

Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road, Auckland
New Zealand

Newsletter – 20 May 2025



Kia ora e te whānau,

We've had a wonderful start to Term 2, with a highlight being our Senior Camp and EOTC Week. It was an incredible experience for our tamariki, with over 300 people involved in camp — a phenomenal achievement. A heartfelt thank you to the staff and parents whose hard work, dedication, and energy made it all possible. A special thank you to Molly Fletcher and Olivia Mead for all their organisational work behind the scenes and leadership during camp week. Events like these create lasting memories and help build strong connections within our school whānau.

Looking ahead, we're excited to support our Kapa Haka and Pasifika groups as they prepare to perform at the upcoming Whenuapai Community Event on Sunday, 8 June, from 12–2:30 p.m. at The Parkhouse. This event, hosted by Connected Neighbourhoods, promises to be a fun afternoon for all, with food trucks, activities, and entertainment for the whole family. We'd love to see you there cheering on our performance groups.



You may have seen a diverse group of people gathered outside the school during morning drop-off last week. This wasn't a coincidence — it was the first meeting of a new safety task force dedicated to improving the experience and wellbeing of our tamariki during busy pick-up and drop-off times.

The group included the Base Commander from the local Air Force Base and his team, alongside representatives from the NZ Police, Auckland Transport, Auckland Council, and our school staff. Together, we're exploring ways to improve the safety of our roads, car parks, and pedestrian crossings.

This is a collaborative effort, and we're grateful to have such strong community support. As plans develop, we'll keep you updated — and we'd love to hear your ideas too. Please pop into the office if you'd like to share any suggestions.

The Government has recently launched a new Parent Portal — an online resource designed to help families support their child's learning. Please see the attached documents for more information about what's included and how to access it.





STAR Attendance Initiative – Supporting Our Tamariki

You may have noticed that we've turned on the attendance feature in HERO, allowing you to view your child's attendance. This is one of the steps we're taking to support school-wide attendance and help every student succeed.


Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's learning and wellbeing. The government has set a national target for 80% of students to attend school regularly more than 90% of the time, and to help schools achieve this, they've introduced the STAR – Stepped Attendance Response.

Our Term 1 attendance rate was **71%**, and we usually see a drop in Terms 2 and 3 due to winter illnesses. Let's work together to maintain or improve attendance this term!

The STAR Response – What It Looks Like:

Level	Days Absent per Term	What Happens
 Green – Good	Less than 5 days	Positive messages, ongoing encouragement
 Amber – Worrying	5 – 10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send formal notification and contact parent/guardian to discuss reasons for absence • Support students to catch up missed learning where required
 Orange – Concerning	10 – 15 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send escalated formal notification to parents • Hold meeting to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan • Develop and implement a plan tailored to the reasons and circumstances around the child's absence
 Red – Serious Concern	15+ days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send warning notice and make contact to arrange meeting with parents • Escalate to multi-agency response • Participate in multi-agency response • Implement and monitor improvement plan

How You Can Help:

- Ensure your child attends every day they are well enough.
-  [Is my child well enough to attend school? – Ministry Guidance](#)
- Contact us if your child is away — we're here to help.
- Support your child to catch up on any missed learning.
- Engage with us on support plans if needed.

What We're Doing:

- Monitoring attendance daily and contacting you for any absence.
- Providing resources and support to overcome barriers.
- Keeping you regularly updated on your child's attendance.
- Creating a safe, welcoming environment every day.

This STAR approach is about early support, not punishment. We want to work alongside you to ensure every child has the best chance to succeed.

Let's keep the momentum going and make Term 2 a great one!

Ngā mihi nui,
Adam Cels

Thank you and Congratulations

A huge thank you to everyone who paid their school donation in full during Term 1. Your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Payment of school donations make a huge difference to what we can provide our tamariki at Whenuapai School.

Congratulations to Harvey Lyons, the winner of our Term 1 Donation draw. Another draw will be held at the end of Term 2.



