

Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road, Auckland
New Zealand

Newsletter – 17 February 2026



Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome Back to 2026! We've had a fantastic start to the year, with a starting roll of 646 students.

A very warm welcome to all our new families joining the Whenuapai School community. It has been wonderful to see so many happy faces around the school, and we are looking forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and connection.

Curriculum Updates - This year marks an important step as we move into full implementation of the refreshed English and Mathematics curriculum from the New Zealand Ministry of Education. These updates provide clearer learning pathways in reading, writing, and mathematics, making it easier for students and whānau to understand progress and next steps.

There is a strong focus on building solid foundations, and we are excited to see how our tamariki respond to these enriched learning experiences.

Science of Learning - You may notice some changes in how teaching and learning look in our classrooms. We are incorporating principles from the Science of Learning to help our tamariki better understand how they learn, while also strengthening positive learning behaviours.

The Science of Learning draws on research about how the brain processes and retains information. These insights are shaping teaching practices that:

- Increase engagement
- Support long-term memory
- Develop self-regulation and positive learning habits

This approach aligns closely with the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum and helps our students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

You'll find a more detailed explanation of the Science of Learning later in this newsletter.

Long-Term Implementation - Implementing the curriculum updates alongside Science of Learning practices is a long-term journey that will unfold over the next three to five years. Throughout this process, we will continue to seek your feedback and insights.

Your perspectives are essential in helping us provide the very best support for our tamariki. Together, we look forward to a year of growth, learning, and achievement.

School Year Dates - Recently, there has been discussion in our community and the media about when the school year should begin and end.

In New Zealand, schools must be open for a minimum number of half-days each year (for 2026, this is 382). While the Ministry sets fixed holiday dates for Terms 2 and 3, schools have flexibility to decide when Term 1 begins and Term 4 concludes.

This means we can choose a start date between 27 January and 9 February, provided we meet the required number of teaching half-days and finish no later than 18 December.

Historically, Whenuapai School has chosen to begin as late as possible and finish as close to Christmas as we can, based on feedback from families. However, after recent conversations with whānau, preferences may be shifting.

Your Feedback - To help plan the 2027 school year, we will soon send a short survey via HERO. This survey will ask whether you would prefer the school year to finish as late as possible before summer, or to begin earlier within the permitted window.

For example, if the 2026 school year had started on the earliest possible date (27 January), our final day would have been around 9 December.

We encourage you to take part in the survey. Your feedback will help guide a decision that reflects what works best for our community and staff.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Wishing you a great week.

Ngā mihi nui,

Adam Cels



Key Staff for 2026

Senior Leadership

- **Rebecca Purdy** – Deputy Principal | dp@whenuapai.school.nz
- **Olivia Mead** – Assistant Principal (Senior Campus) | apsenior@whenuapai.school.nz
- **Tiffany Parrent** – Assistant Principal (Junior (Home) Campus) | apjunior@whenuapai.school.nz
- **Jill Mackenzie** – Assistant Principal / Learning Support Coordinator | lsc@whenuapai.school.nz

Team Leaders

- **Tiffany Parrent** – Year 0/1 - Kea Team | apjunior@whenuapai.school.nz
- **Bree Ward** – Year 2 - Tūi Team | breeew@whenuapai.school.nz
- **Jenny Cornish** – Year 3/4 – Pīwakawaka Team | jennyc@whenuapai.school.nz
- **Rebecca Robinson** – Year 5/6 – Kākāpō Team | rebeccar@whenuapai.school.nz
- **Jess Matiaha** – Year 7/8 - Kāhu Team | jessicam@whenuapai.school.nz

Principal

- **Adam Cels** | principal@whenuapai.school.nz



 Dates for your diary ...	
Monday – 23 February Kākāpō Team Zoo Trip	Wednesday – 11 March Swimming Sports
Tuesday – 24 February Kiwi Kick Stars Trial (Years 1-4)	Thursday – 12 March Kāhu Campout
Wednesday – 25 February 6.00pm – Board Meeting	Monday – 16 March Years 0-4 – Theatre Show
Tuesday – 3 March Year 5&6 NW T-Ball	Monday - 23 March NW Swimming (Years 6-8)
Thursday – 5 March NW Year 7&8 Softball	Tuesday – 24 March NW Year 7&8 Orienteering
Tuesday – 10 March NW Year 7&8 Cricket	Wednesday – 25 March 6.00pm – Board Meeting

Celebrating Success

One of our incredible Year 7 students, Zanneja, is quickly becoming a biking legend! This past weekend, she competed in her first race of 2026 and finished **3rd in the U13 Enduro grade**, a challenging event featuring four downhill race tracks.

