trust, 10.00am - 12.30pm, 9 Takutai Place	
Thursday 13 th Mar	Te Kura o Otangarei School, William Jones Drive, Otangarei	
Thursday 20 th Mar	Children's Lighthouse Playgroup, 20 George Street, Hikurangi	
Wednesday 26 th Mar	St John Ōtamatea Ambulance Hall, Maungaturoto	
Thursday 27 th Mar	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wednesday 2 nd Apr	Dargaville Early Years Hub, 28 Hokianga Road, Dargaville	
Thursday 3 rd Apr	Ngunguru School, 9.00am – 10.30am, Te Maika Road	
Thursday 10 th Apr	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	



To all students who have had a birthday since the start of the year!

Ollie D, Gemma, Otto, Griff, Niko A, Tui D, Lucy, Max, Zia, Freddie, Noah, Rosa, Rumi, Hunter A, Amelie, Jess, Arla, Niko F, Hilton, Cheyenne, Cobie, Aroha, Alice, Van, Flo, Primrose, Jack D & Shani



Yummy Stickers!

Please continue collecting yummy stickers and sending them in to the office - including the label on the bags of apples for "Free Sportsgear". At the end of each year we send our collection off to Yummy and select new sports equipment depending on how many stickers we collect. The more stickers, the more choice we have!



Looking for Lego

We have a community member looking for a bulk buy of random "real" lego if anyone has an unused collection to sell on. Please contact the office and I will put you in touch with them.



Biking to school safely

Biking to school can be a great way for kids to get exercise, develop confidence and learn to share the road on bikes. Before encouraging your child to get on their bike, there are a few things to consider:

Keep safe

Ensure your child has the right cycling skills to get to school safely on a bike. Always ride with your child if they're under 10 and then continue until you're sure they have the skills and confidence to ride in traffic.

Prepare your children to ride on the road by teaching them road safety skills, such as:

- Turning and signalling skills away from traffic
- Then on quiet streets to improve traffic awareness.
- Recognising potential hazards and how to choose good places to ride.
- Riding in a straight line, at least one metre from parked cars, and using cycle lanes wherever possible.
- Watching for potential hazards including car doors, potholes, rubbish, grates and pedestrians.

The bike

Ensure your child's bike is the right size and fit. They must be able to:

- With hands on the handlebar, place the balls of both feet on the ground when sitting on the seat.
- Comfortably stand with two feet flat on the ground when straddling the centre bar.
- Easily grasp the hand brakes and apply enough pressure to stop the bike.

Bikes must have brakes and reflectors, and front and rear lights need to be on when it's dim or dark.

The helmet

Cycle helmets must be worn and meet an approved standard. Before your child sets off on their bike, ensure the helmet is securely fastened, in good condition and not cracked or damaged. Make sure it's the right size, with little or no wobble when fitted. To learn more, check out the Bike Wise Bike & Helmet Check pocket pamphlet:

www.tinyurl.com/bikehelmetcheck



Have your child wear bright or high visibility clothing or a high-vis backpack cover and have front and rear lights for night time or low light and rain.

If an adult is cycling with young children, keep an eye out. If there's one adult, riding at the back is best. If there is more than one adult, have one at the front and one at the back.

Plan the route

Map out a safe route to school from home. Choose a way through side streets, with other kids on bikes, low traffic speeds and good visibility. Ride with your child and make sure they understand the route - have them lead to show you they know where they're going.

Sharing the road

It's important to ride with courtesy and respect for motorists and other people on bikes.

Ensure your child knows to be visible at all times, clearly show their intentions and thank other road users when they can.

For example, you can show them how to let motorists or other cyclists know you're happy they've waited for you by waving, smiling, or giving them a 'thumbs up'. This will make sharing the road easier for everyone. Try not to hold up the flow of traffic. If necessary, pull over to allow vehicles to pass.

Teach your child the road rules. Check out the Official New Zealand Code for Cyclists for more: www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode/cyclist-code/

Weather

Help your child check the weather conditions before each bike ride. If they are cycling in wet or low light conditions, ensure they wear high visibility and reflective clothing.

Carrying gear?

Don't hang anything from the handlebars - it could throw them off balance or get stuck in the wheels and cause a crash.

Keep healthy

Did you know 10% of all Kiwi children between two and 14 years-old are overweight and at greater risk of Type 2 diabetes, according to the Ministry of Health. Get your children into fun, healthy habits like cycling that last a lifetime.