Dates for your diary

Tuesday – 20 May NW Year 7/8 Football Whānau Interviews	Thursday – 12 June NW Football - Year 5&6 Kea Team – Farm Visit
Thursday – 22 May Rippa Rugby Festival Whānau Interviews	Friday – 13 June Zoo Trip – Pīwakawaka Team • Rooms 10, 15 and 24
Monday – 26 May Y5 Trees for Survival Planting Day Snr Campus Lockdown Exercise	Tuesday – 17 June Massey High School Open Night • 4.00pm to 5.30pm • or 6.00pm to 7.30pm
Tuesday – 27 May NW Year 7/8 Basketball Home Campus Lockdown Exercise	
Monday – 2 June King's Birthday – NO SCHOOL	Wednesday – 18 June 7.00am Matariki celebration
Thursday – 5 June Kiwi Valley Trip – Tūi Team (Year 2)	Friday – 20 June Matariki – NO SCHOOL
Friday – 6 June NW Table Tennis Zoo Trip – Pīwakawaka Team • Rooms 16, 17, 18 and 23	Tuesday – 24 June NW Hockey
Sunday – 8 June 12.00-2.30pm - Community Event at Whenuapai Park	Friday – 26 June Last day of Term 2

Book Club Issue 3 - Available Now

[Issue 3 PDF](#)

[Click Here](#) - to
view and order
online



Massey High School

Open Night - Tuesday - 17 June 2025

- 4.00pm to 5.30pm
- or 6.00pm to 7.30pm



Meet in the Bruce Ritchie Performing Arts Centre
for the Principal's address.

Hobsonville Point Secondary

Open Evening:

- Monday, 21st July, 5.30 – 8.00pm

Open Day Tours

- Thursday 24th July
- Friday, 25th July



<https://www.hpss.school.nz/open-day>

Lockdown Exercise – Next Week



As part of our commitment to keeping our students and staff safe, we will be conducting lockdown exercises at both campuses next week. These practices are carried out with the support of **Harrison Tew®**, specialists in emergency management planning for schools and educational facilities.

The scheduled lockdown exercises are as follows:

- **Senior Campus (Trig Road) – Monday 26 May**
- **Home Campus (Airport Road) – Tuesday 27 May**

These drills are part of our regular emergency preparedness programme. They are designed to ensure that everyone on site knows how to respond safely and calmly in the unlikely event of a real emergency.

Before each exercise, teachers will talk to their students about what to expect and why we run these drills. We approach these sessions with care to ensure students feel informed and supported.

Please be aware that, in the event of a real lockdown or evacuation, it is essential that **whānau do not come to the school or phone the office**. While this might feel like a natural response, it can make managing the situation more difficult for staff and emergency services. We will always aim to update families through our school website as soon as it is safe to do so.

We appreciate your support as we continue to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

Finlay Park Camp



Wow! What an incredible 4 days camp was. From the moment we arrived, there were smiles all around Finlay Park as a result of trying new things, facing fears, spending time with new & old friends, and experiencing lots of firsts. No words are enough to thank everyone who made this happen, from teachers, parent helpers, and Finlay Park Staff, to our generous home bakers and last minute packing helpers! A very special shoutout to Mrs Fletcher, Miss Mead, and Rita for their tireless organisation behind the scenes making everything run smoothly. You are so appreciated and we all thank you!

First moments of Camp - By Arwen

We had just arrived at camp. And as the bus drove away, it took with it our last hope of leaving.

We gathered in the hall and listened to the safety briefing.

Then they sent us to the lake, where they did make,
us go on paddle boards. They gave us challenges,
which caused imbalances, but I stayed up.

We did burpees, star jumps, and stood on one leg.

Then we played a water game where we did beg,
to not get pushed in. Splash, Splash, Splash!

The principal's in the drink! So are the children or so they think.

I Survived the High Ropes!

I slipped on my full body harness and helmet. I was shaking with fear. Maya, the coach for rock climbing and high ropes, told me all of the safety briefings and said the most important rule of all. "Are you scared of heights?" I shook my head. Oh what a lie. She clipped me onto the metal bar, and off I set. I felt the cold pole as I sat down and slid across. I wanted to scream. I walked along the ladder, balanced on the wooden plank, and gripped the ropes as hard as I could.



