



AWHITU
DISTRICT SCHOOL



Empowering students to care, adapt and succeed with PRIDE

Term 4 No 1: Monday 6th October 2025

Phone: 092351005 TXT: 0275247338

Welcome back for the last term of 2025. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable break, adjusted to daylight saving time and are ready for a busy Term 4!

A very warm welcome to Awhitu District School to Irene Kleyer and her family, to Kahlei Paraha-Donaldson, Brynn Chitty and Adaline McNaught and their families and whaanau, and welcome back to Kaitlin Smyth!



Congratulations

At our last assembly the following students were awarded certificates for a variety of achievements such as showing leadership, always making an outstanding effort, for hard work and demonstrating our PRIDE values.



Pride Awards

- Te Whaanau Kiwi R1:** Neva
- Te Whaanau Honu R2:** Marlo and Makuini
- Te Whaanau Takahe R3:** Maggie and Vaneel
- Te Whaanau Tui R4:** Wyatt and Stanley
- Te Whaanau Toroa R6:** Kyak and Cody

Class Awards

- Te Whaanau Kiwi R1:** Violet U
- Te Whaanau Honu R2:** Manu and Journey
- Te Whaanau Takahe R3:** Violet E and Chase
- Te Whaanau Tui R4:** Wyatt and Beau
- Te Whaanau Toroa R6:** Georgie and Eden

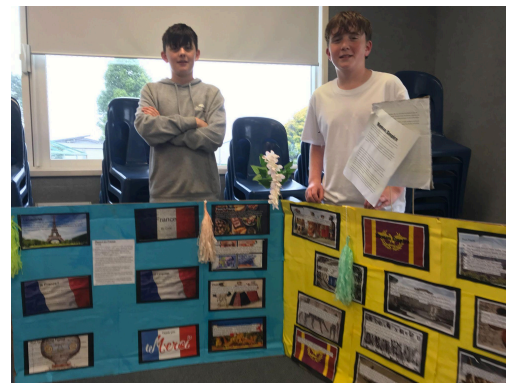
The next school assembly is on Friday 24th October at 1.40pm

SCHOOL FUN RUN

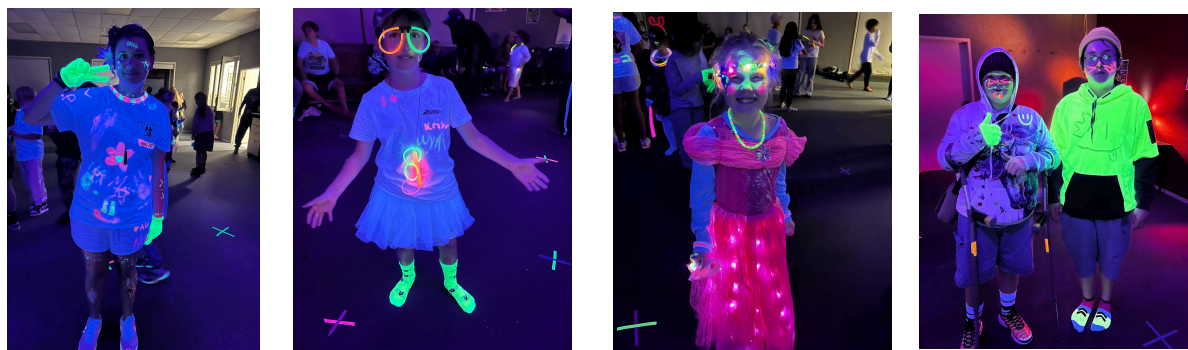


This was a great finish to the term. The “Colour Fun Run” was such an awesome success. Even the wet and windy weather couldn’t dampen the high spirits and enjoyment of the day. The money raised from this event will go towards the Senior Camp later this month and towards some fun activities for the junior students. A huge thank you to Sharde and Bonnie Dodd for organising this.

The senior students were learning about different cultures during the term, and presented their project boards to their parents and the junior students. It was so interesting reading about their chosen countries.



