

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

Newsletter

Friday 12th Dec 2025



Upcoming Events

12 December	2026 kete/teacher and stationery lists sent home this afternoon
15 December	8.30am Coffee and muffin thank you catch up for 'over and above' parental contributions to our kura over 2025 1.45pm Transition in 2026 classrooms
16 December	12.45pm Classes finish for 2025
28 January 2026 8am-4pm	Office open from today for purchase of sun hats or second hand uniform (as available)
3 February 2026 1.30 - 3.00pm	Pop in to ākonga's 2026 kete, drop off stationery and chat informally with the 2026 teaching team
4 February 2026 8.30 - 8.50am	The bell rings to signal entry into class ready for an exciting year of learning and fun
12 February 2026 5 - 6.30pm	Pool party! Everyone is welcome! Chat with staff and board members, mingle with other whānau, tamariki can have a swim. Free sausage for all Hokowhitu School ākonga. Sausages, nachos, juices and something sweet on sale for an easy dinner

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



Update from the principal

Kia ora koutou,

Our attendance this week was 73% of ākonga attending school for at least 90% of the time.

Let's work in partnership as the home and school team to ensure children attend school EVERY day that they possibly can in 2026. Thanks so much to those of you who do this already.

Wasn't the Christmas carnival a great night of celebration? Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed with donations, preparation/serving of kai, set up and tidy up. Such a contrast in weather to last year's event, this year the FABULOUS weather provided a different challenge!



PRIZEGIVING

Congratulations to everyone who participated on Tuesday evening. Special congratulations to the ākonga who were honoured in recognition of their achievements with class awards and/or major prize winners.

TROPHY RECIPIENTS 2025

- Richard Bullock Trophy for Excellence in Mathematics - **Amos S**
- Honore Trophy for Outstanding Citizenship - **Tupuse F**
- Stewart Family Trophy for Excellence in Literacy - **Aarush M**
- Excellence in Information Technology - **William C**
- Hokowhitu STAR Award for consistently displaying the STRIVE values - **Ruby A**
- Outstanding contributions to Sport - **Bailey C**
- Outstanding commitment and contribution to Musical and Dramatic Activities - **Harrison I**
- Lin Dixon Young Leader's Award - **Mason M**
- Year 6 speech winner - **Amos S**
- Year 5 speech winner - **Edward W**
- Year 3 STRIVE award (Miss T's trophy) for consistently displaying our STRIVE values - **Maggie J**

2026 STUDENT LEADERSHIP - (including those omitted in error on Tuesday evening - aroha mai)

- AMBASSADORS: Jamie H, Zareesh F, Rory E, Georgia I
- HOUSE LEADERS: Isla D, Felix A, Rohan S, Joslyn Z, Freddie C, Imogen D, Edward W, Afokoula M
- STUDENT COUNCIL: Anita C, Olivia H, Aaryan P, Isabella S, Harry S, Lucy A, Joanna D/S, Joud Q, Liam SRM, KJ D/O
- WELLBEING WARRIORS: Maddy T, Grisha P, Madison T, Charlie T, Jessica A, Oscar S, Hakaraia G/H, Oliver D, Maryam G

We understand that some ākonga are needing to navigate personal disappointment if they did not receive the award or leadership position that they hoped they would. This is part of growing up, we all need to dig deep to manage disappointment. Resilience is a great skill to foster - there are always lots more leadership opportunities than just those named on the night.

Congratulations!





2026 KETE PLACEMENTS AND STATIONERY LISTS

Please check school bags as these come home today. Some kete have composite classes - a reminder that if your child is a Year 3, 4 or 5 pupil, they may be in a different kete to some of their peers. Be assured that they will be taught at their correct year level and do everything (e.g. athletics, camp, sleepover) everyone else in their year group does.

Warehouse Stationery have advised us that our stationery packs are available to order online at [Warehouse Stationery School Lists](#)

Alternatively, you can purchase packs in store. Please try to avoid substituting items for brands other than those stated on the stationery list. Kaiako have lots of experience with stationery - some brands just don't last or work as well as others (glue sticks are a particularly good example of this).



UNIFORM

A reminder that the 'phase in ' period for the new uniform pants/shorts/skorts finishes at the end of this year. From the commencement of 2026 everyone will be wearing the navy blue options. Nothing changes for the polo shirts or fleeces.

New uniform items are available from Academy Apparel (in Broadway Avenue), so it might be a good idea to get this sorted before the new school year sneaks up on you.

Second hand polos and fleeces will continue to be available from the office at school (limited size range as we rely on donated items for these).

BOOK/SPORT UNIFORM AMNESTY

A final call for any books (readers or library books) OR school sports uniforms - please have a look around this weekend and urgently return any you may find. Thank you

FREE COUNSELLING AT SCHOOL IN 2026

We have been supported by Lynne Cranston over the last four years. Lynne has decided to work closer to her base of Feilding. But we are lucky to have Dave Dawber come on board to support the tamariki at our school.



In partnership with Gumboot Friday, your child can receive up to four free counselling sessions - right here at school. This support can only be accessed once per child.