Now it was time for the scariest part. The camo net. I heard everyone calling my name and saying, "It's okay you'll be fine." I took a big breath and started to climb. Suddenly, I realised that the harness was the only thing holding me! I started to shake like an earthquake. Gripping tightly onto the net, I could see the platform at the end of the course. I stood up on the platform. I did it! I had survived the high ropes! I wasn't as bad as I thought it was. When I got to the ground, my legs were jelly and I nearly collapsed. Next I walked back into the line for high ropes again smiling. I survived!

By Isla

Words by Sanaya

Finlay Park Camp



THE RANGE



ANIMAL SURVIVAL



This year at camp we did animal survival.. First we met our instructor to learn the rules. After we learnt the rules we went on a boat onto Skull Island. We had to find food bases and whoever found the most wins a prize. We had so much fun.



HYDROSLIDE



The hydro slide was very tall. The people that went down had to be on a boogie board and had to have a life jacket on. Some people went very far; they glided across the lake. For some classes the black slide was open and that was fun too.

Finlay Park Camp



HIGH ROPIES



The high ropes had different walls to climb. One was sliding down pipes. Another was stacking crates which TJ broke the record for!

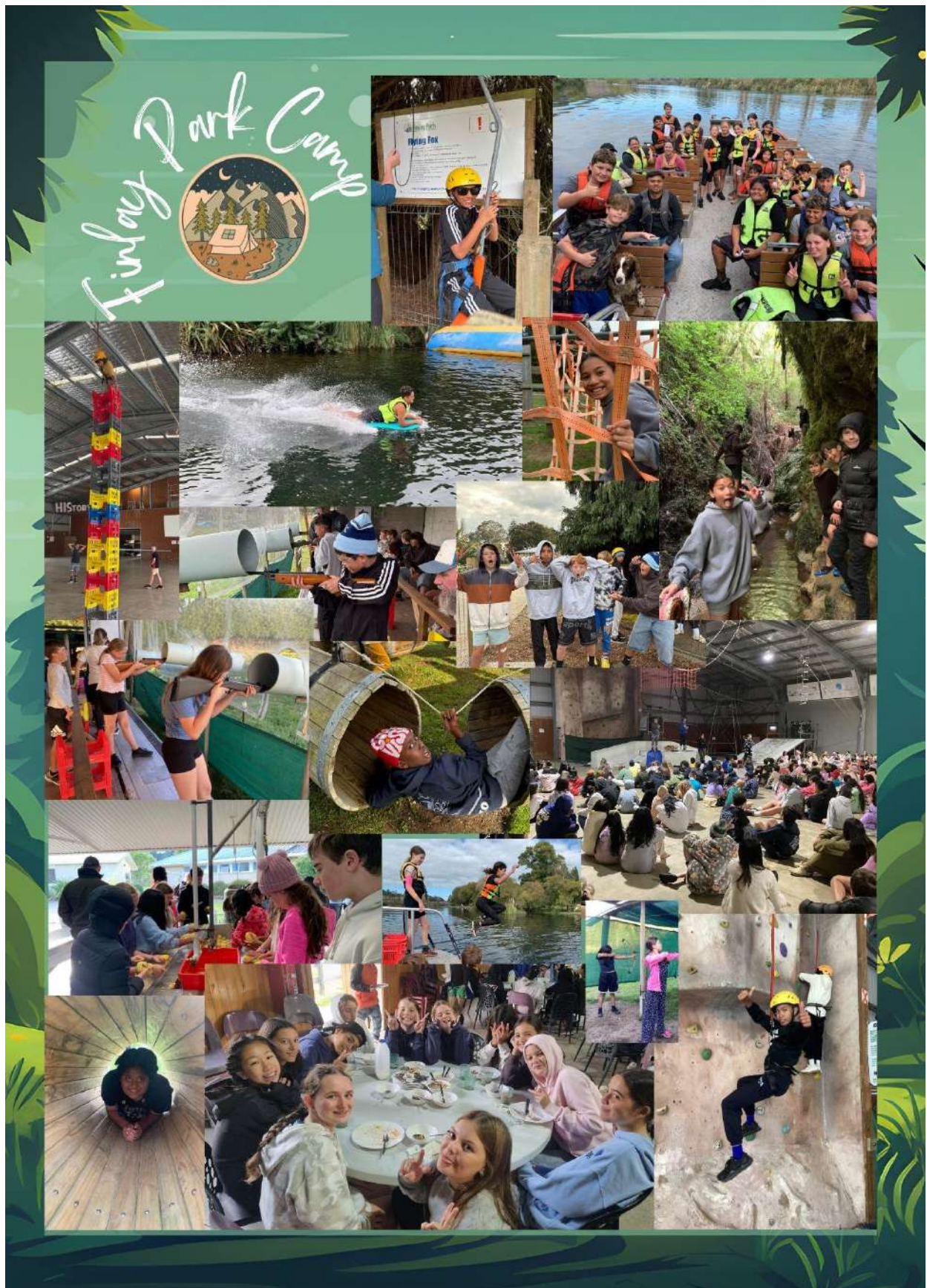
BUSH SURVIVAL



Bush survival was super fun! We got to make stretchers and huts with only one bag of resources. Our huts had to survive a bucket of water being dumped on us! My group's was not the best but others did pretty well.

KAYAKING & PADDLEBOARDING





EOTC WEEK

Wow - what a fantastic experience for both students and staff! It was an action-packed week full of new adventures. Students were incredibly resilient, trying a huge range of new activities and working with different year groups to achieve both team and individual challenges. There were catapults, archery, slacklining, bottle rockets, building and driving a Flintstone car, a Burma trail, team games, tug of war, designing and building Rube Goldberg machines, coding, art, cupcakes, and cooking lunch for over 40 people. Phew!

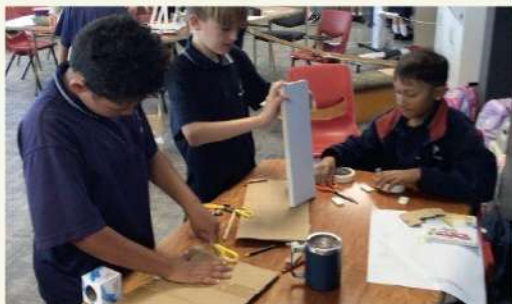
