



Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

Term 1 - Week 5 - March 2, 2026

KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

It has been a noisy start to 2026 but we are pleased to see the rebuild of Room 1 and the new admin block get away. Each day we see more and more of the building be demolished and are eagerly awaiting the rebuild phase. Hopefully it will be more quiet, but somehow I don't think so!

Thanks to Jamie Love and Kōtare who are the most affected by the noise. I am in awe of how you just shift spaces, utilise the outdoor area when it gets too much. Special mention has to go to Courtney who has to try and do her mahi in a classroom shared by Tracey Morgan, any teacher on release, and me! It isn't easy working in these conditions but you do it with a smile.

Thanks to the staff who are constantly finding work arounds to being in a construction zone. Hui a Kura is now Hui a Tuakana ropu or Hui a Teina ropu, meeting at 2.20 in Teams is a great solution. We are now working on how to keep our Whanau Hui as these times are a core part of keeping our whanau based school culture. This is where we work in multi aged groups on our PB4L or behaviour expectations, gain Whanau spirit, and do Enviro mahi.

The build is expected to go on through to mid year - July, so we have a ways to go. The plans are on display in the temporary staffroom if you want to see the end result.

This years **Inquiry Learning focus is on Growing Eco Innovators** and we have kicked it off in Term 1 with a Science Inquiry (Planet Earth and Beyond) to explore the Big Idea that: **Our Place is unique; Ocean Beach, Whangarei Harbour and ancient volcanoes.** Each class is taking its own individual spin but ask your child, what are they learning? The Teina team is about to explore the natural jetty in Taurikura on a EOTC trip next week as one example.

The teacher's major Professional Learning and Development focus for 2026 is to dive deeper into the teaching and learning of Writing. We are looking at what the recently refreshed English Curriculum requires of us and comparing that to what we know is effective practice in Writing, creating a WHS Writing Delivery Statement as we go.

EOTC is about to get underway with the Kōtare and Kororā Mangawhai camp next week and Kārearea EOTC week in Week 9 as well as the forementioned trip to the Natural Jetty for the Teina team. It is wonderful to see us accessing the environment for learning, this is a core feature of our localised curriculum.

Kelly

Coming Events:

Week 5 - Mar 2-6

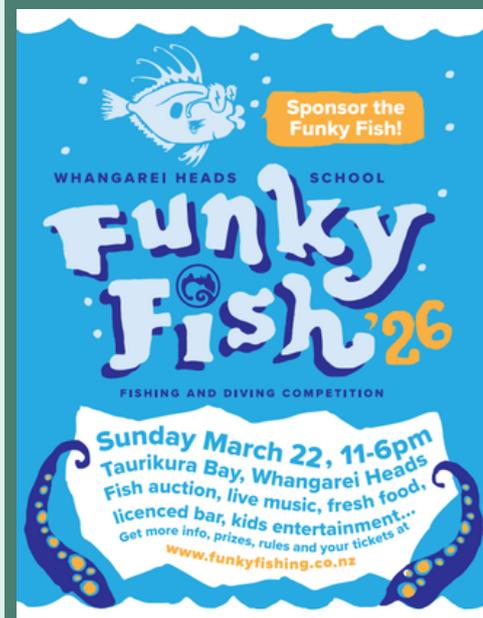
Mar 4 - Zone Swimming
WHS vs PBS

Week 6 - Mar 9-13

Mar 10 - Yr7&8s EMR Reotahi
Mar 11 - WPSSA Swimming
Mar 11-12 Kotare & Korora
Camp - Mangawhai

Week 7 - Mar 16-20

Funky Fish Preparation!
Return all raffle books - sold
and unsold
Funky Fish - March 22



Our Place to Grow and Learn together

Ko tātou kura, kia tipu, kia ako ngātahi

Communication at WHS

We are moving to having a monthly newsletter. We were finding that the fortnight would roll around so quickly that we were often struggling for things to share. Or that we needed to share more immediately, so then the information was sent out via DOJO and Facebook rather than the newsletter. Let's give it a go for 6 months and then let us know if you miss the more regular newsletter.

