TERM 4
Week 5

9 November 2026



NGUTUNUI NEWS





LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER
AKO TAHI ME TE TIPU TAHI

Kia ora e te whānau,

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through Term 4! The weeks are certainly flying by, and there is still so much exciting learning and plenty of activities happening at Ngutunui School before we wrap up another fantastic year.
Our tamariki have been busy with their learning, assessments, athletics practice and some exciting projects around our kura. Thank you to our wonderful whānau for your continued support. It really does make a difference!

☀️ SUNSMART – BUCKET HATS & SUNSCREEN

With the warmer weather arriving, a friendly reminder that bucket hats are compulsory every day during Term 4.

- No hat, no play! Children without a suitable sunhat will need to remain in shaded areas during break times.
- Sunscreen: Please apply sunscreen to your child before they arrive at school each morning.
- We have sunscreen available at lunchtime and so tamariki can independently reapply

Let's work together to keep our tamariki safe in the sun!

🎄 END-OF-YEAR SHOW & PRIZEGIVING

Thursday 10 December 2026
We are excited to invite all our whānau to join us for our End-of-Year Show and Prize-giving!
📍 Where: Ngutunui Puketotara Community Hall
🕐 Show starts: 5:30 pm
🎭 Children to arrive: By 5:15 pm
🎟️ Entry: $2 donation per person to help cover costs
Our tamariki are looking forward to sharing their performances with you as we celebrate their learning, achievements and successes throughout 2026.
Please mark this date in your calendars! We would love to see all our whānau there to celebrate with us.

📚 ASSESSMENTS & END-OF-YEAR REPORTING

Our SMART assessments for Years 3–8 have commenced this week, covering reading, writing and mathematics.
Over the next couple of weeks, students across the school will also complete a range of other assessments to help teachers gather a clear picture of their learning progress and achievements.
These assessments support our end-of-year reporting and help us identify the next learning steps for each child as we plan ahead for 2027.
We encourage children to simply give everything their best effort and show us what they know!

🏃 ATHLETICS – ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, GO!

Athletics is our PE focus over the coming weeks, with tamariki developing their skills in running, jumping and throwing.
Our classrooms will be practising a range of athletics events, focusing on participation, perseverance, improving personal bests and encouraging one another.
Upcoming athletics events:

- Friday 20 November: Lower Waipā Championship (top 2 in each age group, 8-13 years old)
  Junior Athletics at Pāterangi - Kereru
- Thursday 3 December: Kāwhia Moana Interschool Athletics -Tui

Further information about participation and arrangements will be shared with families as details are confirmed.
Please ensure children have suitable footwear, their bucket hats and water bottles each day.

🏊 SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

We know our tamariki are eagerly awaiting the chance to jump back into the school pool!
Matua Sam has been working hard behind the scenes to get our swimming pool ready for use during the final few weeks of term.
As the weather warms up, we are looking forward to making the most of our pool and providing opportunities for children to build their water confidence and swimming skills.
We will let whānau know as soon as the pool is ready and swimming gear is needed.
A big thank you to Matua Sam for all the work that goes into getting this wonderful school resource ready!

📖 HOME LEARNING – LITTLE BITS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

We cannot emphasise enough how valuable regular learning practice at home is. Just 10–15 minutes each evening can make a huge difference to your child's confidence, fluency and progress.
Our junior learners:

- Practise letter sounds and digraphs using the prompts in the back of their reading books.
- Complete their Roll and Read activities to build automatic recognition of high-frequency words.
- Read their take-home books regularly, building confidence and smooth, fluent reading(same book for the week)
- Celebrate their efforts and encourage them to have a go!

Our senior learners:

- Read independently every evening. Chapter books are fantastic for building vocabulary, comprehension and reading stamina.
- Make the most of our wonderful Ōtorohanga Library! There are so many great books to discover, and regular library visits can help children develop a love of reading.
- Practise basic facts and times tables regularly, focusing on both speed and accuracy.
- Challenge them to improve their recall each week.

When school and home work together, we see so much more progress! Thank you for taking the time to support your child's learning. Those small, consistent efforts really do add up.

🌱 **EXCITING NEWS – OUR MĀRA KAI COMMUNITY GARDEN!**

We are thrilled to share that Ngutunui School were successful in applying for a grant from the Otorohanga District Council to support the development of our very own Māra Kai – Community Garden!

This is such an exciting opportunity for our tamariki, kura and wider community.

Our children have already been working hard alongside Matua Sam to clear and prepare the garden area. Matua Sam is now busy creating raised garden beds designed to suit the space.

Our vision is to create a thriving garden where children can learn about growing food, sustainability, caring for the environment and sharing with others.

We are also hoping to establish a Sharing Shed, where produce and other items can be shared with our school whānau and wider community.

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP!

Do you have green fingers? Are you a keen gardener? Perhaps you know a thing or two about planting, soil preparation, composting or growing vegetables?

We would love to have you involved!

Our goal is to get the gardens planted and growing before the end of the school year. We would also appreciate support from anyone willing to help care for and maintain the gardens over the summer holidays.

Are you handy with a kitset?

We are also looking for someone who could help assemble our Sharing Shed, which is a steelshed kitset from The Warehouse.

If you have the skills, time or enthusiasm to lend a hand, please get in touch with Matua Sam or the school office.

This project is about so much more than growing vegetables. It's about growing connections, learning together, sharing knowledge and creating something special that our tamariki and community can enjoy for years to come.

How exciting for our little kura! 🌻

📅 **UPCOMING DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Friday 20 November Lower Waipā Championship & Junior Athletics (Kereru)
Monday 30 November Pharmexa Sunscreen School Fundraiser closes
Thursday 3 December Kāwhia Moana Interschool Athletics (Tui)
Thursday 10 December End-of-Year Show & Prizegiving – 5:30 pm
Friday 11 December Last day of school for 2026

💚 **THANK YOU, WHĀNAU!**

As we head into the final weeks of the year, we want to acknowledge the support and encouragement our families continue to give our kura.

Whether it's helping your child with their reading, cheering them on at sports, volunteering your time or supporting our school projects, every contribution makes a difference.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a community that gets behind our tamariki and helps make Ngutunui School such a special place to learn and grow.

Let's make these final weeks of 2026 full of learning, laughter, celebration and wonderful memories!

Ngā mihi nui,
Sharyn Gibbens
Principal | Ngutunui School

Be Driven & Determined • Be Respectful & Responsible • Be Curious & Courageous