A huge thank you to Mr Ganda, Mr Robinson, Ellie, Nathan, Kevin, and the staff from YouthTown for all their hard work in ensuring a fun, safe, and challenging four days. Well done to all the students for their enthusiasm and amazing attitude.

– Mrs Thomas



My highlight was getting to do all the fun activities, especially archery and bottle rockets. I made some ginormous muffins that I overfilled with batter, but they still tasted amazing.

– Honey



I had an amazing time at EOTC, especially with all the fun activities run by Youth Town—for example, catapults and slacklining. For slacklining, we walked along a thin piece of cord and had to balance our bodies to make it to the end.

– Austin



RESPECT FOR ENVIRONMENT



PB4L CORNER

This week, our PB4L focus is on kaitiakitanga (respect for environment). At Whenuapai School, kaitiakitanga means caring for our environment - inside the classroom, outside in the school grounds, and in our wider community. It is about appreciating our environment and understanding that we all have a part to play. Demonstrating kaitiakitanga means showing initiative and taking action when something needs to be done. Integrity is an important part of kaitiakitanga - doing the right thing even when no one is watching, because we know it matters.

Here are some simple ways to discuss kaitiakitanga at home:



- Model how you make good environmental choices by thinking aloud. This will support your child to understand how our daily actions have consequences for the environment.
- Talk to your children about the reasoning behind the simple environmental actions we make each day, such as recycling, using reusable shopping bags, and turning off the lights. This will support your child to understand what sustainability looks like in different contexts.
- Discuss why it is important to make good environmental choices even when no one is watching. This will support your child to understand how their individual actions contribute to a greater cause.
- Explain about the environmental consequences of stories you hear in the news. This will support your child to understand the global importance of sustainability.
- Praise your child for making good environmental choices. This will teach your child the importance of caring for the environment.