To help our staff have a good work life balance we are going to work harder to ensure that we are not answering emails after our office hours. This is when we spend time with our whanau, or do the things that bring us joy :)

Emails will be answered between 8-5pm on Monday to Fridays, our office hours.

DOJO messages will be seen by teachers between 8-8:40am and from 3:20- 5pm.

If you message between 8.40am to 3pm they may not see it as they are busy teaching, or on duty at break times.

Any urgent messages, those that need to be seen that day, should go through Courtney in the office.

Please note: any messages received, even to Courtney, after 2.30pm, may not be able to be passed on before the first bus.

If your child is absent can you please contact the office and leave a message either on the voice mail, or email or use DOJO before 9.30am. It is a requirement of the Attendance Management Plan that you let us know the reason for the absence so we can code it correctly.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we try to carve back some of our after work hours.

Phones away for the day

At the start of 2025 the Government implement the Phones away for the day policy.

If you need to you can see the full policy on School Docs or request our inhouse one via the office.

But in short there are to be no cellphones at school. These are to be handed in at the start of the day, and collected by students at the end of the day. This also includes Smart watches and Fitbits that have communication apps.

Because we are unable to police who has switched these to silent mode during school hours, we ask that these are kept at home.

Attendance Term 4

Well done! For the third term in a row we improved our attendance rate by 10%.

Thank you to the whanau who are reducing the amount of time taken out of school for holidays in term time. As well as those of you who encourage your child along to school every day, unless they are genuinely unwell.

We have set a further target of 10% more children attending regularly to bring us within 70% of children at WHS attending 90% of the time.

If you are the 4% who are often late, let's see if you can get to school before 9am this year!

The full Attendance Management plan is on the Website for you to read.



Whangarei Heads School

School Docs is the online webtool that holds all our School Policy and Procedure statements. If you are ever unsure of anything you can log on and read for yourself.

Username: whangareiheads

Password: caring

Each term there are policies for review. If you are keen, you are welcome to log in and find the review tab and add your thoughts. These are discussed at Board Hui in the meeting at Week 8 each term.

Term 4 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

Regular Attendance

68%

Compared to 58% in Term 4, 2024

Irregular Absence 20%

Compared to 32% in Term 4, 2024

Moderate Absence 5%

Compared to 7% in Term 4, 2024

Chronic Absence 6%

Compared to 4% in Term 4, 2024

What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

1. (M) Illness / Medical Absence 58%
2. (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 18%
3. (G) Holiday 16%
4. (J) Explained and Approved 7%
5. (?) Unknown (Temporary) 1%

How many students were on time to class?

96% of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)

Our people - School Organisation 2026

2026 SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Kaiako

Ariki Team

Principal	Ms Kelly Ward	Whaea Kelly		
Deputy Principal	Mrs Tracey Morgan	Ms Morgan	CRT release teacher - Tuakana Team	Kārearea - Monday
	Mr Dane Higgison	Matua Dane	Year 3 & 4	Ruru
<u>Teachers</u>	Ms Alex Hunter	Whaea Alex	Year 0 & 1	Piwakawaka
	Mrs Fiona Ellis	Mrs E	Year 1 & 2	Tui
	Ms Sharon Allen	Ms Allen	Year 4 & 5	Kororā
	Mrs Emily Drake	Mrs Drake	Year 4 & 5	Kororā
	Ms Jamie Love	Ms Love	Year 5 & 6	Kōtare
	Mr Penn Evans	Matua Penn	Year 7 & 8	Kārearea
	Mrs Sara Robinson	Whaea Sara	CRT release teacher - Teina Team	Piwakawaka Wednesday
SENCO	Ms Kelly Ward and Mrs Tracey Morgan			
Structured Literacy Intervention	Sian Morris			
LSC	Mrs Laetitia McKenzie			
RTLB	Deborah Waikato			

