Welcome Back to 2026

Nau mai, haere mai whānau

Welcome back to everyone; our returning learners, new learners and all of our whānau for the 2026 school year! To our new learners: we know you are going to love your time at Ohakune Primary School, learn lots and make wonderful friends.
I hope everyone made the most of the holiday break. What a summer it has been with rain, rain, rain - we are hopeful to start the school year with some sun.

We start our school year on Monday 2 February with a powhiri at 9.30am. We warmly invite whānau to join us.

We are fully staffed for 2026 and are delighted to welcome three new staff members:

- **Sean Crotty** – Middle School
- **Caroline Tatere** – Senior School
- **Mary-Ann du Plessis** – Technology Centre

We are excited to have these incredible educators joining our team.

Our school roll sits comfortably at around 250 learners, similar to last year. There is a lot of property work underway, which may cause some disruption at times. The school is also looking fresh with painters hard at work, junior toilets taking shape, and new swings being installed in Week 2.

Staffing for 2026

Leadership Team	The Nest - Junior School New Entrant, Year 1-3	Middle School Year 4-6	Senior School Year 6-8
Lisa Clark Principal **Rose Martin** Deputy Principal **Maree Lilo** Junior team leader **Tasha Carley** Middle team leader **Jessica Bates** - SENCO	**Room 5 - Ruru** - Carie King **Room 6- Kereru** - Suzi Couch **Room 7 - Kiwi** Maree Lilo **Room 8 Tui -** Claire Williamson **Piwakawaka** - Kate Whitehead **Room 9 -** Robyn Wilson	**Heke Taumata** **Kotahi-** Tasha Carley **Rua -** Amy Lee **Room 12** Sean Crotty **Room 14** Bridget Heffernan	**Room 1 -** Rose Martin **Room 2** Caroline Tatere **Room 4** Rene Allen

Specialist Teachers
Technology - Liva Ozola/Mary-Ann du Plessis
Support Staff
Administration - Office Manager: Donna Summerhays   (Mon-Thursday)
                            Accounts: Michelle Frederickson (Wed- Fri)
Caretaker - Steve Foster (Mon-Thursday)
Part time teachers (CRT/PRT)   Janine Dyer, Kristi Nation, Karee Cadman, Marie Milne
Kitchen Staff - Gary Griffin-Chappel, Jen Vander Lubbe, Trasinna Hopper, Kendyll RIchards
Support Staff - Jane Parker, Kim Horne, Leanne Sherrit, Jason Clark, Ros Barlow, Shania Hawira, Lyn Griffin-Chappel, Joel Clark, Wayne Te Huia, Ropata Henare, Chelsea Richards
Cleaning staff - Maria Martinez, Amber Joyce

Board of Trustees - Sarah Drinkwater (Presiding Member),Sarah Gunnell, Dean Sherrit, Rachel Gilberd, Dave Hammond, Miriama Lucas (Iwi rep), Kate Whitehead (Staff rep), Lisa Clark (Principal)

Goals for 2026

Building on our progress in 2025, our major curriculum focus areas remain Structured Literacy and Mathematics in line with government priorities. We have seen positive shifts in learning and will continue strengthening these foundations.

A **key priority for 2026 is attendance**. In Term 4 of 2025, only **35% of our learners attended school regularly**. This tells us we need to work together differently — and we are committed to doing that alongside our whānau.

Regular attendance makes a real difference. Being at school every day helps children to:

- Build strong learning habits
- Stay connected with friends and teachers
- Develop positive routines
- Keep up with learning so gaps don't grow

Even **one day missed each fortnight** adds up to a significant loss of learning over a year.

We understand that life happens — illness, appointments, and family circumstances are real. However, unless your child is genuinely unwell, we encourage them to be at school **every day and on time**.

You can support attendance by:

- Prioritising school each day
- Booking appointments outside school hours where possible
- Letting us know promptly if your child is absent
- Talking with us early if attendance is becoming challenging — we are here to help, not judge

Our attendance goal is for **80% of learners to attend regularly**, which aligns with national expectations. We also look forward to **celebrating learners who achieve 100% attendance** throughout the year.

