



# Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

**Term 4 - Week 6 - November 14, 2025**

## KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

It has been a turbulent time in Education recently following several announcements by the Government including;

- a 3rd edition of the English and Mathematics Curriculum to be implemented in 2026
- draft curriculums for consultation in other learning areas; Technology, The Arts, PE and Health, Social Sciences, Science
- changing the Education Act to remove of the requirement for Boards to Give Effect to Te Tiriti
- involvement of the Government in the professional body - the NZ Teacher's Council.

Our staff and Board were particularly concerned by the changes made to the English and Mathematics Curriculum. We have invested a lot of time, during Staff hui and Kaimahi Only Days, to learn and embed the Curriculum that was gazetted at the start of this year. It is frustrating that we are going to need to begin again with this new updated Curriculum, the third Curriculum change in as many years.

We have serious concerns at the large amount of content in this new curriculum. An example of this is that there are 65 mathematical concepts to be taught to children in their first year at school. A school year is 40 weeks long, so these very young children are going to need to change concepts every 2 or 3 days. This does not help build a strong foundation.

We are also highly concerned at the Government's intention to change the Education Act removing the requirement for Boards to honour Te Tiriti, and what this means for the future of our schools in New Zealand. Giving effect to Te Tiriti means that we can celebrate the unique Māori culture and create a sense of whanaungatanga or belonging for all our students. The importance of valuing Te Ao Māori (Māori World View) came from a desire to improve achievement outcomes for all students. Here at Whangārei Heads continuing to build the use of Te Reo Māori and Tikanga was a strong message from you, our community, during the current Strategic Planning review. We will continue to include Te Ao Māori at Whangārei Heads School, as part of our Strategic Plan moving forward.

Thanks for your ongoing awahi (support) as we continue to navigate these changes, but also, most importantly follow what we know is right for "Our Place".

Kelly

## Coming Events:

### Week 7 - Nov 17-21

Nov 19 - WPSSA Athletics Y7/8  
Nov 20 - Y6 Manaia Tech Demo

### Week 8 - Nov 24-28

Nov 26 - WPSSA Y5&6 Athletics

### Week 9 - Dec 1-5

Dec 1 - Dryland Swim Sessions  
Dec 2 - Board Meeting 6pm  
Dec 3 - Te Whanga - Parua Bay  
Dec 4 - Ruru Class Camp

### Week 10 - Dec 8-12

Dec 9 - Y8 Leavers Dinner  
Dec 11 - School Market Day

### Week 11 - Dec 15-17

Dec 15 - Christmas Tree Evening  
(Full School Prizegiving)  
Dec 17 - Last Day of School  
12pm Finish



**Our Place to Grow and Learn together**

Ko tātou kura, kia tipu, kia ako ngāhahi

# WHS Board letter to community and Minister Stanford in regards to changes to legislation requiring Boards to Give Effect to Te Tiriti

## Whangārei Heads School



Thursday 13th November,

Kia ora e te whānau

Our school board would like to share our stance following the passing of the legislation that removes the obligation for school boards to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We are in strong disagreement with this direction.

As we sit under majestic Mount Manaia we remain committed to Te Tiriti. Removing this expectation weakens the commitment to equity. This is about fostering a truly inclusive education system for all our ākonga. Embedding Te Tiriti principles leads to improved engagement, achievement and wellbeing for ALL students, especially Māori.

We believe strong communities are fostered through partnership, not by rolling back commitment.

At Whangārei Heads School the Board will continue to honour the principles of Te Tiriti in our role ensuring it enriches our school and ākonga. We do so, not because it is required by law, but because it is required by integrity, justice and our shared belief in the potential of every ākonga.

We have come far as a school and we look forward to Te Tiriti guiding our mahi for the future. Our commitment remains unwavering.  
He waka eke noa- we are all in this together.