Kaimahi



Administration	Ms Courtney Telfer
Caretaker	Mr Greg Ferrar
Cleaning Contractor	Syphia - Native Escape
Library	Mrs Aileen Ashman
Teacher Aide	Jenny Snell
Teacher Aide	Dulcie Hering

Board

Chairpersons	Rebecca Brown
Principal	Kelly Ward
Staff Representative	Dane Higgison
Member	Steph Versteeg
Member	Amy Macdonald
Member	David McDonald
Member	Luke Ogle

Complaints Procedure

Like all organisations we don't always get it 100% right 100% of the time. If you do have a question or concern we ask that you address it early and with the right person.

The following diagram explains the Complaints process at WHS:

Whangarei Heads School



Complaints Procedure

Make a time to meet with the class teacher to discuss your concern.



If you don't feel you were "heard" or the matter wasn't resolved then talk to the Team Leaders:

Teina Team
Dane Higgison

Tuakana Team
Tracey Morgan



If you don't feel you were "heard" or the matter wasn't resolved then contact Kelly Ward - Principal



If your concern hasn't been resolved by the previous steps then a formal complaint can be made to the Board.

You can find the steps for making a Formal Complaint on School Docs or contact Courtney at the office to send you a copy of the process.

Swimming Sports!

We had a great turn out of school whanau and a beautiful sunny day for our swimming sport on Tuesday. Whether swimming competitively or participating for whanau house points, we are so proud of our students for doing their best and cheering on every student who entered the pool! Well done everyone!



Zone Swimming Qualifiers

These students will be competing against Parua Bay School's top swimmers in our interschool competition!

Daisy	Lucy	Jess B	Banos
Riley	Shani	Baxter	Max
Nico G	Niko F	Mikki	Ezra
Isla B	Joey	Juno	Cruz
Tamar	Primrose	Sailor	Tim
Hunter K	Zeke	Jimmy	

Trees for Survival Update!

Our Trees for Survival plants have GROWN! This morning Matua Dane, Whaea Jessie and students from Ruru Class did an awesome job pruning the mānuka, karamū, harakeke and grasses. We have placed the tī kōuka (cabbage trees) under the growing unit to give everyone a little more space. Thank you Ruru Class you have helped these plants to grow dense and bushy (rather than skinny and straggly) you have also ensured the water will reach all of the plants. We are all looking forward to planting these trees out this winter.



TREES
for Survival

MANAIA

MANAIA HOCKEY RALLY DAY

Wednesday 4th March 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Parua Bay School Turf

Boys & Girls - Year 2 to Year 8

No experience needed, come and have a hit around

Bring your hockey gear for a fun hit:

- Stick
- Mouthguard
- Shin pads
- Suitable shoes

WHY JOIN HOCKEY?

- Be part of a team
- Build confidence & skills
- Stay active & have fun
- Make awesome friendships

Bring a friend!

WE NEED COACHES!

If you'd like to step up and help one of our amazing teams

COME GIVE HOCKEY A GO!

No registration needed - just show up!

DO YOU WANT TO PLAY Netball?

RALLY DAY
WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH - 3.30PM
AT PARUA BAY SCHOOL

ANY YEAR 1-8 POTENTIAL AND RETURNING PLAYERS CAN COME ALONG TO FIND OUT ALL ABOUT NETBALL FOR 2026. WE WILL HAVE SOME FUN DRILLS AND GAMES, MEET SOME OF THE COACHES AND TRY ON UNIFORMS FOR SIZING. SEE YOU THERE!

CONTACT US AT NETBALL@MANAIA.GMAIL.COM

MANAIA JUNIOR RUGBY

Register Now!

MANAIA JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

RALLY DAY 2026 SEASON!

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 5:00PM

ROSS FAMILY TRUST FIELDS
 Behind PB Community Centre

REGISTER ON THE DAY OR PRE REGISTER FOR A GIFT

Come down to learn more, sign up, play a game of touch and have sausage sizzle!

