



Tokomaru School Newsletter

Thursday 19th February 2026



Principal's Pen

Kia ora koutou,

Last week we loved welcoming our whānau back to school at our annual Welcome Back BBQ. A huge thank you to Mr Kool for all the ice creams; with swimming, sports equipment out, the BBQ, and so many of our students and their families, it was a fantastic way to start the year! A big thanks to the Home and School Association for their support.

Next week we look forward to our Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. These are an important opportunity to connect and celebrate progress, as well as set goals together for the term ahead. Bookings will be available through Hero - we encourage all families to make a time to meet with your child's teacher.

We are also proud to share that a group of our Kapa Haka students will be attending a Kāhui Ako initiative at Palmerston North Boys' High School next week. They will experience a pōwhiri and participate in three workshop rotations focused on kaupapa Māori and building understanding of Te Ao Māori and Rangitāne Mātauranga, including Waiata, Ngā Tākaro Māori, and Pūrākau. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to deepen their cultural knowledge and strengthen their connection to Te Ao Māori. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and learning from them.



Mel Ryan, Principal.

Term One Dates

Monday 26th January - Thursday 2nd April

Good Friday - Friday 3rd April

Easter Monday - Monday 6th April

Easter Tuesday - Tuesday 7th April



Upcoming Dates

Friday 20th February

- Variety Morning Tea

Tuesday 24th February

- Epic Music Lessons

Wednesday 25th February

- Year 7&8 Technology
- Parent Teacher Pupil Conferences 3:15pm - 5:30pm

Thursday 26th February

- Parent Teacher Pupil Conferences 3:15pm - 5:30pm

Friday 27th February

- Variety Morning Tea

Tuesday 3rd March

- Epic Music Lessons

Wednesday 4th March

- Year 7&8 Technology

Friday 6th March

- Variety Morning Tea
- School Assembly 13:30pm
- School Triathlon 1:50pm

Sports

Our classes are looking fantastic as they prepare for the upcoming Swimming Showcase! It's been great to see students building their confidence, refining their technique, and showing perseverance in the pool.

Summer Hockey and Netball kick off next week – exciting times ahead! Please keep an eye on the Facebook group messenger for game times and important updates.

If your child needs to borrow a hockey stick, please let me know ASAP so I can organise a school stick for them.

A reminder that all hockey players must have:

- ✓ A mouth guard
- ✓ Shin pads

Sports uniforms will be issued before games begin.

Let's hope this miserable weather clears up soon so we can get underway with our School Triathlon training! Fingers crossed for some sunshine so we can get stuck into it.

Looking forward to another sport-tastic week ahead! 💪★

Miss T & Matua Murray

School Lunches

As part of the Healthy School Lunch programme, we get nutritious and tasty lunches each day!

A huge thanks to the lunch coordinators at Shannon School, to our student lunch helpers for serving our school every day, and to Roxanne for all the administrative tasks.

We sent Shannon School a bag of apples from our school orchard and the lunch coordinators have turned them into apple sauce for our pork today! Yummy!