Ngā mihi nui

Whangārei Heads School Board

## School Organisation for 2026

### Teina Team (Junior Team) - Led by Matua Dane

Piwakawaka NE / Y1 Whaea Alex (Whaea Sara 1 day a week)  
Tui Y1/ Y2 Mrs E  
Ruru Y3/ Y4 Matua Dane  
Classroom Release in Teina Team - Whaea Sara

### Tuakana Team (Senior Team) - Led by Mrs Morgan

Korora Y4 / Y5 Ms Allen / Mrs Drake  
Kotare Y6 Ms Love  
Kareaera Y7 / Y8 Matua Penn (Mrs Morgan 1 day a week)  
Classroom Release in Tuakana Team - Mrs Morgan

We are looking forward to starting, finally, our Block 2 or Admin Block rebuild and refurbishment. Once the organisation for this is confirmed I can confirm the places for each of the classes next year.

As part of the preparation for the upcoming build we sadly have to lose the Oak tree nearest the admin block. This is right where the future office space for Courtney will be! It will be sad to see this toanga go.



# Phases of learning and reporting to parents

Teachers are currently working on preparing the end of year reports to parents and caregivers.

This will be a bit of a more complicated process as we will be reporting on the February 2025 Curriculum for Reading, Writing and Mathematics which uses Phases of Learning. This is the new curriculum we have been learning this year.

Phase 1 - Year 1-3

Phase 2 - Year 4-6

Phase 3 - Year 7-8

Teachers will be describing your child's progress within their Year Level based on the following 5 Progress Descriptors:

Five progress descriptors		
For use in 2026 onwards		
Progress Descriptor	Indicators for Teachers	Descriptions for Parents and Whānau
<b>1 Emerging</b> Students require support to meet curriculum expectations for their year level and/or goals as described in their personalised learning plan.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand some concepts and strategies for learning with significant guidance and assistance.</li> <li>Can make some connections and apply knowledge with significant guidance and assistance.</li> <li>Make progress in line with goals described in their personalised learning plan, with significant support.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is beginning to understand some learning ideas for their year level with a lot of support.</li> <li>Can sometimes use knowledge they've learned, but usually needs help to do so.</li> <li>Is making some progress in ways that are meaningful and aligned to their strengths and needs, with significant support.</li> </ul>
<b>2 Developing</b> Students are making some progress towards curriculum expectations for their year level.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand concepts and strategies for learning with some guidance.</li> <li>Can learn facts and apply knowledge, in familiar contexts with some support.</li> <li>Are making progress with new knowledge towards meeting year level expectations or are progressing with support to accelerate learning towards expectations for their year level.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is starting to understand key ideas, often with some support.</li> <li>Can remember facts and use what they've learned in familiar situations, with a bit of help.</li> <li>With the right support, your child is making progress towards the expectation for their year level.</li> </ul>
<b>3 Consolidating</b> Students are meeting many curriculum expectations for their year level and are steadily strengthening their understanding across learning areas.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply familiar strategies to reinforce their learning with increasing independence.</li> <li>Often recall and use knowledge with growing confidence.</li> <li>Are beginning to transfer knowledge to new contexts.</li> <li>Can reflect on and explain their ideas clearly to express what they could do better.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is learning to use helpful techniques on their own to support their learning.</li> <li>Is getting better at remembering and using what they have learned.</li> <li>Is starting to use what they know in new and different situations.</li> <li>Can share their ideas and is beginning to talk about what they would do better.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Proficient</b> Students are meeting curriculum expectations for their year level.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can consistently apply learning strategies confidently, accurately and independently.</li> <li>Can independently use their knowledge in a variety of situations.</li> <li>Can often apply knowledge to new contexts.</li> <li>Can reflect on and explain their ideas clearly, explain their reasoning and apply this to improve their learning.</li> <li>Often shares their ideas to grow and build knowledge.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can use helpful learning techniques on their own and knows how to use them well.</li> <li>Can use what they've learned in different situations without help.</li> <li>Can often use what they know in new situations.</li> <li>Can share their thoughts clearly and explain their reasoning.</li> <li>Often shares their ideas to build knowledge.</li> </ul>
<b>5 Exceeding</b> Students are exceeding curriculum expectations for their year level.	<b>Students:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use higher level thinking strategies to reflect on their learning.</li> <li>Consistently connect ideas and concepts across different contexts.</li> <li>Deepen their ideas, thinking and understanding.</li> <li>Can use their learning in purposeful and innovative ways to make sense of complex ideas.</li> <li>Consistently reflects on ideas to test, challenge and extend their knowledge.</li> </ul>	<b>Your child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows advanced thinking by understanding tricky ideas, solving problems, making connections, and explaining their thinking clearly.</li> <li>Can link what they've learned in one area or situation to another.</li> <li>Can build on their ideas and show deeper understanding.</li> <li>Can use what they've learned in thoughtful and creative ways to understand more challenging ideas.</li> <li>Tests and challenges ideas to create deeper knowledge.</li> </ul>

