



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 Governments 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 (Maori 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 Maori and Tikanga was a strong message from you, our community, during the current Strategic Planning review. We will continue to include Te Ao Maori at Whangārei Heads School, as part of our Strategic Plan moving forward.

Thanks for your ongoing awhi (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 ngātahi

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 Whangarei Heads School the Board will continue to honour the principles of Te Tiriti in our role ensuring it enriches our school and akonga. 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 akonga.

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.

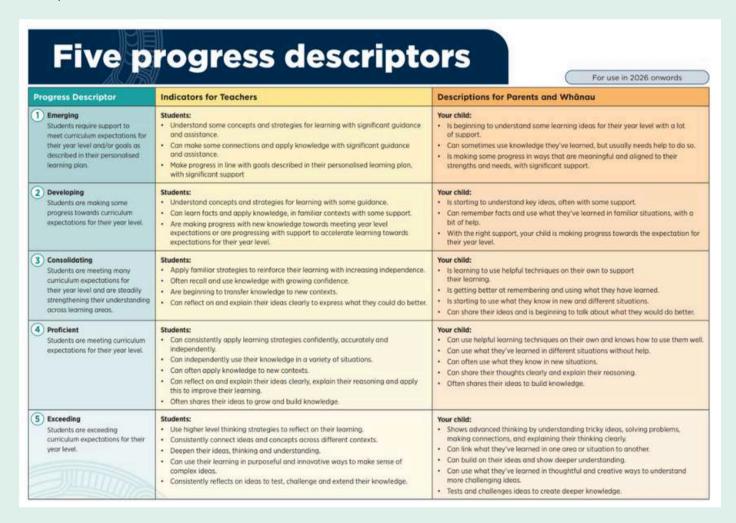
This will be a bit of a more complicated process as we will be reporting on the Februray 2025 Curriculum for Reading, Writing and Mathematics which uses Phases of Learning. This is the new curriculum we have been learning this year.

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:



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.

	Expe	ected Curriculun	n Levels of Achi	evement at Wha	angarei Heads S	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
			ealand Curricul	um Level - All si ent (Middle) A	ubjects = 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

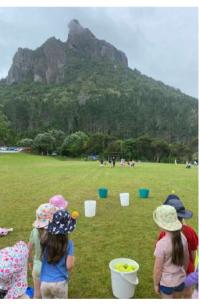
We have had two wonderful Athletics Days here at school recently. First we had the interschool athletics with Parua Bay - while we hosted all year 7&8s, our year 5&6s competed at Parua Bay School. This week we held our Junior Athletics Day. Despite the threat of rain we had a great turn out of parents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



Te Mahau

[IN-CONFIDENCE - RELEASE EXTERNAL]

Te Manawa Tahi Community Timetable



WHANGAKEL BREAM BAY & KAIPARA

Do you have concerns about your child?

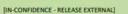
Te Manawa Tahi is a learning support hub where you can talk to educational professionals about your child's learning needs. This is a free service.

If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional well-being or behaviour, Te Manawa Tahi 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 th Nov	v Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Pl, Ruakākā				
Thur 20 th Nov	Hikurangi School, 4 Swan Ave	enue, Hikurangi			
Wed 26 th Nov	St John Ōtamatea Ambulance Hall, 172 Hurndall St East, Maungaturoto				
Wed 26th Nov	26 th Nov Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside				
Wed 3 rd Dec	Early Years Hub Dargaville, 2	8 Hokianga Rd, Dargaville			
Thurs 11 th Dec	urs 11th 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.





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

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.

We specialise in the best of the best equipment and technology, ensuring your experience is like no other. Book your free consultation via our website.

Wellness Haven - Ocean Beach, Whangarei Heads

www.wellnesshaven.nz info@wellnesshaven.nz @wellnesshaven.nz



OCEAN BEAC MANAIA CLUB SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER *GOURMET BURGERS AND MORE FROM 6-8

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:

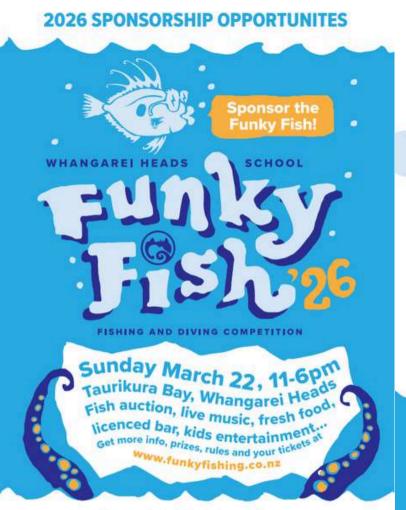
- Unwanted cheese grater
- Small mason jars or jam jars (150-300ml)
- Sheet of plywood approx 2x2m
- Essential oils

School Market Day Thursday, December 11

Add the date to your calendars now and come along!

Bespoke, hand crafted Christmas Gifts galore!





Contact: funkyfishing.whs@gmail.com

FUNKY FISH 2026

We have set the date: 20/21st March 2026.

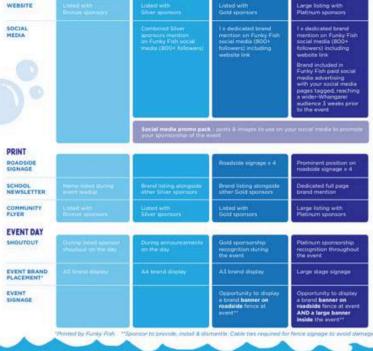
This is our school's biggest annual fundraiser and a great way to meet the locals!

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.





SILVER

\$1,000

GOLD

UP TO \$459

BRONZE

MARCH

DIGITAL



