

# Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road, Auckland  
New Zealand

Newsletter – 03 March 2026



Kia ora e te whānau,

The term is now in full swing, and our classrooms are buzzing with energy and learning.

It has been wonderful to see students engaged, curious, and enthusiastic about their learning across the school. Teachers are reporting great progress with our new routines, and it is clear that students are embracing new challenges and opportunities. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we are proud of the positive learning atmosphere across the school.

In the last newsletter, we explained some of the reasoning behind changes in the way we are teaching and organising our classrooms. Throughout the year, we are going to share further information and seek your feedback. In the meantime, if you require information or clarification, please have a chat with your child's classroom teacher.

A major highlight this term has been our school-wide inquiry, "Restoring Taonga – Bringing Back the Wild." This rich learning focus encourages students to explore the importance of protecting and restoring the unique plants, animals, and environments that are treasured in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Students are investigating how people can care for the natural environment, and the role communities play in restoring native habitats. This inquiry connects learning across several curriculum areas, including: Science – Living World, Social Studies, Aotearoa New Zealand Histories, and Visual Art.

It has been wonderful to see students making connections between these subjects and developing a deeper understanding of the content across these learning areas.

**Survey** - Thank you to everyone who completed our recent survey about the 2027 school year calendar. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will help inform the Board as they make decisions about the 2027 school calendar.

## Survey results:

- Prefer an earlier start date and an earlier finish date – 123 responses
- Prefer a later start date and a later finish date – 148 responses
- Happy with either option – 74 responses

The Board will carefully consider this feedback before making a final decision in Term 3.

**Traveling to School** - It has been wonderful to see an increase in the number of students and families walking, cycling, scootering, and riding to school. Active travel is a great way to start the day, supports healthy habits, is positive for the environment, and makes a huge difference to our traffic congestion.

To help keep everyone safe, please remember the following:

- Bikes and scooters must not be ridden through the school grounds when arriving or leaving school, by adults or children. People should ride down the cordoned-off driveway or walk their bikes and scooters through the school grounds to the storage racks.
- Helmets are compulsory for all students riding bikes, scooters, or skateboards.
- All bikes and scooters must be stored in the designated bike racks on the Home and Senior Campus.
- On the Home Campus, we will continue to allow scooters, skateboards, and roller skates to be used during break times on the court areas. Bikes can be ridden around the edge of the field only — hopefully our cycle track will be installed by the end of the year.
- Students must wear a helmet and only ride their own equipment — no sharing or giving turns to others. This also applies when travelling to and from school.

Our neighbours at ITM Whenuapai have asked us to remind families that their car park is not a thoroughfare. Please do not ride bikes or scooters through the ITM car park. Their business operates heavy machinery and vehicles, and they are concerned that a serious accident could occur.

Students and families should stay on the footpath past ITM when travelling to and from school.

If parents would like their child to walk or cycle to the Senior Campus, written permission must be provided so that we are aware of who does not need to be on the link buses.

**Please email both:**

- Senior Campus Office (Kellie Watkinson) - [adminsupport@whenuapai.school.nz](mailto:adminsupport@whenuapai.school.nz)
- Acting Deputy Principal – Senior Campus (Olivia Mead) – [apsenior@whenuapai.school.nz](mailto:apsenior@whenuapai.school.nz)

This email needs to confirm that you give permission for your child to travel independently by these means.

Some families have asked whether Senior students can ride electric scooters to the Senior Campus from home. The Board has considered this request. While they acknowledge that electric scooters present a higher level of risk, travelling to and from school is ultimately a parent's decision and responsibility.

We strongly recommend that parents carefully consider their child's capability, maturity, and road awareness before allowing them to travel this way. **NZSTA advises:** '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.'

**Please note:**

- Written parent permission must also be provided as outlined above.
- Electric scooters must not be ridden within the school grounds at any point during the school day, including before and after school.
- They must be walked down and up the school driveway.
- Helmets are mandatory.
- Scooters must be stored in the same location as the bike racks — outside the property manager's shed.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping keep our students safe.

In our next newsletter, we will share our Reporting to Parents timeframes and procedures.