Thank You for Supporting Pink Shirt Day 2025!

To our amazing students, staff, and families,

Thank you for showing your support on **Pink Shirt Day**!

It was wonderful to see our school filled with pink as we stood up against bullying and promoted kindness, inclusion, and respect.

Your participation helped spread a powerful message:
that every act of kindness matters and that each of us plays a role in creating a safe, supportive, and welcoming school. Let's keep that spirit alive by continuing to be kind, be Upstanders, and speak out against bullying every day.





Whenuapai School TE IWA O MATARIKI

Whenuapai School
14 Airport Road

Wednesday 18th June
7am

Matariki is the Māori New Year, marked by the rising of the Matariki star cluster, symbolising reflection, preparation, and celebration of the past, present, and future.

Join us on the courts for karakia, and hautapu to acknowledge four whetū connected to kai. Then enjoy a Matariki breakfast as our Kapa Haka rōpū perform waiata in the hall.





WEDNESDAY SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

CHANGE THE WAY YOU TRAVEL FOR GOOD

WIN YOUR SCHOOL A SHARE OF \$6,000 FROM THE 2025 GRAND PRIZE POOL!

TOP MODE SHIFT
1ST PLACE
\$2,500

TOP MODE SHIFT
2ND PLACE
\$1,500

TOP LEADERBOARD
1ST PLACE
\$1,500

TOP LEADERBOARD
2ND PLACE
\$500



GOOD LUCK



WEDNESDAY SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

CHANGE THE WAY YOU TRAVEL FOR GOOD

7/5/25
WHENUAPAI SCHOOL

JOURNEYS LOGGED TO DATE: **1,758**
POINTS TO DATE: **616**

INITIAL MODES OF TRANSPORT TO/FROM SCHOOL

64%	15%	11%	3%	3%
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Help us reduce waste at school by packing a **waste-free lunchbox!**



Waste Free Lunchboxes



Whenuapai School is an EnviroSchool and we ask that students come to school with waste free lunches (**Nood Food**) to show Kaitiakitanga/Respect to our school environment.



A waste free lunch means only packing items that can be composted or recycled. That means, **no plastic wrap, no foil, no zip lock bags and no packaged foods**. We have compost bins for food scraps which we feed to our worm farm which then fertilises our vegetable māra/gardens and fruit trees. Through this process we are teaching the students to be responsible for the waste they create and how they can make a difference to our planet. **If students bring waste to school, we ask them to please take this home.** Thank you for supporting our school value of Kaitiakitanga/Respect for the Environment.



NUDE FOOD: HEALTHY, FRESH & WASTE-FREE!

What is Nude Food?

Nude Food is simply food that is not wrapped in foil, plastic, or commercial packaging. It's all about fresh, healthy, and environmentally friendly choices!

Why Choose Nude Food?

- Encourages healthy eating habits
- Reduces waste and helps protect the environment
- Empowers students to make conscious food choices

Tips on How to Pack a Nude Food Lunch

- Use reusable containers for food and drinks
- Bring cutlery from home instead of using plastic utensils
- Choose a lunchbox with separate sections to keep food fresh

Try to Avoid These Items:

- ✗ Zip lock or plastic bags.
- ✗ Plastic wrap or aluminum foil

Tips for Packing a Nude Food Lunch

- ★ Get the kids involved in choosing their lunches to reduce food waste
- ★ Buy larger portions of yogurt or snacks and portion them into reusable containers

Choose in-season fruits and vegetables—they are fresher, more affordable, & better for the environment!

School Notices:



For our Policies and Procedures please visit SchoolDocs at:

www.schooldocs.co.nz/

User – whenuapai
Password – airport

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Concerns or Complaints

Managing complaints appropriately, using fair and consistent practice, is an important part of how we support our school community.

If you have a concern, we encourage you to follow the process outlined in our school's policies.

