



Whāia te māturanga hei oranga mō koutou



Learning for life and making it count

18th August 2025 Newsletter

Important Dates To Remember

Monday 25th August - Friday 5th September - Swimming - \$35.00 per child to be paid by 20th August into the school bank account: 03 1700 0060244 00.

Christchurch Cities Library Van

The next visit is scheduled for Friday the 29th August 2025.

School News...

We had a wonderful trip to the Christchurch Art Gallery this week where the tamariki were able to view the art on display as well as spend some time making their own art, using clay. Nga mihi nui to our helpers Sarah and Maria for coming along and being part of all of the activities.



This learning is an extension of the work that the tamariki have been doing here at school. They have been learning about different types of 3D art and experimenting with pottery. So far they have created pinch pots,

coil pots and made some 3D faces. Nearly everyone has enjoyed the opportunity to try a different type of art and they are excited about the creations they have made. Once they have decorated their pieces they will be bringing them home. Some of the creations will be left un-fired meaning that the clay can either be returned to the earth (by leaving it outside in the weather) or reused (by putting it in a dish and allowing it to soak up the water and then dry to its original texture for remodelling).



A friendly word from...

News from Waimakariri - Mrs Busch Year 5 - 7

Tēnā koutou katoa Waimakariri Whānau

We hope you are enjoying Term 3 and that interesting Space facts are shared with you at home!

Please visit: **Senior Blog** [Take Me To The Senior Blog](#). Enter your email (on the right-hand side) and press **Subscribe**. After confirming via the verification email, you'll receive updates whenever new content is added. Also please refer to the **Notices** on the Homework sheet to stay updated.

Seniors' Responsibility Checklist

Seniors can make a checklist to remind them to pack and bring their Chromebook daily, take it home to charge, pack swimming gear, and hang up wet gear after school.

Homework

Please consider checking off homework tasks with your child, if you are not already in the habit. NZ research shows kids stay more engaged when parents take an interest in their homework. The best practice happens after a skill is understood, is checked for accuracy, and is spread over a few days. Handwriting skills are being worked on at school. We also highly recommend that tamariki practice handwriting skills at home and devote time to improving their touch typing skills.

One Homework Sheet will go home on **Mon 18/8** for three weeks, as students may be more tired during **Swimming Lessons (25/8 - 5/9)**.

Student voice:

Fabulous fun-filled activities

On Wednesday the 13th of August Years 0-7 went to the Christchurch Art Gallery to go look at the art and do some pottery.

At 9:15am, we all got onto the bus to go to the Art Gallery. It was about a 30 minute bus ride from Ouruhia School to the gallery in Christchurch. We got there at about 9:45am and got out of the bus and went to the foyer to eat a snack.

We enjoyed walking around the gallery with Bianca, our host teacher, and wondering about the 3D art pieces, the artist's inspiration and what we saw and felt about the exhibition. One of our favourites was Fred Graham's exhibition because he made amazing sculptures, like the ones below.

We also looked at different styles of using clay and pottery such as the ones in the photos below.

Next we learnt pottery techniques and made our own pieces which was lots of fun!

Lastly, we got into groups and looked at different exhibitions together.

Jumping on the bus at the end of our day out, I turned to my friends and said "What an awesome day!".

A huge thanks to Mrs Hewitt for organising this amazing trip and to all the helpers who gave of their time and efforts to make it a fantastic learning experience.

-Amelia and Mrs Busch, 14/9



Pūharakekenui / Kā pūtahi - Mrs Thom and Mrs Newey Year 1 - 4



During Week 3 we had a visit from the Life Education Van, where Harold and Jo shared the important message that our actions and decisions have consequences. They encouraged us to take time to think before acting, helping us reflect on the choices we make each day. Mrs Thom got to relive her childhood memories by listening to the 'talking brain' - proof that Harold and the Life Education memories really do stay with us forever!

We've also seen wonderful growth in the way our learners are completing their homework. The effort, consistency, and pride they are showing is making a real difference to their learning. A huge thank you to our families for your ongoing support. Your contribution is a big part of our learners' success. Thank you to all the parents who have subscribed to our class blog. We love knowing you're following our learning journey. Please feel free to pop a comment or question anytime!

On the 7th August, our school took part in the Times Table Rockstar Competition, where 76 schools across the South Island put their times table skills to the test. Ōuruhia proudly took out 7th place overall, while Waimakariri secured 14th place in the Top Classes section. A special mention to Danica, Toby, and Jayda for being our top times table rockers – and a big well done to every learner. You all made massive progress in your Rockstar statuses. What an achievement!

Ngā mihi nui,
Sarah Thom and Leann Newey



Lisa Hewitt, Acting Principal

I thought I would share this article with you as the term wears on and the winter bugs try to take their toll. We know that the tamariki really start to feel tired as we hit the midpoint of the term.

The Power of Sleep and Routine: Helping Tamariki Arrive Ready to Learn

For tamariki, a consistent sleep schedule and calm morning routine can make a huge difference to their ability to engage in school life. We know poor sleep and chaotic mornings are common reasons why some students struggle to get to school, or arrive feeling tired, stressed, or unprepared. These may seem like small things, but over time, they can impact learning, wellbeing, and attendance.

- Tamariki aged 5–16 need between 8–11 hours of sleep each night to function well at school.
- Irregular sleep patterns and screen time before bed can lead to tiredness, lack of focus, and increased anxiety the next day.
- A calm and predictable morning routine can reduce school refusal and lateness.

If bedtimes and mornings are stressful in your house here are some tips that might be helpful:

- Regular bedtimes, even on weekends.
- Screen-free bedtime routine at least an hour before sleep.
- Bags packed, lunches made, and uniforms ready the night before.
- Use visual timetables, alarms, or checklists to guide the morning routine.

PTA News

The PTA is having a Twilight Fair. If you have contacts for raffle prizes or would like to help in any way please contact the PTA or see Raewyn in the office.

Pop Friday the 21st November in your calendar - this is going to be a fun time for all.





Ouruhia School Twilight Fair
Friday 21st November
4.30 – 7.30pm
 21 Turners Road



Limited Spaces Available - \$15 per boot or stall
 contact ouruhiapta@gmail.com
 to book your space