Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

As we move further into Term 4, there is certainly a lot happening at Herekino School! It has been a busy and exciting time, with learning programmes, sporting and cultural experiences, trips into our local communities, preparations for our end-of-year camp and, of course, the anticipation of our new school buildings.

Despite the many things happening around us, our focus remains on what matters most: providing meaningful learning experiences, strengthening relationships, celebrating our tamariki and ensuring every child continues to make progress.

It is wonderful to see our tamariki taking part in new experiences, sharing their ideas and developing confidence in themselves as learners.

✦ OUR PEOPLE, OUR PLACE, OUR STORY

Some of our richest learning opportunities are right here in our own backyard. Our local environment, history and the people who hold our community stories help our tamariki understand where they come from and where they belong.

On Wednesday, 11 November, we look forward to welcoming Whaea Mercia, who will share her knowledge and stories of Manukau with our tamariki. The following day, Thursday, 12 November, we will visit Whangape to spend time on the whenua, hear local stories and learn about its history.

Our waterways, coastlines and whenua have long been important to our people, providing pathways for travel, gathering kai and connecting communities. These experiences bring our local history to life, strengthen connections and build a sense of belonging.

A special thank you to everyone who generously shares their time and knowledge with our tamariki. These are stories worth listening to, learning from and passing on to the next generation. Nau mai, haere mai!

✦ ATHLETICS FINALS – TOMORROW!

Excitement is building as 10 of our tamariki have qualified for the Athletics Finals tomorrow at The Hub, Kaitaia, starting at 10.00am.

We will be leaving school at 9.00am, with our whole class attending to cheer on and support our finalists. It's a great opportunity to celebrate their efforts, encourage one another and show our Herekino spirit!

Whānau are warmly welcome to join us and be part of the day.

Best of luck to our 10 finalists - we are already so proud of you!

✦ CELEBRATING OUR JUNIOR ATHLETES!

A big congratulations to all our junior athletes who travelled to Pamapuria yesterday to take part in the athletics. We had 100% participation, with every child getting involved, giving things a go and showing some outstanding results along the way!

It was wonderful to see our tamariki enjoying themselves, supporting one another and representing our kura with pride.

A special thank you to our whānau who came along in such great numbers to cheer them on. Your support means so much!

Most importantly, the kids had a fantastic time, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Ka mau te wehi, tamariki mā!

✦ LEARNING IN ACTION

Growing confident learners

Across our classrooms, learning continues to strengthen the foundations in reading, writing and mathematics.

In writing, tamariki are developing their ability to organise ideas, construct sentences, use punctuation and add detail to engage their readers.

Our older students are building communication and digital technology skills through school news reporting and video production, learning to plan, film, present and edit content for a wider audience.

We also continue to provide hands-on learning through STEM challenges and investigations that encourage creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration.

✦ A LITTLE BIT OF COMMUNITY, A WHOLE LOT OF HEART - HĀNGĪ FUNDRAISER!

Next Friday, we are looking forward to bringing a little community spirit to the table with a hāngī fundraiser for our tamariki!

A huge thank you to Rick Leef, who has generously offered to support Herekino School as his way of giving back and showing appreciation for the time his grandson has spent at our kura. We are so grateful for his generosity and willingness to get behind our school.

We would also love a helping hand from our whānau! Donations of vegetables and ingredients such as cabbage, pumpkin, potatoes, kūmara, onions, herbs and carrots would be very much appreciated.

$20 per hāngī - and each one comes with a delicious fried bread!

All money raised will go towards our end-of-year camp, helping us create special experiences and memories for our tamariki.

It's these acts of kindness and community support that make our kura such a special place. Thank you, whānau, for always finding ways to contribute and support our tamariki.

Keep an eye out for more details - and thank you for being part of it!

ATHLETICS DAY

Our tamariki in action · Ka mau te wehi!











Giving it a go, cheering each other on, and having fun!

ATHLETICS DAY

Our tamariki in action · Ka mau te wehi!











Giving it a go, cheering each other on, and having fun!

AUCKLAND SCHOOL CAMP

Monday 30 November · Friday 4 December

One of the big events on our Term 4 calendar is our upcoming Auckland camp!

Our tamariki will have the opportunity to experience a range of educational, recreational and cultural activities while spending time together outside their usual school environment.

Our planned activities include:

• Snowplanet - experiencing indoor snow and snow activities. • Rainbow's End - a day of adventure and excitement. • Sky Tower - taking in the views of Auckland and enjoying a special dinner at the Orbit. • Kelly Tarlton's - discovering marine life and underwater environments. • Auckland Museum - exploring history, culture and the natural world. • Auckland Zoo - learning about animals and conservation. • MOTAT - discovering science, technology and innovation. • Ten-pin bowling - enjoying some friendly competition.

We have some wonderful news! All of our tamariki have received permission to attend Auckland Camp! How fantastic is that! We are so excited that everyone will have the opportunity to be part of this special experience, make memories, try new things and enjoy a week of adventure together.

We have also had an amazing response from our whānau, with so many parents keen to come along and support the camp. It is lovely to see such enthusiasm and willingness to be involved.

While we would love to have everyone join us, we do have some limitations around transport, accommodation, activity bookings and supervision numbers. This means we will need to limit the number of adults attending. We will work through this as fairly as possible and be in touch directly with those who will be joining us.

To those who may not be able to come along this time, please know that we genuinely appreciate your willingness to help. There will be plenty of other opportunities to get involved in school activities throughout the year.