MAKE FRIENDS . GET FIT . BE PART OF A TEAM . HAVE FUN

TRAINING TO COMMENCE IN MARCH
 SIGN UP NOW TO HELP WITH TEAM ASSIGNMENT

WE ARE LOOKING FOR GIRLS & BOYS TO JOIN OUR CLUB!

Children ages 3 to 11 dependent on registration numbers
 Children under 7 play Rippa Rugby which is a non-contact sport
 Tackle Rugby is played Under 8's team and up.
 Get in touch for more information - manaiajuniorrugby@gmail.com

GIRL'S CRICKET LEAGUE

Two grades:

- Yr 4-6 girls
- Yr 7-10 girls

Girl's only!

No Experience required
 Fun 6 per-side games
 No Equipment required

Every Tuesday night starting 10th of February @5pm

Kensington Park

register now for free! ~ Using the link below

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/85b381>



Whangārei Heads School

OUT-OF-ZONE ENROLMENTS

OPEN FOR TERM 2, 2026

1 place available Year 7&8
3 places available Year 6
1 place available Year 3&4
3 places available Year 2
1 place available New Entrant

Ballot closes Monday, March 23, 2026

Ballot drawn Friday, March 27, 2026

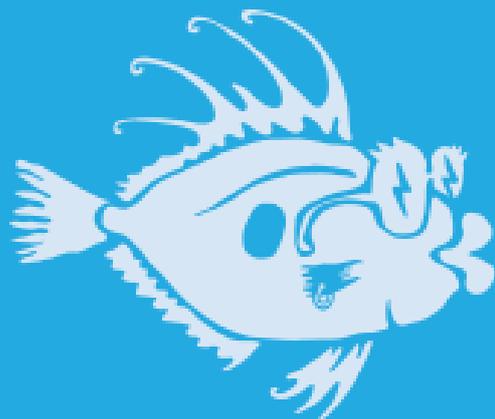
For more information regarding the ballot, please
contact our school office via email
office@whangareiheads.school.nz

<http://www.whangareiheads.school.nz>

Our Place to Grow and Learn Together

Ko tātou kura, kia tipu, kia ako ngātahi





**Sponsor the
Funky Fish!**

WHANGAREI HEADS

SCHOOL

Funky Fish '26

FISHING AND DIVING COMPETITION

Sunday March 22, 11-6pm
Taurikura Bay, Whangarei Heads
Fish auction, live music, fresh food,
licenced bar, kids entertainment...
Get more info, prizes, rules and your tickets at

www.funkyfishing.co.nz

RAFFLE PRIZE PACKS!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Ticket packs
coming
home with
students later
this week!

THE PERFECT DAY (VALUED AT \$629)

Family cruise pass with Dive Tutukaka for 2 adults, 2 children

RIDE THE WAVES (VALUED AT \$500)

Win a surfboard - the perfect prize for surfers of all ages to enjoy the stunning Northland coastline

LAWN & GARDEN READY (VALUED AT \$500)

Win a complete lawn care package including a lawn mower, line trimmer, and essential accessories.

COSY WINTER ESCAPE (VALUED AT \$420)

Win a two night winter stay at Shores for up to four people - the perfect coastal getaway to relax and unwind.

CAPTURE A SLICE OF LIFE (VALUED AT \$399)

Family portrait session with local photographer

SUMMER CHILLY BIN OF GOODIES (VALUED AT \$350)

Win a summer essentials pack - a chilly bin loaded with goodies for beach days and family picnics.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE (VALUED AT \$300)

Win Hunting & Fishing vouchers - perfect for outdoor enthusiasts planning their next adventure in Northland.

LOCAL FAVOURITES (VALUED AT \$200)

Win a meal voucher for Parua Bay Tavern for great food and stunning harbour views.

TOASTIE NIGHT IN (\$200)

Win a sandwich press paired with kitchen accessories and gourmet treats.



22ND MARCH

www.funkyfishing.co.nz

WHANGAREI HEADS SCHOOL

**Funky
Fish '26**

FISHING AND DIVING COMPETITION