Huge congratulations, Zanneja!

We can't wait to hear more amazing stories from your upcoming events.



Scholastics Book Club - Issue 1 out now!

Issue 1 Open Now!

FREE BOOK OFFER!

GET UP TO **3 FREE BOOKS**

SCHOLASTIC **Book Club**

EXPLORE THE BOOKS TOGETHER

Kid-friendly size

Larger, eye-catching images

Great Titles at Great Prices

SCHOLASTIC **Book Club**

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER ONLINE](#)

The Science of Learning - What this means for your child.

You may have heard us talking about the Science of Learning (SoL). Here is what that means for your child.

The Science of Learning is not a new programme or curriculum. It is a body of research about how the brain learns best, and how teaching can support strong, lasting learning.

The Science of Learning aligns closely with the refreshed NZ Curriculum. It strengthens how we teach, ensuring learning is clear, connected, and deeply understood.

Research tells us that children learn most effectively when:

- ✓ They are focused and free from distraction
- ✓ Instructions are clear and broken into manageable steps
- ✓ New learning connects to what they already know
- ✓ They practise and revisit learning over time
- ✓ Teachers regularly check understanding and adjust support

In simple terms, learning **“sticks”** when it is clear, structured, connected, and practised over time.

With Science of Learning, our focus is on developing deep, lasting learning:

- SoL explains how learning is encoded, stored, and retrieved, supporting curriculum aims around understanding, not surface coverage.
- Emphasis on knowledge building, conceptual understanding, and transfer aligns with curriculum learning progressions.
- SoL recognises the role of emotion, attention, and motivation in learning creating:
 - Predictable routines.
 - Clear success criteria.
 - Reduced anxiety through clarity and structure.

What This Looks Like in Class

In our classrooms you may notice:

- Clear, calm, predictable routines
- Clear learning intentions and success criteria
- Teachers explicitly modelling what to do before students try independently
- Structured A-B partner talk
- Frequent checking for understanding
- Learning being revisited across weeks and terms
- A strong focus on foundational knowledge before moving to deeper challenge

This structure prevents children from feeling overwhelmed (also known as ‘cognitive overload’ - when too much is happening at once) and helps them feel confident and successful.

You might be wondering “Does structure mean less fun?”. Actually, it is quite the opposite. When children understand what to do, feel successful, and see themselves improving, their confidence grows. Confidence creates engagement, and that is where real, lasting joy in learning comes from.

We are intentionally building classrooms where children feel capable, supported, and proud of their progress.

Why This Matters

Our goal is not just short-term performance, but long-term understanding - learning that can be remembered, applied, and built on year after year.

The Science of Learning does not replace the NZ Curriculum, it strengthens it. It gives teachers a shared, evidence-based framework to bring the curriculum to life in ways that are clear, inclusive, and effective.

Like to Know More

If you would like to know more about how this looks in your child’s classroom, please speak with your child’s teacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, or a member of the Science of Learning Team. We are always happy to share.





CHANGES TO ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT 2026

This year at Whenuapai School, under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, we have introduced a formal, structured intervention ladder triggered by defined absence thresholds.

Our attendance goal as a school is for **70%** of students to be attending school regularly (for 90% of the time). In 2025, our overall percentage of students attending school regularly was **65%**. (Term 1: 71%, Term 2: 71%, Term 3: 49%, Term 4: 68%)

Here are some key points of change to be aware of for 2026!

Full details of our attendance procedures are available on our website.

- The office requires advance notification of dates for all extended absences (holidays/trips). Teachers will not provide home learning for these trips
- A medical certificate is requested for any medical absence lasting more than three consecutive school days to continue being coded as M (Justified). Without one, it becomes E (Unjustified)
- Continued lateness is recorded and formally followed up by teachers/team leaders
- Parents/guardians must sign out their child/ren via VISTAB at reception. When possible, it would be appreciated if the class teacher and office were notified in advance

We look forward to supporting our students and whānau to improve attendance in 2026 to ensure the best learning outcomes possible!



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.

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.

School Notices:



Policies and Procedures

For our Policies and Procedures please visit SchoolDocs at:

www.schooldocs.co.nz/

User – whenuapai
Password – airport

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MUSIC LESSONS at Whenuapai School

Does your child want to learn to play music?