Ngā mihi nui,

Adam Cels





## Dates for your diary ....

<b>Thursday – 5 March</b> NW Year 7&8 Softball	<b>Monday - 23 March</b> NW Swimming (Years 6-8)
<b>Tuesday – 10 March</b> NW Year 7&8 Cricket	<b>Tuesday – 24 March</b> NW Year 7&8 Orienteering
<b>Wednesday – 11 March</b> Swimming Sports	<b>Wednesday – 25 March</b> 6.00pm – Board Meeting
<b>Wednesday – 11 March</b> Swimming Sports	<b>Thursday – 26 March</b> NW Year 7&8 Tennis Air Base Tough Kid Event
<b>Thursday – 12 March</b> Kāhu Campout	
<b>Monday – 16 March</b> Years 0-4 – Theatre Show	<b>Thursday – 2 April</b> Last Day of Term 1

## Scholastics Book Club - Issue 1 out now!



[CLICK HERE TO ORDER ONLINE](#)

## Consultation Now Open – Te Pae School Enrolment Scheme

The consultation process for the proposed enrolment scheme for the new school in Massey, **Te Pae School**, is now open. The Ministry of Education has released details of the proposed enrolment zone, which can be viewed at the link below. We encourage our community to take a look and share any feedback by completing the survey:

[Ministry of Education - Te Pae School New Enrolment Scheme](#)

Your input is an important part of this process.



**TE PAE SCHOOL**  
TOGETHER WE RISE  
KOKIRITIA KI UTA

## Celebrating Success

One of our amazing students, Bharath, has had an outstanding achievement on the cricket field this season.

Bharath plays for the Parnell Cricket Club in the Under 12 Limited Overs (30 overs) grade each Saturday afternoon. In a thrilling, high-scoring match last weekend, Bharath led his team to a 14-run victory with an incredible innings of 80 runs off just 46 balls — a club record for his grade!

Even more impressively, this is the second-highest score recorded across the entire Auckland grade this season.

What a phenomenal accomplishment! We are so proud of you, Bharath — keep up the amazing work! 🏏



BN	Bharath Nishant			
Not Out				
80*	46	14	0	173.91



**PLEASE REMEMBER**  
**WE ARE A NUT**  
**FREE SCHOOL**



## Science of Learning in our Classrooms

As part of our ongoing implementation of the Science of Learning (SoL), you may be noticing some consistent classroom routines across the whole school. These routines are intentional and designed to maximise focus, learning, and student success.

**Explicit Teaching Time** - Explicit teaching is a short, highly focused period of direct instruction from the teacher. This usually lasts around 15–20 minutes and includes:

- a clear explanation of new learning
- teacher modelling
- guided practice
- checking for understanding

As attention and working memory are limited, we minimise interruptions during this time so students can fully concentrate and successfully grasp new concepts.

During explicit teaching, students remain in the classroom unless there is an urgent need.

**Toilet Breaks** - Students are encouraged to use the bathroom during break times. Outside of explicit teaching blocks, students are able to request to go to the bathroom as needed.

This approach helps to:

- protect focused learning time
- reduce disruption for all learners
- support independence and routine

If your child has a medical need or specific circumstance, please let us know so we can provide appropriate support.

**Water Bottles & Hydration** - Hydration is important for learning and wellbeing.

- Water fountains are available during breaks.
- Water bottles are accessible during eating times.
- Students are encouraged to manage hydration during break periods.

Our aim is to balance wellbeing needs with maintaining a strong learning focus during key instructional times.

### Why This Matters

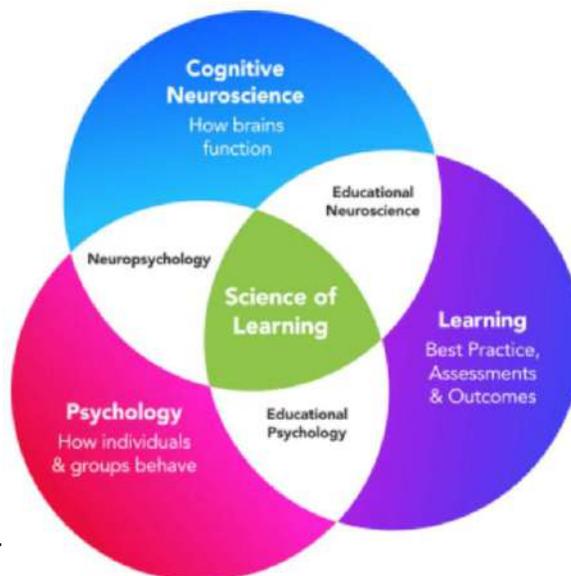
- Attention is limited.
- Working memory can easily become overloaded.
- Frequent interruptions reduce learning retention.

Research shows that learning is strongest when:

- instruction is clear and structured
- attention is protected
- distractions are minimised
- practice is guided and purposeful

These routines help create calm, focused classrooms where all students can thrive.