You can find the full procedure on our **SchoolDocs website:**



[Click Here](#)



MUSIC LESSONS at Whenuapai School

Would you like in-school lessons with a professional Music Tutor with many years of teaching experience? You can enrol your child in drum, trumpet, sax, clarinet, keyboard, guitar or ukulele lessons at Whenuapai School!

We deliver a fun, varied and structured curriculum. Students learn songs in styles ranging from traditional to contemporary during school hours.

For more information on Trumpet, Sax, Clarinet, Keyboard, Ukulele and Guitar lessons, contact **Gloria Arboleda Martinez**
gloria.arboleda@musiqhub.co.nz
Ph 0274 422 654

For more information on drum lessons, contact **Paul Barry**
paul.barry@musiqhub.co.nz
Ph 022 198 0044

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search for Whenuapai





Parent Portal

Linewize is a FREE online safety tool available to all our families and here's how it can help:

- **See What Your Child Sees:** Linewize allows you to see a filtered report of your child's browsing activity, including websites and search terms. This gives you a springboard for discussions about online content.
- **Spark Conversations:** Use Linewize reports to talk to your child about what they find interesting online. This is a great opportunity to teach critical thinking skills and discuss online dangers.
- **Set Boundaries Together:** Linewize allows you to set website filters and time limits for your child's internet use. Work with your child to create a safe and responsible online routine.

For more information, please visit <https://whenuapai.onlinesafetyhub.nz/>

Our school is proud of the work we do to foster and promote positive relationships and social skills through our restorative PB4L approach. We place great emphasis on our core values and provide engaging behaviour lessons to empower students to make positive choices.

With your help and support, we can continue to guide our tamariki on their journey towards responsible online behaviour and overall well-being.

Thank you for being an important part of our community.



Uniform Shop

Argyle Schoolwear now has a retail shop, where you can purchase our school uniform.

You will still be able to purchase your uniform online through their Argyle Online website, but you now also have the option to purchase in store, offering you a full retail experience.

Argyle's Retail Shop is located at:

- Unit 4 / 91 Central Park Drive in Henderson.

It is advisable that you book an appointment – please go to our school page on Argyle Online and click 'book a fitting'. Limited parking is available in front of the store.



[Click Here to Book](#)

Uniform Retail Store Opening 5th December 2024



WHENUAPAI SCHOOL

4/91 Central Park Drive, Henderson, Auckland
Book a fitting online through your school page at www.argyleonline.co.nz
Card payments only; no cash. WINZ quotes available.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of digital LEGO, certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £15. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.05.2025



you are invited!

6pm - 7pm

Wednesday 18 June

**at Whenuapai School
Senior Campus**

Meet the Principal
Strategic Plan & Data
Q & A

Everyone welcome!
We are happy to meet all whānau
with children in any year level as
well as those enrolling for 2026!



the
**SCIENCE
ACADEMY**

Step into the lab with Professor Beaker
for a wild science adventure!

skids

**EVENT
HIGHLIGHTS**

- ✓ Get hands on with crazy experiments
- ✓ Make predictions and record your findings
- ✓ Earn stickers to track your progress

**CRAZY
CHEMISTRY**

Wednesday
14 May

**EDIBLE
SCIENCE 101**

Wednesday
21 May

**THE
EARTH
LAB**

Wednesday
28 May

Get ready to **EXPLODE** with knowledge!
SCAN TO BOOK NOW



Keep Children Warm This Winter

As winter sets in, some of the children and families supported by *Attendance West* are facing the cold without the basics — warm bedding, duvets, or even a heater at home.

To help, Attendance West has launched a series of **blanket drives**, collecting clean, warm bedding and blankets to pass directly to families in need. The response so far has been heart-warming, thanks to the generosity of local communities — and now, we’re joining in!

Whenuapai School is proud to support this initiative and is now a drop-off location for donations.

How you can help?

If you have any clean, warm blankets or bedding you no longer need, please drop them off at the School Office.

Every donation makes a difference.

Thank you for your support!




