



Te Kura o Hau Karetu

He waka eke noa: *We're all in this waka together*
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17 March 2026

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Namaste, Kumusta,

Nau mai haere mai to our new students Amelia and Hau Hau who have started this week in Te Pūao and Te Awa. We are so lucky to have you with us and hope you will find everyone friendly and welcoming.



As we reach the middle of the term, our school is well and truly immersed in learning. Behind the scenes, our teachers have been working incredibly hard to navigate the new curriculum and the changes that come with it, while also ensuring we assess students in ways that reflect both best practice and current government requirements. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the enormous amount of work our teachers are doing to plan engaging lessons and carefully monitor your child's progress. Their dedication and professionalism in managing these changes, while keeping students at the centre of everything they do, is greatly appreciated.

Te Waipuna left – love doing Reading Eggs.

Assembly:

Each Friday at 2.15 we hold our assembly. It is a time where we celebrate student achievements:

- Principal's awards are given out for students showing excellence in using our WAKA values (Whakaute/Respect, Akohia/Learning, Kotahitanga/Togetherness, Atawhai/Kindness)
- Golden Waka cards are drawn for a student to play "Goodies or the Bag"
- Road Patrollers of the week receive an acknowledgment for their hard work
- One class receives the tidiest cloakbay/porch award

Each of the winner's pictures is put up in the foyer in the office for everyone to see!



Our house groups:

Each day, the children who receive a gold waka ticket to go into the draw for the Goodies or the Bag also receive a gold coin to go into their house box. The house that has the most coins by the end of the term wins a special event. Sometimes, children are given gold coins for achieving something to do with our WAKA values in the playground. But, we are running out of gold coins and don't know where they've gone! We are searching high and low for them. **If your child has taken home a golden coin, can we please have it back.** We are running so low on the coins and can only assume children have thought they take them home? Our houses are:

Tūi



Weka

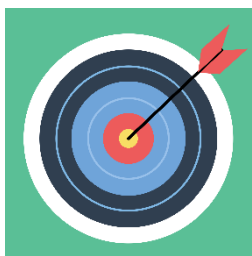


Kōkako



Kereru





Goal Setting:

Thank you to those who attended our goal setting meetings this year. We always aim for 100% participation, as these conversations are an important part of your child's learning journey. Research shows that when families are actively engaged with their child's school, student outcomes improve.

If you haven't yet connected with your child's teacher about goal setting, please get in touch to arrange a time. It's important that you are part of setting and understanding your child's goals for the year. Thank you.

UPDATE FROM I HAVE A DREAM

Our Dreamers have been enjoying a range of fun and engaging activities this term. Year 1–2 tamariki have continued their lunchtime programmes with games, painting illustrations and cookie baking. While our Year 3–6 Dreamers have been participating in both in-school and after-school programmes, with activities such as weaving, swimming, science experiments, and learning in nature. These programmes are designed to build confidence, encourage curiosity, and help tamariki explore their interests.

Our after-school programmes run in 3-4 weeks blocks and are by invitation only, allowing us to keep group sizes small and build meaningful connections with each Dreamer. Your child will bring home a permission slip, inviting them to attend the week prior to their programme. Tamariki must be registered with the I Have A Dream programme to participate in lunchtime or after-school activities. If you have any questions, please see your child's Navigator: Whāea Numa (Years 1–2), Mātua Henry (Years 3–4), or Whāea Maima (Years 5–6).

To become a Dreamer, a sign-up form can be collected from your child's Navigator or at the office.



Learning in years 1-2 – Fire Wise:

In the last week of the term, our year 1 and 2 students are going to be learning about being FIRE WISE. The students will learn some fire-safe behaviours. They will practise what to do to get our FAST if there is a fire in a building they are in. Each year, Fire and Emergency New Zealand attends about 5,000 house fires. Around a quarter of house fires start in the kitchen from unattended cooking. Once a fire has started in a room, people have three minutes to get out of the room

before they breathe in poisonous smoke and die.

There are three things you can do to get out quickly and safely inf a fire occurs in your home:

1. Install working smoke alarms in lounges and family living areas, halls and bedrooms to alert you to the fire. If you are asleep, you cannot smell smoke.
2. Have an escape plan so that every family member knows two ways to get out of every room and knows where to go to a safe meeting place.
3. Practise getting out of every room FAST when the smoke alarm goes off or if someone shouts FIRE, FIRE, FIRE.

During this Firewise unit, your child or children will bring home your copy of a Get Firewise Family Book. We encourage you to read the story with your child, watch the videos available on the Fire an Emergency website and involve all your family or whānau in making your home fire safe. We also encourage you to practise what to do if a fire starts anywhere in your house.

The Get Firewise Family Book has some simple homework tasks your child will be asked to complete throughout the week.

There may be some families in our community who have had an experience of fire. We want to make sure every child can participate positively in this learning programme. Please contact your teacher if there are any concerns about your child that we should be made aware of.



Raffle tickets – tickets are now on sale for our Easter and Mother’s Day Raffle. Books will be sent out today and each family will receive a book of 5 tickets to sell. Tickets are \$2 each. If you would like more tickets to sell, please let Roseanne or Rachel at the office know. Funds raised will go towards the replacement of our netball courts and our senior camp. Any quality items for the Easter and Mother’s Day Raffle would be gratefully received. Tickets will be drawn on

Thursday 2nd of April at assembly. Thank you for your support.