The Ministry of Education has prepared a statement for whanau that states that due to the changes in the content of this new Curriculum and the new assessment tools used to determine achievement you may see a change in your child's progress in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Then for the remaining Curriculum areas such as Technology, Health, PE, the Arts, Social Sciences we will be using the previous curriculum that still uses Levels. This table to help you identify where your child should be at.

Expected Curriculum Levels of Achievement at Whangarei Heads School							
After 1 year	After 2 years	After 3 years	End of Year 4	End of Year 5	End of Year 6	End of Year 7	End of Year 8
New Zealand Curriculum Level - All subjects B = Beginning P = Proficient (Middle) A = Advanced							
Within Level 1 (L1B/L1P)	At Level 1 (L1A)	Towards Level 2 (L2B)	At Level 2 (L2P - L2A)	Towards Level 3 (L3B)	At level 3 (L3P-3A)	Towards Level 4 (L4B)	At Level 4 (L4P-L4A)

A information letter will be in your child's report to help you understand these changes. It is quite complex as we are working across two different curriculum currently.



# Athletics Days

We have had two wonderful Athletics Days here at school recently. First we had the interschool athletics with Parua Bay - while we hosted all year 7&8s, our year 5&6s competed at Parua Bay School. This week we held our Junior Athletics Day. Despite the threat of rain we had a great turn out of parents and grandparents, cheering on our Year 0-4 students.







# Thank You Bryce Thorne Builders!



We want to say a big thanks Bryce and Alannah for your generous donation of plants for the new garden at the school sign, down on the main road. We are looking forward to seeing this garden come together!



**Beauden, Isla G, George,  
Caden, Mikki, Bodhi,  
Shylah & Hunter M**

## 2025 Dates

Te Whanga - Wednesday, December 3  
Leavers Dinner - Tuesday, December 9  
School Christmas Market - Thursday,  
December 11  
Christmas Tree Evening (Prize Giving) -  
Monday, December 15  
Term 4 Ends - December 17 at 12pm

## 2026 Term Dates

Term 1 - February 4 to April 2  
Term 2 - April 20 to July 3  
Term 3 - July 20 to September 25  
Term 4 - October 12 to December 16



**Te Mahau**  
Term 4 2025

[IN-CONFIDENCE - RELEASE EXTERNAL]

**Te Manawa Tahī  
Community Timetable**

**WHANGĀREI  
BREAM BAY & KAIPARA**

**Do you have concerns  
about your child?**

Te Manawa Tahī is a learning support hub where you can talk to educational professionals about your child's learning needs. This is a free service.

If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional well-being or behaviour, Te Manawa Tahī have specialists available so you can discuss your concerns directly with them.

All hubs are open from 9:00am until 12:00pm unless otherwise stated.



DATE	HUB LOCATIONS	Term 4 2025, Weeks 6 to 9
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Pl, Ruakākā	
Thur 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Hikurangi School, 4 Swan Avenue, Hikurangi	
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St John Ōtamatea Ambulance Hall, 172 Hurdall St East, Maungaturoto	
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Early Years Hub Dargaville, 28 Hokianga Rd, Dargaville	
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	

**Drop into a hub** or to see a Speech Language Therapist make an appointment by phoning **0800 524 842** or emailing **TT.Support@education.govt.nz**.