Would you like in-school lessons with a professional Music Tutor with many years of teaching experience? You can enroll your child in keyboard, guitar, ukulele and drum 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 guitar, ukulele, keyboard and drum lessons, contact Paul Barry
paul.barry@musiqhub.co.nz
Ph 022 198 0044

MUSIQHUB

NumberWorks 'nWords

Your children are amazing already. We just help them prove it.

numberworkswords.com/nz
NorthWest Ph 416 3123

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Free assessment
Book now!

[Click here for a free assessment & trial lesson.](#)

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Hilton Brown SWIMMING

Lessons for life

Hilton Brown Hobsonville

<https://swim.school.nz/>

5 Rawiri Place, Hobsonville.

Ph: 09 666 0240

skids - Before and After School Care

Accredited OSCAR Provider. Work & Income OSCAR Subsidy available!

Onsite: 021 174 8473
(Only checked during opening hours)
www.skids.co.nz/whenuapai

BOOK NOW at: www.skids.co.nz/book

search for Whenuapai





this term's

PROMOTION Menu Items

SUSHI COMBO



Nourishing ✓

Available All Week

Katsu Chicken/Pork & Apple Schnitzel on Rice with Salad



Nourishing ✓

Available All Week

Butter Chicken on Rice



Nourishing ✓

Available Monday

Macaroni Cheese



Available Tuesday

Pizza (C&P, C&H, C&C)



Available Wednesday

Pies (S&C, M, M&C)



Available Thursday



introducing our

NEW NOURISHING label



Keep an eye out for this label



What does the label mean?

Our menu now features healthy food labels. These labels highlight items that are wholesome, meet the **Heart Foundation's** Healthy Eating Recipe Checklist, or have a Health Star Rating greater than 3.5. This helps ensure nutritious meals for our growing children. Look out for the Nourishing labels on the **EzLunch** website when ordering to see which items are better for our children.

Check out these checklists:



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FOOTBALL LUNCH PROGRAMME

KIWI KICK STARS

Whenuapai school

FUN FOOTBALL SESSIONS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS!!

TERM 1

Our awesome programme gets kids exercising through super fun activities based around football and storytelling. Kids build confidence while improving their motor skills and coordination. Learning how to play with others, focus on problem solving.

Our friendly, experienced coaches have a hands-on, relatable approach and a passion for fun! Everyone's a winner at Kiwi Kick Stars!

Where: Whenuapai School fields
When: Wednesdays (Starting Wednesday 8th October)
Time: Lunch time
Cost: \$108 per term (8 weeks)
 Second child discount of 10% applies!

TO REGISTER GO TO WWW.KIWICKICKSTARS.COM



Kickstart your season! Football fitness training

Join GFC's 4-week Football Fitness Programme and build speed, strength and skills to score big this season

- Ages 8-12, all skills levels
- Mondays: February 16 - March 9
- 5pm-6pm or 6pm-7pm
- Wainoni Park, Greenhithe
- \$20 which includes a take-home booklet

→ To sign up, go to greenhithefootball.org/footballfitness

Book Launch - Some of our tamariki may remember Jez Smith, the author who visited Whenuapai School to share her debut book *Pu and Ru's Bird Beak Clues*.

Jez is now releasing her second book, *Honu and Blue's Sealife Clues*, and is celebrating with a special Seaweed launch event. Join her for the first live reading of this charming, rhyming seaside adventure as Honu and Blue search for Aotearoa's amazing marine creatures. Perfect for children aged 3-8 years.

- 📅 Saturday 28 February & Sunday 1 March
- 🕒 30-minute sessions at 10.30am and 12.00pm
- 📍 **New Zealand Maritime Museum**
- 🔑 Free event | [Bookings required \(click here\)](#)





**HILTON BROWN SWIMMING
HOBSONVILLE OPEN DAY**
FREE FAMILY EVENT. ANYONE CAN ATTEND!
WIN FREE LESSONS!
SATURDAY 7 MARCH 3.30 to 5.30PM
5 RAWIRI PLACE, HOBSONVILLE

- Free pool entry & play
- Free bouncy castle
- Free sausage sizzle
- Free candy floss
- Free balloon animals



Please note: Children 5 years and under must be accompanied in the water by a parent/caregiver.
All other children must be actively supervised by a parent/caregiver at all times.
Deep end is for lap swimming only.