HAVE YOUR SAY

on The Draft Upper Harbour Ethnic Peoples Plan


Do you LIVE or WORK in Upper Harbour?

We’ve listened to many voices to shape this exciting new plan. Now, help us strengthen it further, as your input will make a real difference. Be part of this meaningful conversation!

Join us to be IN to WIN Prizes!





Scan the QR code to register:



Or call this number:
(09) 815 2338

Whenuapai Conversation

Date: Friday, 23rd May
Time: 6:30pm – 8pm
Location: Whenuapai School
14 Airport Road, Whenuapai





Announcement of webspace for parents and whānau

Priority 1: Establishing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning

4 May, 2025

The Minister of Education launched a new and informative webspace for parents and whānau today, designed to help them support children's learning at home and strengthening the relationship between families, schools and kura.

What is the new webspace and what does it include?

The Parent Portal is an online platform that provides parents and whānau with easy-to-use resources and tools to support their child's education at home. It allows them to work in partnership with their school or kura and to keep informed about what their child is learning, by including:

- **Year-by-year Curriculum Learning Guides:** parent-friendly versions of both The New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, detailing what children are learning, why it's important, and when they'll be learning it.
- **Practice activities:** activities that parents and whānau can use to support their child's learning at home, such as phonics cards with audio files to model correct sounds.
- **Informative videos and resources:** videos explaining new assessments like the Phonics Checks and Hihira Weteoro, which help identify additional support a child might need, and resources to help parents prepare for the first day of school and parent-teacher interviews.



The Parent Portal can be accessed here:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/your-childs-learning>

Why is it important?

This new webspace aims to create a more transparent and supportive educational experience for both students and their whānau. It is designed to support every child's learning journey by offering tools and resources that make it easier for parents and whānau to help with their education, at home and at school.

It enhances communication between parents, whānau, teachers, schools and kura, ensuring everyone is on the same page about student progress. Additionally, it provides parents and whānau with the knowledge and resources needed to actively participate in their child's education, meaning they can complement it with learning at home and have meaningful conversations with teachers and kaiako.

How will schools and kura benefit?

- Engaged and informed parents and whānau can play a crucial role in supporting the education of their child, which in turn benefits schools and kura by creating a more supportive, collaborative, and effective learning environment.
 - Parents and whānau can now better support their child's learning at home, reinforcing what is taught in school and kura, and supporting their children to make progress in line with the National Curriculum.
 - Strengthening relationships and partnering with parents and whānau can lead to improved academic outcomes for children.
-

What's next?

The Parent Portal will be regularly updated with the latest information. This ensures that parents and whānau will always have access to the most current information about what their child is learning. We will provide updates on new curriculum content and additional resources or activities that can support their child's education. Stay tuned for these updates to keep whānau informed and engaged in their children's learning journeys.



Check out the latest episode of the *School Shorts* podcast.

Join the Minister of Education, Erica Stanford, and Melissa Chan-Green as they discuss the Parent Portal:

<https://www.schoolshorts.com/podcast>

For schools and kura

We encourage you to share the Parent Portal with your community.

You could do this by:

- providing the link to parents and whānau of new school starters
- adding a link to your website and/or Facebook page
- including a link in your newsletter
- mentioning the portal at parent/teacher interviews.

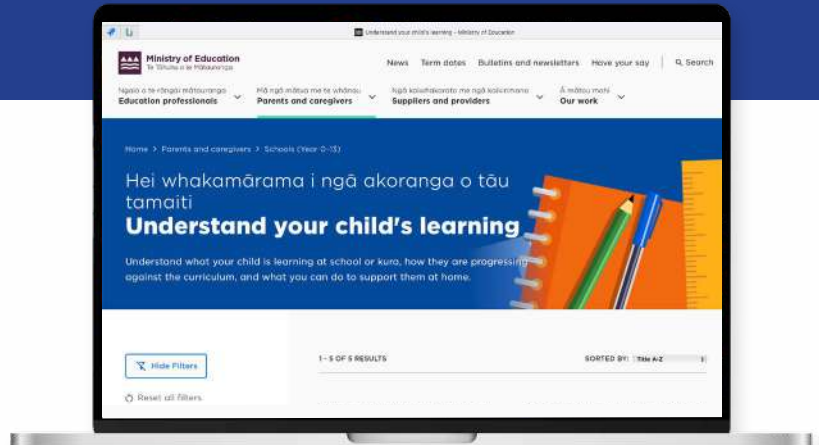
Understand your child's learning

Information and resources for parents, caregivers and whānau

A new webspace on [education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz) houses practical videos, activities and resources for supporting learning that are easy to understand, empowering you to take an active role in your child's education.