Another fun activity at the end of last term was the “Glow in the Dark” disco. Everyone had a great, GLOWING, good time!



SENIOR SCHOOL CAMP Please remember to return the student and parent forms that have been sent home as soon as possible. The final cost of camp will be calculated after all the fundraising contributions have been added up. Everyone will be informed of this as soon as possible.
 If you have questions or queries about camp please contact Whaea Deb
 Email : debrat@awhitu.school.nz

Book Fair Thank you to Deby Andrews and Tania Torpey for organising this year’s Book Fair. Books are being displayed in the library for you to look at and purchase. The library will be open after school on Wednesday for your convenience. These books make Christmas presents. FYI, Christmas day is only 80 sleeps away!

2025 School Board Elections The triennial school board elections were held in September this year. With three board members standing down after several years service , three new members have been elected. The new Awhitu School Board members are Leigh Maffey, Daniel Dodd, Melony Tautalanoa and Chanelle Hol. I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to Cheney McGlynn, Michael Oldfield and Kerry Torpey for their unwavering support, their incredible work and dedication to the school, students and community over the time they have been board members. It has been very much appreciated.



Awhitu School Calf Club Day

Friday 10th October 2025



Calf Club is a time where we can come together and celebrate rural life and what makes our school different to town schools. It is an opportunity for children to rear an animal, a greatly rewarding experience that holds many benefits and learning opportunities. Through caring for and training an animal children gain important skills such as responsibility, commitment, time management and patience. At the moment, students are working hard caring for and training their animals. Also some are carefully growing sunflowers to present and as usual, each class is working on art and classroom displays to show on the day. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the day. Judging starts at around 9.30am, classrooms are open at 10.30am.

Please remember to send in items for the Calf Club raffles. Thank you to those families who have already donated items, it is really appreciated.

Rms 1 & 2	Non perishable items and canned food items
Rms 3 & 4	Toiletries e.g. soaps, shower gel, toothpaste etc.
Rm 6	Fancy foods & treats e.g. chocolates, potato chips, nut selections etc

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: Term 3 Summary for Awhitu District School from the MoE

In April 2024, the Government announced a regular attendance target of 80 percent of students to be present for more than 90% of the term by 2030.

- Awhitu District School only had 38% of our students attend school regularly 90% or more during Term 3 (this means missing fewer than 5 days across a term) compared to 48% in Term 3, 2024.
- 34% of students had irregular attendance which is being at school between 80% - 90% of time during Term 3 (this means absent for between 5 and 9 days across a term)
- 27% of students had unjustified or unexplained absences from school during Term 3 (this means absent for 10 days or more across a term)



PLEASE REMEMBER: Bucket style hats are to be worn this term. Students not wearing them will be required to sit on the deck in the shade.

This Term

- Our school police constable liaison, Constable Courtney, will be coming in and talking to our senior students about cybersafety.
- Our school Athletics day is on Tuesday 21st October. More details will be sent home shortly.

Encouraging Respectful Behaviour and Language

At Awhitu District School, we are proud of the caring, inclusive environment we foster and the positive PRIDE values we teach our tamariki every day. As part of our ongoing focus on respectful relationships, we need to ask for your support at home.

How you can help

Have a conversation with your child about:

Using kind, respectful words with peers and staff.
Thinking before speaking, especially when feeling upset or frustrated.
How their words and actions affect others.
The importance of treating everyone with care and empathy.
That it is not helpful to retaliate with the same behaviours.

Learning these values takes time, and with your support, we can continue to build a safe and welcoming environment for all our students.

Please contact your child's teacher in the first instance if you have any queries or concerns. Email addresses are as follows:

Mrs Tania Wheatley	KIWI Rm 1 (Yr 0/1)	taniaw@awhitu.school.nz
Mrs Shea Malloy	HONU Rm 2 (Yr 2/3/4)	sheam@awhitu.school.nz
Whaea Deb Torpey	TAKAHE Rm 3 (Yr 4/5)	debrat@awhitu.school.nz
Mrs Deby Andrews	TUI Rm 4 (Yr 5/6/7)	debya@awhitu.school.nz
Mr Paul Humphrey	TOROA Rm 6 (Yr 7/8)	paulh@awhitu.school.nz

Proposed Strike Action planned for Thursday 23rd October

As you would have heard on the news or social media, there is a proposed strike planned for the 23rd October by teachers, principals, support staff, health workers and nurses.