NORTHWEST

SEISHIN RYU MARTIAL ARTS

KUMEŪ DOJO

Search the Old, Learn the New



HAPPY NEW YEAR

WE ARE OPENING 26TH MARCH AT
THE KUMEŪ COMMUNITY
CENTRE

WHEN

Every Thursday starting 26th March

TIME

Juniors & Intermediate 5:30- 6:30pm
Senior Intermediate. Adults & Masters 6:30- 7:30pm

EARLY REGISTRATIONS

Early registrations necessary, places fill quickly (use email below or call Josh)

AGE GROUPS

- JUNIORS 8- 12 YEARS OLD
- INTERMEDIATE 11- 13 YEARS OLD
- SENIOR INTERMEDIATE 14- 16 YEARS OLD
- ADULTS 17+ YEARS
- MASTERS 35+ YEARS

EMAIL: seishinryumartialartsnz@gmail.com

CALL: Josh 022-192-7803

OR: Pop in at the community centre on training night for a chat



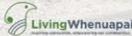


Weeding Bee
Clear the weeds. Stake the plants. Protect the natives!

21ST FEBRUARY 2026, SATURDAY - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Meet at: 167 Brigham Creek Road, Whenuapai
 (park at The Brigham Restaurant & Cafe)

Waiarohia stream restoration
 More details? Email to reshnu@livingwhenuapai.org.nz




**Sunderland Lounge
 (Te Rere)
 Cinema Road
 Hobsonville Point**

**Saturday
 21 February 2026
 10am – 1pm
 Free Entry!**

**Gently Loved Markets
 Just Kids!
 Preloved Kids Market**

Massey High School are fundraising to take 20 netball girls to England and Wales in October 2026.

Our big fundraising event is a car raffle.

\$20.00 per ticket
 (Only 5,000 available)

- ✚ First prize is a 2026 Kia Picanto valued at \$25K
- ✚ Second prize is a \$2,000 travel voucher
- ✚ Third prize is a 65inch TV

Other fundraising events are happening in the background also, including car washes, bbq sausage sizzles, bingo nights.

Any support you are able to provide is greatly appreciated.

To purchase your ticket or make a donation please contact:
 Elaine Curtis via email: ecurtis@masseyhigh.school.nz
 or text message 021 894 421.



**THREE CHANCES.
 THREE BIG PRIZES.
 DRIVEWAY, RUNWAY, LOUNGE.**



ST MARY'S COLLEGE 2027 Enrolments are now OPEN

Join our Mercy Family

Enrolments for 2027 are now OPEN for Year 7 and Year 9 students and a limited number of places at other year levels
St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions
We invite you to submit an online application



2026 OPEN DAY Thursday 26 March 2026

Two sessions available, commencing 2.00pm & 6.00pm
Both sessions deliver the same information

No need to rsvp - just come along to your preferred session

www.stmaryak.school.nz

11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13

HOLIDAY WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn the **secrets** of writing
great stories
from an
award-winning
author

- 3 day writing camp for ages 9-14
- 1 day workshop for ages 7-10



Meet your presenter:

Brian Falkner

The award-winning author of 21 novels including Brainjack, Northwood, and Shooting Stars



"I loved meeting other young authors and learning awesome techniques that will help my writing."
Gabriella (14)

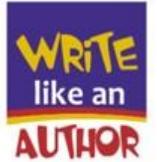
"It made writing easier for me and explained aspects of stories I didn't really understand."
Anna (12)

Andy Griffiths says...
"I wish this camp had been around when I was a young writer!"



Where: Kristin School
360 Albany Highway, Albany
When: 14 Apr to 16 Apr 2026

Register now at:
WriteLikeanAuthor.com



Parenting Talk

Tackling Technology



DATE
6.45pm, Tuesday
24 February 2026

VENUE
Riverhead Family Church
6 Arthur St
Riverhead

FREE EVENT
with light refreshments

Raising kids in a *digital* world

Technology can be a helpful tool, but it's also a minefield – especially for our kids!

With the latest information on topics including cyberbullying, grooming and sextortion, as well as insights on parental controls, appropriate boundaries and healthy habits, this talk is your vital guide to keeping kids safer online.



Sheridan Eketone, Parent Coach
Sheridan Eketone is passionate about shaping the hearts of the next generation through great parenting. Mum of four teenagers, Sheridan is grateful to her own tamariki for teaching her the importance of connection when it comes to raising confident and resilient kids.

parentingplace.nz



Learn to Sew

Term Classes
Hobsonville Point



Sewing Class

Term Classes -Year 4+

Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm, 4.30-5.30pm

Fun, creative classes where kids learn real sewing skills and make projects they're proud of.

"My daughter LOVED the class so much she wanted to come straight back. She was so proud of her dress and can't wait to make more. We'll be back!"



thread room

See website for all sewing classes:
www.threadroom.co.nz