Learning Te Reo Māori: In this week’s Te Reo Māori snippet, we are talking about macrons:

Using macrons in te reo Māori

You may notice a line above some vowels in te reo Māori (for example: ā, ē, ī, ō, ū). This is called a macron. A macron shows that the vowel is held for longer when spoken.

Lengthening a vowel can change the meaning of a word, so macrons are important for correct pronunciation and understanding. For example, *keke* means cake, while *kēkē* means armpit!

A helpful tip is to slow down and stretch the vowel slightly when you see a macron.

If you have any questions about macrons, you can see your teacher. Thank you.

Important Notices & Reminders:



- **Carpark:** As our roll in growing, we need to make some changes to our drop off routines in order to keep everyone safe. We’ve made a great start with dropping children off at the gate, but we still continue to have people driving into the carpark and dropping their children off at the office, but worse, they park in the middle of the driveway or carpark so that no one can move in or out! **This is primarily a staff carpark.** The only parents who should be driving in will be people with children who have high needs, or new entrant students. Everyone else, please drop your children at Hillside Drive so they can walk the rest of the way into school. If your child is late, you may need to drop them at the office, but please do not

park in the middle of the thoroughfare. If you do drive in, please be respectful of the mobility carpark which is reserved for people who have a mobility permit only. Thank you for your cooperation.



- **Peanut-Free School:** We are now a **peanut-free** school. We ask that no peanut products are brought to school, including peanut butter and foods containing **peanuts**. Note that when a packet says, “may contain traces of nuts”, this is OK. Our school lunches do not contain peanuts. **Please note that we are not talking about all nuts. Only peanuts.**
- **School Alert System:** Please be advised that we have become a **School Family Alert** school. The purpose of this system is to help us take extra special care of your child if a significant incident occurs at home and if Police have attended. We will receive an alert that let’s us know your child may have had a difficult experience and might need additional understanding, reassurance, or support while they are at school. This could look like checking in with them, offering extra pastoral care, or being mindful that they may be feeling unsettled.
- **Student Attendance expectations:** Regular attendance at school is important to your child’s success. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It is important that you:

- phone on 045269552, or
- text on 0275269552, or
- email to: office@tehaukaretu.school.nz, or
- message on the Skool Loop app,

to confirm your child’s absence and provide us with the reason.

We can work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance, just let us know. More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents or caregivers is available on the Ministry of Education’s webpage:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/education-professionals/schools-year-0-13/managing-students/student-attendance-guide-schools-and-kura>. Thank you for your cooperation.

- **Lunches in Schools:** We are experiencing some hiccups with the timely delivery of lunches to classrooms while we manage our new lunch systems. Children are still being fed lunches, but it is likely a little later than usual. The meals are yummy and children are having dishes such as lasagne, chop suey, butter chicken, spaghetti & meatballs to name a few. They are yummy! We encourage children to eat the lunches but do not force it.
- **SunSmart School:** While the weather is cooling, there are still plenty of UV rays around – the planet’s tilt is still directed towards the sun. As a SunSmart school, we ask for your support in ensuring children come to school each day with a named, full-brimmed sunhat. Wearing a hat during Terms 1 and 4 helps keep our tamariki safe while they are learning and playing outdoors.



Slip



Slop



Slap



Seek



Slide

- **Fundraising:** If anyone is keen on being part of our PSG fundraising group, please let Roseanne or Rachel know at the office, and we'll put you in touch with Whaea Jewel who is our PSG leader. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER



- **Volunteers:** We are always very keen to have people support us with regular volunteering, particularly for our Breakfast Club which operates from 8am-9am each day. If you are able to give us an hour of your time each week, please advise Roseanne or Rachel if you're available for volunteering. Thank you.
- **Nits/Kutu** – Nits are an ongoing issue with schools and kids – it's like the magic combination. Treatment can't just be a one off – that it needs to happen often. We have nit treatment and combs at school – please let the office or your teacher know you need some. You can also get nit treatment on prescription from your GP. Please check and treat your child's hair regularly. A useful video link for how to treat nits is below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9y6c3Opr9w>. Thank you so much for your support in this.

Ngā mihi nui,
Karen Wellington
Tumuaki/Principal

Important Dates and Events:

Week 9	School finishes on Thursday 2 nd April at 3pm for the two-week holiday.
	School returns for term 2 on Monday 20 th April.

Helping tamariki feel confident and connected at school



At school, tamariki are learning how to navigate friendships, big feelings and new experiences.

Here are three ways you support this learning at home.

1

Pause before stepping in

Why this helps:

When tamariki work through small challenges themselves, they build confidence and resilience.

2

Name feelings, then move forward

Try:

"I can see that felt hard. What could you try next?"

Why this helps:

Acknowledging emotions helps tamariki regulate, and reaching for what they can do grows their problem solving skills.

3

Trust their learning process

Why this helps:

Not every friendship challenge or frustration needs adult support.

Working things through helps tamariki develop independence and social capability.



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