I'm Counsellor Dave. I've worked with children of all ages since 2007, supporting tamariki with anxiety, anger, low mood, and big feelings in a safe and caring way.

Sessions take place at school, but bookings must be made by whānau through Naomi Thompson, Learning Support Coordinator.

To arrange support for your child in 2026. Please contact Naomi Thompson n.thompson@hokowhitu.school.nz for more information and the referral documents.

<https://www.talkingworks.co.nz/listing/dave-dawber/>

FAREWELL



At the end of this year we say goodbye to three of our Learning Coaches.

Kobe Mclean, Emma Mudford, and Kelsey Wilson.

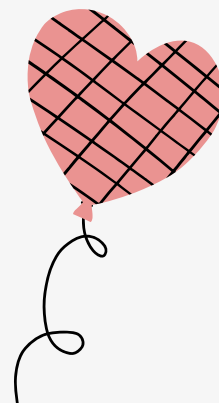
We would like to thank them for their work over the year and we wish them all the best for their future journeys.



As this will be my final newsletter as the tumuaki of Hokowhitu School, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken the time to say goodbye and wish me well for my next adventures! It has been an absolute honour to be leading Team Hokowhitu - a fantastic team and an amazingly supportive community. I leave our kura in very safe hands - Reece Hawkins will be an amazing new tumuaki!

Meri Kirihimete - I wish you and your whānau a peaceful, fun filled holiday season - doing lots of whatever 'floats your boat' (that's my plan too).

farewell



Ngā mihi nui
Lin Dixon
Tumuaki/Principal

Achievement Awards



Te Kete Wakahuia

To all of Waka iti. You have all had a brilliant start to school and have all tried so many new things. We are super proud of you. Ka pai!

To all of Waka, you have all had a wonderful year of growing your brains and showing beautiful personalities. Have a super holiday and stay safe. See you next year! Ka pai!

To all of Huia, for a fantastic year. We are very proud of all of your hard work. We hope you all have a wonderful holiday. Ngā mihi nui.

Te Kete Pounamu

Wow Te Kete Pounamu, what a wonderful year of growing and learning you have all had. We are very proud of each and everyone of you. Your kaiako wish you all a safe and happy holiday with your whānau! Meri Kirihimete

Te Kete Manawa

Te Kete Manawa, can you believe the 2025 school year is coming to an end? Thank you for all of your amazing efforts this year. It has been wonderful seeing you grow and shine throughout the year. We wish you a wonderful and safe holidays to you and your whānau!

Te Kete Aronui

Adrian - for always showing the STRIVE value of Investigating.

Anna W - for excellent work with calculating costs in maths

Isaiah - for always showing the STRIVE value of Enthusiasm for Learning

Lachie - for the best teacher's gift ever!! Up the Wahs!!

Manik - for excellent work calculating costs in maths

Pippa - for helping out around the kete in the mornings

Romaan - for excellent input in financial literacy.

Te Kekerewai - for always showing the STRIVE value of Respect.

Thank you to Te Kete Aronui students and whānau for a wonderful year. Your support, positivity, and hard work have made 2025 a great year!. We wish you a safe, relaxing, and happy holiday break. Enjoy the summer!

Te Kete Tangaroa

Thank you Te Kete Tangaroa students for the awesome year. You have worked so hard and it has been wonderful to see you all progress in one way or another throughout the year. We have appreciated each and everyone of you and your individual gifts and talents that you have brought to 2025. We are proud of you all. To the whānua of our students. Thank you for all the support you have provided in one way or another to both your child and the kete. Have a wonder break and enjoy the celebrations over this season. Mr Masoe, Mrs Lovegrove and Mr Sloan wish you all the best in 2026.



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 Soccer

Hokowhitu Shooters - As the final act of 2025 the Hokowhitu Shooters soccer team invaded Sal's Pizza with their player of the day vouchers and relentless energy.

Re- forming after 2024, the team showed the same spirit and energy as last year. They all play well together, build each other up, and trust in teamwork. The team has had a great season at the Arena, with some great wins, tight draws, and close defeats. Thankyou to all the parents, the support has been great. Everyone worked together to get the boys to the games amongst busy afternoon schedules.

It's been my pleasure to coach again this year.

Andrew - Coach

Hokowhitu Breakers - Hokowhitu Breakers Crowned Grade Champions!

Our summer soccer team, the Hokowhitu Breakers, wrapped up an unforgettable season—finishing as grade champions! Throughout the term, the Breakers played with incredible skill, determination, and teamwork, but what truly set them apart was their outstanding sportsmanship. Whether celebrating goals or supporting each other through tough matches, the team showed the true spirit of the game.

Congratulations to all our players on an amazing season filled with fun, friendship, and fantastic football. Very proud to be your coach!

Abby - Coach



Community Notices



沖繩剛柔流

www.karate.org.nz
GOJU RYU KARATE
PALMERSTON NORTH

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

沖繩剛柔流

EPIC HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

IS YOUR CHILD OR
TEEN INTERESTED
IN TECHNOLOGY?



JANUARY 2026

For beginner & advanced coders
Ages 9&10, 11&12, 13&14, 15 to adult
Fun, Free & Educational!

Sign up at codingnz.com/holidays