**Questions?** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or speak with a member of the SLT.



# KEA TEAM

## WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO



P.E

Exploring nature



Learning classroom routines



Making Kiwi art



Exploring habitats for Inquiry



Exploring and participating in the Kiwi Kick Stars taster sessions





This term we have been learning about animals and their habitats. Our Inquiry topic is 'Restoring Taonga: Bringing Back the Wild, so we have looked at native and endemic species and pests. At The Zoo, there was a keeper called Chris and he took us through a lot of things like the different traps and how they work. He also talked to us about ecosystem restoration and said that before we want to restore anything we need to understand what's already there. If we don't, we can't help. They use ink in the traps to identify foot prints and we got to have a go. The rest of the day was spent wandering around and looking at the animals including the sea krait, lions, and kiwi. Looking at the different habitats for the different animals was amazing! Thanks Auckland Zoo and our amazing parent helpers!

Una, Year 6

# KĀKĀPŌ ZOO TRIP

RESTORING TAONGA

Up close and personal with a beautiful Weta and a stunning Ruru at The Zoo's 'Hidden New Zealand' Keeper talk.



## School Notices:



For our Policies and Procedures please visit SchoolDocs at:

[www.schooldocs.co.nz/](http://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.

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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](http://www.skids.co.nz/whenuapai)

BOOK NOW at: [www.skids.co.nz/book](http://www.skids.co.nz/book)

search for Whenuapai



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.



## Rubbish Free Lunchboxes are:



# Healthier, Cheaper & Way better for Whenuapai (good land)

### Here's what happened at another NZ school that asked all their students to pack Nood Food Lunches:

"The children are loving the food - it is a lot more nutritious. We are noticing **better focus in the afternoons after lunch.** Even after the first week there was a huge change," says Heather.

As well as **eliminating waste,** Heather says they wanted to help families **save some money.**

"We tried to show them that by decanting big bags of things into a lunchbox, they **could stop waste and save money.**" she says.

Other spinoffs are that children are **proud of their lunches;** some have **started making their own lunches** and some of the youngest children, who can take a long time to eat their lunches, **now manage to finish eating their lunches** because **they're not spending time opening up packets.**"



**Hornby Primary School**  
*Read the rest of the article here*



DANCE 24 SEVEN

# FREE TRIAL CLASS

We offer classes for all ages in:  
Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap,  
Contemporary and Musical  
Theatre!

To sign up for your free trial:  
[www.dance247.co.nz](http://www.dance247.co.nz)

12 Kawakawa Place, Northwest

## Inclusive Ice Skating Session for Neurodiverse Children

Hosted in collaboration with Glenburn Figure Skating Club



**Date:** Saturday 7th March 2026

**Time:** 11.45am-12.15pm and 12.15pm -12.45pm  
\*please arrive 30mins prior to starting

**Location:** Paradise Ice Skating Avondale, 150 Lansford Cres Auckland 0600

**Cost:** Free to attend or optional donation to Autism New Zealand

**Registration session - 11.45am-12.15pm - [Click Here for Session 1](#)**

**Registration session - 12.15pm -12.45pm - [Click Here for Session 2](#)**

**What to Bring:** Warm clothes, gloves, socks and a sense of adventure!

- Helmets or approved headbands are compulsory for all skaters.
- You're welcome to bring your own, or borrow one free of charge from the rink.

### Join us for a magical morning on the ice!

This special session is designed to support and celebrate neurodiverse children in a safe, welcoming, and sensory-considerate environment.

**Skating Together:** A Supportive Experience - Join Sheryl Squier — a passionate primary school teacher and competitive ice skater — for a supportive ice skating session designed especially for neurodiverse children. This inclusive experience is proudly hosted in collaboration with Glenburn Figure Skating Club and a team of experienced, compassionate coaches who are passionate about making ice skating accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

**Spots are limited – register early!**

For questions or more info, contact: Sheryl

[sherylsquier@gmail.com](mailto:sherylsquier@gmail.com)





**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 8<sup>th</sup> October)

**Time:** Lunch time

**Cost:** \$108 per term (8 weeks)

Second child discount of 10% applies!

**TO REGISTER GO TO [WWW.KIWICKICKSTARS.COM](http://WWW.KIWICKICKSTARS.COM)**



**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.



New Zealand Football



**Join MILO Fantails today!**

**Football & Futsal for Girls (Ages 4–13)**  
Fantails is a programme created just for girls, offering a safe, welcoming, and fun way to play football and futsal.



- No experience needed – perfect for beginners or those wanting a girls only experience.
- Make new friends in a supportive environment.
- Fun & social – play without pressure.
- Build skills & confidence on and off the field.

**Fantails is all about friendship, fun, and football — with hubs nationwide, there's a place for every girl to shine.**

For more info or to find a MILO Fantails hub, scan the QR code or go [www.nzfootball.co.nz/milo-fantails-programme](http://www.nzfootball.co.nz/milo-fantails-programme)




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# go-deli **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**

# go-deli **introducing** **our NEW** **NOURISHING** **label**

**Nourishing ✓**

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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