

Whāia te mātauranga hei orange mō koutou



Learning for Life and Making it Count

15th May 2025

Celebrating Success...

Ōuruhia School Cross Country

How lucky we were to have such a lovely autumn day for our cross country event. Thank you to all the supporters who were able to come and cheer along their children.

The children gave their best effort and used their "can do" value to complete the course. Congratulations to the boys who pushed themselves and ran 2kms and Benjamin and Isabella who continued to run even when they had completed their required amount.



Results:

Senior 2km Race

1st Toby Tavinor, 2nd Ryder Starkey, 3rd Karson Tawera

Senior 1km Race

1st Ariana Buxton, 2nd Jayde Pawsey, 3rd Kyra Te Raki

Junior 500m Race

1st Benjamin Mackintosh, 2nd Tristan Bennett, 3rd Ruby Walter



Certificates:

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week, Toby, Jayde, Zariah and Laylah, for using their school values in their learning and play.



Ariana is busy rehearsing for her roles in her upcoming production of Frozen. Ariana is a natural performer and has a lovely singing voice. Congratulations Ariana and we wish you Good Luck with your performances.



Congratulations to Violetta and Isabella who both had 100% attendance In Term 1. They were rewarded with a trip to McDonalds for a McFlurry.

We understand that sometimes children are feeling unwell and need a day or two at home to recover. We don't want children that are unwell coming to school. This is why we now have a "100% Club" along with an "Above 95% Club" Children with attendance above 95% for the term will join this club.

The "Above 95% Club" will have something special happen at school and the "100% Club" will be rewarded with a trip to McDonalds for their McFlurry.

Thank you:

Thank you to our PTA for the soup and hot chocolate they served and the support you gave to them. They were able to raise over \$100.

Our PTA is awesome . They contribute to so many things around the school such as school camps, school lunches, sports equipment and resources for the teachers. Being a small school with limited finances their support is very much appreciated and allows us to have those "extras".

Thank you also to Petra (Tristan's mum), Tristan and Benjamin for their help raking the leaves. This is a particularly tricky time of the year with all the falling leaves and as a school without a caretaker the extra help is very gratefully received.





School News...

Attendance at school

Under the Government STAR mandate we, as a school, are tasked with achieving the goal of 80% of students being at school regularly. The Ministry of Education collects our data once a week. We are advised term by term how our school attendance is tracking. Our Term 1 report showed we have some work to do to meet this target:

Term 1 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

 Regular Attendance

35%

Compared to 66% in Term 1, 2024

Regular attendance is very important with much of our learning being cumulative meaning that knowledge is being learnt and built upon each day. This means missed days can leave children feeling lost and confused. It is important that, unless your child is unwell, that they come to school each day. If you are having any problems getting them to school please talk to us, we can work together on ways to help.

Medication Procedures

Where a child requires any form of medicine including, but not limited to, prescribed medicine, cough lozenges, ointment or pain relief, parents will need to come to the school office and sign an authority to administer the medication. If the school does not have signed authority the medicine cannot be administered until such time as the authority has been received. If the medicine is to be taken long term on a daily basis the classroom teacher must be advised.

No medicine is to be kept in a child's school bag.

Upcoming dates to remember

Wednesday 11th June - *Celebration of Learning display - details to follow soon*

Monday 16th June - *Mid year reports available*

Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th June - *Parent conferences - dates to put in your diary*

Thursday 19th June - *Mātariki Breakfast event - details to follow soon*

A word from:

Lisa Hewitt - Ōuruhia School Acting Principal

Kia ora koutou

Our first two weeks back have been really successful with the tamariki working hard to live by our school values. They are demonstrating '**caring and sharing**' each day and bringing a '**can do**' attitude into the classrooms.

We carried out a snapshot survey with the children to see how they were feeling about being back at school and they responded with comments like

School feels: happy, safe, cool, energetic, relaxed, inclusive, amazing, helpful.

School sounds: laughing, nice words, kind words, welcoming, playing, encouraging

Sound looks: inclusive, helping each other, fun, smiling, friendly

It was fun to be able to reward the girls who attended school each and every day last term. They are the first members of the "100% Club". Any child who is able to achieve 100% attendance this term will receive the same treat of a trip to McDonalds for an ice cream at the beginning of Term 3.

I am enjoying connecting with people each day out at the road crossing and enjoyed catching up with more of you at the Cross Country event.