Thank you, whānau, for your wonderful support. We are looking forward to a fantastic week away with our tamariki and creating some special memories together!

✦ OUR NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS. EXCITING TIMES AHEAD - OUR BIG MOVE IS COMING!

There is plenty of excitement building at Herekino as we prepare to move into our beautiful new school buildings!

Following advice from the Ministry, our move will happen in stages to allow demolition work at our existing school to proceed as planned. This also gives us time to organise, shift resources and prepare our new spaces around our end-of-year activities.

Here are the important dates:

Saturday 21 November - Sorting and Culling

We will be sorting through teaching resources, deciding what to take and what we can let go. Extra helping hands would be greatly appreciated!

Monday 23 November - A Special Beginning

We will begin with a small karakia at our new buildings to bless the space and mark the beginning of this exciting transition. We can then start moving resources and belongings across.

30 November – 4 December – Moving Week

While our tamariki are away at Auckland Camp, Whaea Ari, Whaea Hera and whānau will be working behind the scenes to shift resources and set up our new spaces. We will be calling on our community for a hand with lifting, carrying, sorting and unpacking.

Wednesday 9 December – Farewell to Our Old School

We will hold a special closing ceremony, welcoming whānau and the wider community to acknowledge the history, memories and generations of tamariki who have passed through our school gates.

This is a special milestone for Herekino School. Our new buildings represent an exciting next chapter, and we want our community to be part of it.

Get your work gloves ready, whānau! Every helping hand will make a difference.

READATHON REMINDER! KEEP THOSE PAGES TURNING! □ Our school Readathon finishes on Friday 20 November, alongside our Book Character Dress-Up Day!

When checking in with our tamariki today, we were delighted to discover that just five students had already clocked up an impressive 13 combined hours of reading! We are so pleased with their efforts.

The Readathon is about more than reading and raising funds through sponsorship. It is also an opportunity for our tamariki to see that every little effort counts and that, no matter how small, they can make a meaningful contribution towards our end-of-year camp.

Keep those pages turning! A big thank you to whānau for encouraging and supporting our young readers at home.

✦ WORKING TOGETHER

A school is more than its classrooms and buildings. It is the people, relationships, experiences and shared commitment that make it a special place.

We continue to value the support of our whānau, community members and local organisations. Whether it is sharing local knowledge, supporting school trips, helping with activities or encouraging our tamariki, every contribution makes a difference.

As we approach the end of the school year, we encourage whānau to remain connected with school communications and upcoming events. There is still plenty to look forward to!

✦ LOOKING AHEAD

IMPORTANT DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DATE	WHAT'S ON
Saturday 7 November	School Lotto Draw
Week 5	School-wide testing across the kura
Monday 9 November	Whānau Hui - 2.30 pm
Thursday 12 November	Whangape local history and whenua visit; Hāngī packing
Friday 13 November	Hāngī Sale
Friday 20 November	Book Character Dress-Up Day & Readathon concludes
Monday 23-27 November	Preparing for our big move - sorting and packing
Monday 30 November - Friday 4 December	Auckland School Camp
30 November	Big school move - whānau and friends helping out
Monday 7 December	School reports sent home to whānau
Wednesday 9 December	Farewell and Closing Ceremony at our existing school
Wednesday 16 December	End-of-Year Picnic at Shipwreck Bay
Friday 18 December	Last day of the 2026 school year

SUN, SEA & CELEBRATIONS – OUR END-OF-YEAR WHAKANUI! □

Wednesday 16 December - End-of-Year Celebration at Shipwreck Bay

This year, instead of our usual school prize-giving, we will be celebrating the year that was with an end-of-year picnic at beautiful Shipwreck Bay!

It will be a chance for our tamariki, staff and whānau to come together, enjoy a day of fun and relaxation, reflect on the year's achievements and share some special moments before we head into the summer holidays.

It's going to be a busy few weeks, whānau, but what a wonderful way to finish 2026! Could we please get the taonga that was handed out last year at the 2026 prize-giving returned to Kura.

Please keep an eye on school communications for further information and any changes to arrangements.

✦ A MESSAGE TO OUR WHĀNAU

As we approach the end of another school year, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank our tamariki, our dedicated staff and our wonderful whānau for everything they have contributed to Herekino School throughout the year.

It has certainly been a year of activity, change and important milestones for our kura. Through the busy days, the challenges and the many achievements, what matters most is the people who make our school

what it is. Our tamariki are at the heart of everything we do, and their growth, learning and sense of belonging will always remain our greatest priority.

As we look ahead to a new chapter, our journey is about so much more than new buildings. It is about building strong foundations, nurturing confident and capable learners, celebrating who we are and where we come from, and creating a place where future generations will feel proud to learn, grow and belong.

Herekino School is shaped by its people, its stories and its strong sense of community. I feel incredibly grateful to be part of this journey and to work alongside people who care so deeply about our tamariki and our kura.

Thank you, whānau, for walking alongside us, for your kindness, generosity and continued support. It is the strength of our people, the connections within our

community and the pride we share in our kura that make Herekino School such a special place. Together, we make our school what it is.

Ngā mihi nui,

Principal

Herekino School

THURSDAY MUSIC LESSONS WITH MATUA ROBIN

We are so lucky to have Matua Robin Wells come into our kura every Thursday to teach music! Today was his second class, and our tamariki have all really enjoyed his lessons. They are having so much fun learning music together. Ka rawe, Matua Robin!