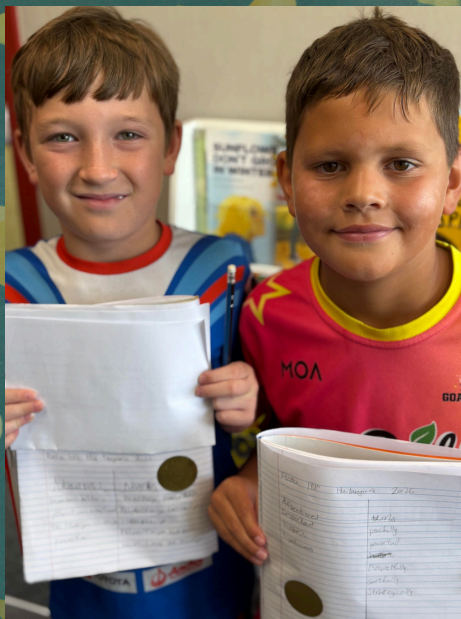


Student Stars

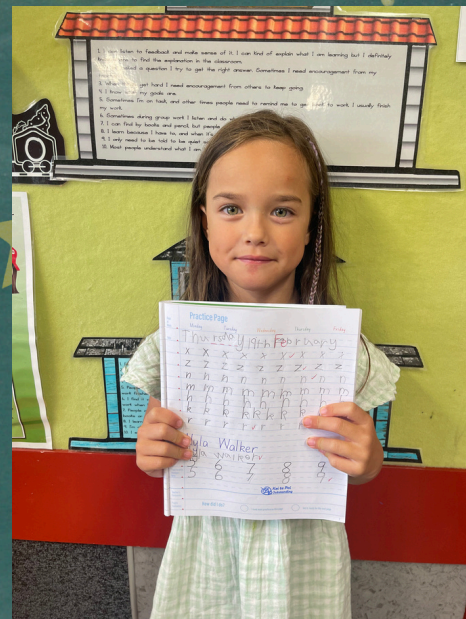
Te Tutuki i te kairanga



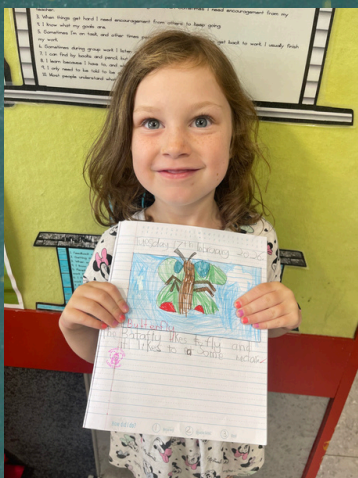
Hattie in her dress for Chinese New Year!



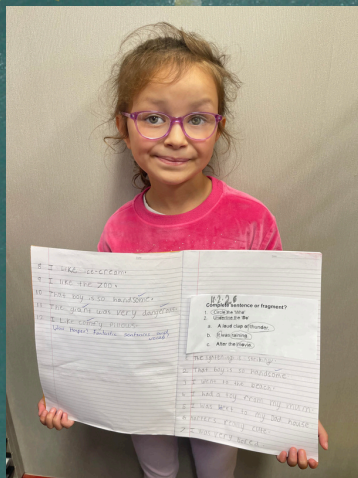
Cooper & Carlos showing their learning about adjectives and adverbs!



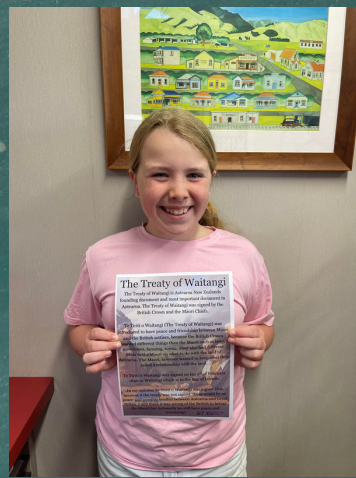
Nyla's amazing effort in handwriting!



Eve's super story writing!



Harper's incredible writing!



Emily's impressive Waitangi writing!



Andrew's Lucky Library Ticket!

Check out Room 1's incredible Chinese New Year display! Gàn de hǎo room 1!



Staff PD Spotlight

Last week, our teaching team took part in a Ministry of Education Maths curriculum day with Turitea and Newbury Schools' teaching teams, focused on understanding the changes to the curriculum and what this means for our teaching practice.

What we explored

- Navigating the updated curriculum through Taurangi and other online resources
- The new year-by-year teaching sequences, outlining the knowledge (facts, concepts, principles) and practices (skills, strategies, applications) to be taught at each level
- Changes to strands and elements, including updates to statistics, probability, and "maths language"
- The importance of explicit teaching, especially building strong number knowledge and place value understanding
- What's next for us
- Strengthening our planning for explicit teaching (year plans, unit plans, and weekly plans)
- Reviewing how our current maths resources - including Oxford Maths resources - align with and support the new curriculum
- Taking stock of classroom materials and equipment that support hands-on learning
- Continuing staff discussions about accelerating students' progress

Our focus moving forward is to ensure consistent, high-quality maths teaching that builds deep understanding, confidence, and success for all our learners.

We thank you for your support of this day, with our next Curriculum day being held during the second week of the school holidays in April.



Welcome Back BBQ!



Weird, but true...

Humpback whales sing loud, complicated songs that last up to 30 minutes.



Tokomaru Cubs and Scouts

Join the adventure!

Cubs - aged 8 to 11, Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:30pm
 First night - 4th February 2026

Scouts - aged 11 to 14, Mondays 6:30 to 8:00pm
 First night - 2nd February 2026

Location: Tokomaru Scout Hall



Activities: Focus on fun while developing Leadership and Teamwork skills through indoor and outdoor activities including: Camping, Cooking, Kayaking, Tramping, Community Service and Earning Badges

Contact – Tokomaru@group.scouts.nz.

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Katrina Lawton
Librarian
Teacher Aide



Hayley Westrupp
Teacher Aide



Damian Groves
Caretaker

Home & School

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School Reps: Mel Ryan & Torah Toney
Grants Officer: Adele Coles
Parent Reps: Chante Lennon, Kylie
Winiata, Kelly McDermott.

Bank Account Info

Tokomaru School
(Board Account)
12-3143-0428358-00

Tokomaru School
(Home & School Account)
12-3143-0428358-01

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