[IN-CONFIDENCE - RELEASE EXTERNAL]

## KIDS LEARN TO SKI DAY!



## Learn to ski \$20

**Sunday 16 November 2025**  
**9am to 3pm**  
**Whangarei Harbour**

Bookings essential.  
Contact whangareiwaterskiclub@gmail.com or Sarah 021 1770 704

**WHANGAREI WATER SKI CLUB INC**







A nurturing environment for individuals who prioritise health, wellness and relaxation.

- Bespoke gym
- Infrared Sauna
- Contrast Therapy
- Breathwork
- Gym classes

15% off for all essential service workers on all of our memberships and casual visit rates, always.

Simply email us with proof of your job title for your discount code.

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Wellness Haven – Ocean Beach, Whangarei Heads

[www.wellnesshaven.nz](http://www.wellnesshaven.nz) [info@wellnesshaven.nz](mailto:info@wellnesshaven.nz) [@wellnesshaven.nz](https://www.instagram.com/wellnesshaven.nz)



## Market Day Items Wanted:



if you can support our students with any of the following items, please deliver to these classes:

Kotare:

- Plant Cuttings

Karearea:

- Unwanted cheese grater
- Small mason jars or jam jars (150-300ml)
- Sheet of plywood - approx 2x2m
- Essential oils

## School Market Day Thursday, December 11

Add the date to your calendars now and come along!

Bespoke, hand crafted Christmas Gifts galore!





## 2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**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,**  
**licensed bar, kids entertainment...**  
**Get more info, prizes, rules and your tickets at**  
**[www.funkyfishing.co.nz](http://www.funkyfishing.co.nz)**

Contact: [funkyfishing.whs@gmail.com](mailto:funkyfishing.whs@gmail.com)

**sign up**

	UP TO \$499 <b>BRONZE</b>	\$500 <b>SILVER</b>	\$1,000 <b>GOLD</b>	\$2500 (INC AT LEAST \$1500 CASH) <b>PLATINUM</b>
<b>DIGITAL</b>				
WEBSITE	Listed with Bronze sponsors	Listed with Silver sponsors	Listed with Gold sponsors	Large listing with Platinum sponsors
SOCIAL MEDIA		Combined Silver sponsors mention on Funky Fish social media (800+ followers)	1 x dedicated brand mention on Funky Fish social media (800+ followers) including website link	1 x dedicated brand mention on Funky Fish social media (800+ followers) including website link Brand included in Funky Fish paid social media advertising with your social media assets tagged, reaching a wider Whangarei audience 3 weeks prior to the event
Social media promo pack - posts & images to use on your social media to promote your sponsorship of the event				
<b>PRINT</b>				
ROADSIDE SIGNAGE			Roadside signage x 4	Prominent position on roadside signage x 4
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER	Name listed during event festival	Brand listing alongside other Silver sponsors	Brand listing alongside other Gold sponsors	Dedicated full page brand mention
COMMUNITY FLYER	Listed with Bronze sponsors	Listed with Silver sponsors	Listed with Gold sponsors	Large listing with Platinum sponsors
<b>EVENT DAY</b>				
SHOUTOUT	During latest sponsor shoutout on the day	During announcements on the day	Gold sponsorship recognition during the event	Platinum sponsorship recognition throughout the event
EVENT BRAND PLACEMENT*	A5 brand display	A4 brand display	A3 brand display	Large stage signage
EVENT SIGNAGE			Opportunity to display a brand banner on roadside fence at event**	Opportunity to display a brand banner on roadside fence at event AND a large banner inside the event***

\*Printed by Funky Fish. \*\*Sponsor to provide, install & dismantle. Cable ties required for fence signage to avoid damage.



## FUNKY FISH 2026

**We have set the date: 20/21<sup>st</sup> March 2026.**

This is our school's biggest annual fundraiser and a great way to meet the locals!

Want to get involved behind the scenes? There is still plenty of time to go fishing when you are on the Funky Fish Crew, so you won't miss out on the action!

The next Funky Fish Committee meeting is Tuesday, Nov 18 in the staffroom at 6pm - come along!

We are beginning the call for sponsorship from local businesses. If you are interested, or know a business owner who is interested in sponsoring Funky Fish, please contact the school office for more information.