An introductory video that walks you through the content is available [here](#).

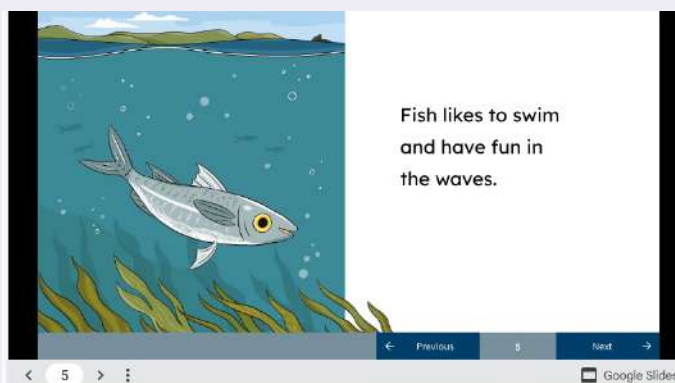
With the launch of the 'parent-friendly' versions of both our national curricula, you will know exactly what your child is learning, why it's important, and when they'll be learning it, so that you can actively support and complement your child's learning at home and have meaningful conversations with your child's teacher or kaiako.



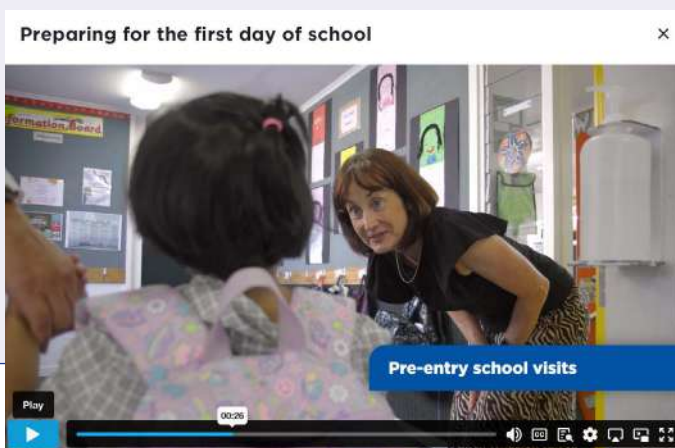
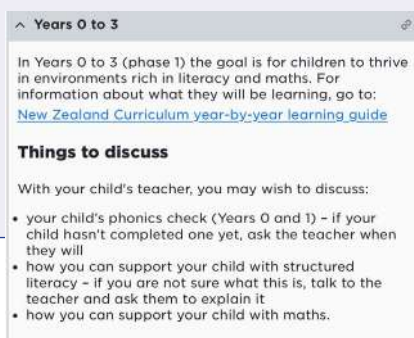
To navigate the website, you can choose which curriculum you want to learn more about and then go to your child's year level.



There are practice activities for each year level that you can do with your child, and 'tips and tricks' to support learning at home. Phonics cards come with parent guidance with audio files to model the correct sounds.



There is also a guide on how to prepare for the first day of school, and tips for parent-teacher interviews.



The webspace also houses important information about how children will be assessed in the early years of schooling through the new Phonics Checks and Hihira Weteoro. It describes how parents and whānau can access additional support that their child or tamaiti might need.



As the national curriculum continues to be updated and implemented in all schools and kura over the next few years, more resources and supports will become available for parents, caregivers and whānau. We encourage you to visit the new webspace and check out the current resources, guides and videos available. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email us at tepoutahu.engagement@education.govt.nz