Newsletters
We will have a newsletter, emailed and uploaded to Skool Loop and Facebook each fortnight on a Wednesday or Thursday. The newsletter includes important information during the term and the year ahead. We work very hard to communicate in a variety of ways so please check out our Facebook page and website Please let us know if you need help accessing the Skool Loop app. If you have anything you would like to contribute for community information for the newsletter, please email Donna.

Swimming timetable 2026

Time in pool	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Tech Day	Thursday	Friday
10.00-10.45	Kotahi and Rua (40)	Kotahi and Rua	Kotahi and Rua	Kotahi and Rua	Room 1, 2 and 4 Year 8s
10.45- 11.30	Piwakawaka (19) Room 9 (15)	Piwakawaka Room 9	Piwakawaka Room 9	Piwakawaka Room 9	
11.30- 12.15	Tui (15) Ruru (17), Big pool free 4 lanes	Tui (15) Ruru,	Tui (15) Ruru,	Tui (15) Ruru,	
12.15- 1.00	Room 1(23) Room 2 (22) Little pool free	Room 1 Room2	Room 1 Room 2 Room 4 Year 7s	Room 1 Room 2	
1.00- 1.45	Rm 14(24) Rm 12 (23) Little pool free	Rm 14 Rm 12	Rm 14 Rm 12	Rm 14 Rm 12	
1.45- 2.30	Assembly	Room 4(23) Kiwi (1) and Kereru (13)	Kiwi and Kereru Big pool free	Room 4 Kiwi and Kereru	

Key dates for your calendars - Term 1	
Tuesday 3 February	School Swimming starts. Swimming timetable attached. Please send your child to school with their togs and towel <u>each day </u>that their class is swimming as weather is changeable. Swimming is part of the New Zealand Curriculum and it is vital that all children are able to swim to survive. Our classes will be bused to the pools for their sessions.
Friday 6 February	Waitangi Day (School closed)
Week 3	Bike Safety Week
Thursday 19 February	Family Fun Night at the Pools
Thursday 27 February Postponement - Monday 2 March	Swimming Sports (Senior)
Tuesday 3 March	3 way goal setting
Thursday 3 March Postponement - TBC	Swimming Celebration (Junior)
Tuesday 9 March	Year 4-6 Triathlon - Whanganui
Friday 13 March	Teacher Only Day - Maths (School closed)
Tuesday 17 March	Weetbix Try (Palmerston North)
Thursday 19 March	Interschool Touch - Waiouru
Tuesday 24 March	Year 4-6 Rippa Rugby - Whanganui TBC
Thursday 2 April	Last day of term - return date for Term 2 **Monday 20 April**

School Hours
School (Learning) starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3pm.
Our breaks are at 10.30-10.45 (morning tea), 12.15-12.40pm (lunch) and 1.45-2pm (3rd break).

School Lunches
The lunch in school programme has been very successful and Gary, Jen, Trasina and Kendyll are excited to develop and share wonderful food to nourish our kids. Lunch will be provided daily to our learners from our fabulous kitchen! If you have a child with any dietary requirements, please let us know. The weekly menu is shared via our Facebook page each week.

Breakfast Club

The Kickstart Breakfast Club will continue to provide for learners who require it and we thank Sanitarium and Anchor Milk (Fonterra) for their continued support of our learners with this programme. This programme is run from the Technology Centre from 8.20am each day with Joel.

School Hats

This term is one of our Summer terms and means we all need to be wearing hats. **To keep children safe and for us to meet the criteria of being a SunSmart School , all children need to be wearing the <u>school hat</u>.** This can be purchased from the front office for $13.

Any child not wearing their school hat will be asked to play either under the shade sails on the playground or under the 'Umbrella' tree in front of the Staffroom.

<u>This is part of our school uniform </u>- please support the wearing of school hats from home. We do not want the teachers having to spend valuable time policing this. We want our children to be sunsmart. Learners also have access to Sunsmart Sunscreen.

Finally, all school uniforms must be named clearly.

Contact updates

It is timely at the beginning of our new year, to update details for our families to ensure we can communicate with our school community more effectively and easily. Could you please email any address or contact phone number updates to dreynolds@ohakune.school.nz or please call our office or pop in!

Ngā mihi
Lisa Clark
Principal