Education staff are striking because:

- **Stretched System:** Teachers are overwhelmed by the current demands on the education system, including high student needs and increased workload including the fast paced roll-out of the new curriculums without adequate time for teachers to unpack it, and generally feel the government is not adequately funding public services.
- The offer did not address the increasing demands on staff and the growing behavioural and learning needs of students, which teachers are finding difficult to manage with current resources. A Teacher-Aide in every classroom has been asked for. It is also about the need for increased funding for pastoral care and time to address the complex social and technological challenges faced by students. Your children deserve this.
- **Call for Quality Education:** The unions assert that the strikes are necessary to fight for a quality education system by ensuring fair pay and adequate resources for teachers.
- **Inflation vs. Pay:** The pay increases offered by the government are consistently below the rate of inflation, effectively resulting in a pay cut for teachers.
- **Teacher Attraction and Retention:** The unions argue the offer is insufficient to attract graduates to the profession and retain experienced teachers, who are leaving the country or the classroom due to better pay and conditions elsewhere.

More information will be sent to you about what will happen if the STRIKE ACTION is confirmed.

Term 4 Monday 6th October 2025 - Wednesday 17th December 2025		
Wk 1	Mon - Fri 6th - 10th October Friday 10th October	Book Fair Calf Club
Wk 3	Tuesday 21st October	School Athletics Day
Wk 4	Monday 27th October Tues 28th - Fri 31st October	Labour Day Holiday Senior Camp
Wk 5	Wednesday 5th November	Waiuku Group Athletics Day
Wk 10	Wednesday 10th December	Year 8 Social Dance
Wk 11	Wednesday 17th December	Last day of school.
Yr 7/8 Technology Days for Term 4 Friday 17th October, Friday 14th November, Friday 28th November, Friday 12th December.		
First day of school for 2026 is on Monday 2nd February		

Special Message from the Ministry of Education

Recent measles cases linked to overseas travel have been reported in Te Tai Tokerau and Queenstown. Cases were active in the community while infectious and there is a risk of measles circulating there, and more widely in Aotearoa.

Points to share with parents, caregivers and the school community:

- Measles is very contagious and can make people of any age very sick.
- Watch for measles symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes and a blotchy rash.
- If anyone in your whānau has measles symptoms keep them home and contact a doctor or Healthline urgently on 0800 611 116.

- Vaccination is the best protection from measles. Check all whānau are immunised.

Until next time, take care
Ngā mihi nui
Megan Allen and the team at Awhitu District School.
principal@awhitu.school.nz

AWHITU DISTRICT SCHOOL MERCHANDISE is available. There are samples of these items displayed in the school office

Sweatshirts, hoodies and t-shirts and bucket hats are now available with our school logo printed on them! You can even have your name printed on the back, no more losing clothing at school! They will be great to wear to school everyday or to other combined school events, or just proudly representing our school while out and about! These are available in child/youth, women's, and men's sizes.

All the school merchandise is dark navy (with one grey marle option). Some of the pictures on the website may look black, but they are all navy.

IMPORTANT: When ordering, it is important to remember to change the 'NAME' to the name you want printed (shown below in red). If you don't want your name on the back of your merch, delete the word "NAME". (The company printing the merch has advised that they usually pick it up if it still says "NAME" and will contact the purchaser to double-check whether they missed changing it, but if they get busy, they can't guarantee it – and you won't get a refund if done wrong).

This is on-going fundraising for our school, as with each order the school receives a small monetary return.



This is the link for the website to order your clothing: <https://awhitudistrictschool.digitees.co.nz/>

Here is a link to show you the ordering process: [Click link here for video.](#)

Disclaimer: *If you have any issues with products, please contact Digitees direct, not the sch*