Ngā mihi nui

Lisa

Combined News from Pūharakekenui & Kā Putahi - Years 0-4

Kia ora whānau,

It has been a fantastic start to Term 2, and we are thrilled to welcome everyone back! Our Kā Putai learners have settled beautifully into our new learning space. Pūharakekenui learners have quickly become familiar with their new routines and environment that support their success.

We've also been fostering tuakana-teina relationships between the two learning spaces, creating opportunities for older and younger students to learn alongside each other, as well as extending learning and offering additional support where needed. It has been heartwarming to see the manaakitanga and collaboration growing between our classes.

As part of our classroom focus, we've been re-establishing expectations and processes to ensure a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment for all. Learners have responded positively and are already demonstrating increased independence and responsibility.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be introducing home learning opportunities. While this is not compulsory, it is a wonderful way for you to connect with your child's learning and celebrate the progress they are making.

Our Inquiry learning focus will be 'Heroes Within Our Community that links into 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' later in the term.

We're excited for the term ahead and look forward to partnering with you in your child's learning journey.

Ngā mihi nui,
Sarah and Leann

Waimakariri - Year 5 - 8 Mrs Busch

Heroes Who Don't Wear Capes

We started Term 2 by thinking about our theme, *Heroes Who Don't Wear Capes*. Students shared fictional letters written as ANZAC soldiers, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of those who served. These powerful letters were presented to the whole school and reminded us that heroes come in many forms.

This activity helped students improve their writing and speaking skills while learning about real-life courage and history. We're very proud of their effort and respect.



Students Reading Letters Aloud at Whanui Hui

Furthermore, if you (or someone you know) has life experience working / volunteering in the Fire Brigade, Police, Hospital, Ambulance, Surf Life Saving Club, or any other essential service, we'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch—we'd love for the students to learn from your stories.

We have started weekly Homework (including learning times tables). Generally, homework is designed to revise what we are doing in class. If your child is having trouble, they can ask me for help. This sheet will be given to them to glue in their book on a Monday, and take home. It is due (on the teacher's desk) on Friday morning. Please note - only sign their reading aloud if they do it.

Thanks for your support and please let me know if you have any concerns or questions.

Kind regards

Michelle

Gabrielle Wall - Ōuruhia Model School Commissioner

Kia ora koutou,

It has been a great start to Term 2 so far and I am looking forward to all that this term has to offer.

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to Lisa Hewitt for stepping into the Acting Principal role. Lisa is a skilled leader and experienced teacher, well equipped to support Ōuruhia Model School during this period of change. I am looking forward to working with her over the coming term to support the school, its students, staff and wider community.

Secondly, we are working with the Christchurch City Libraries and Greater Christchurch Schools' Network to deliver some digital technologies learning opportunities for our students across Term 2 2025. These sessions will take place on Fridays across this term and provide ākonga with opportunities to learn about how to use digital technologies in creative and innovative ways. Libraries learning specialists will deliver three half-day sessions where students will have a hands-on opportunity to learn new digital fluency-related skills (dates to be confirmed):

Junior school - Creative Design (badge making)

1. Mindmapping "all about me" ideas and sketching ideas
2. Digital drawing with iPads
3. Printing designs and making badges using the badge maker

Senior school - Podcasting

1. Mindmapping and script writing
2. Script editing and audio recording
3. Podcast editing and student showcase

I would also like to thank those of you who participated in the recent Principal Recruitment survey. We had a good number of whānau, staff and members of the wider community share what they think are important features to look for in the upcoming principal recruitment process:

- An experienced, adaptable educator who is a great communicator, recognises and values what makes Ōuruhia Model School unique, and will build strong, positive, trust-based relationships with students, staff, whānau and the wider school community.
- A passionate leader and skilled educator who cares about every learner, supports and celebrates their success, and fosters an inclusive, positive school culture where everyone feels valued.
- Someone who values the role of the schools' community, its country school setting, and fits into the small, tightknit, supportive culture of Ōuruhia Model School.

The results of the survey will now be used in the recruitment process with the advertisement of the position being posted this week. The documents prepared will communicate to potential principals information about Ōuruhia Model School, who our community are, and what you are looking for in a new school leader. I will continue to provide updates as this process progresses.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to ask for volunteers to support the school over the coming weeks by providing advice, feedback and/or support in relation to a number of upcoming actions and school governance decisions. We are looking for ways to build connections between the school community, leadership and governance and are hoping that bringing a parent perspective into the upcoming decisions about the future of Ōuruhia Model School will further strengthen these relationships. If you would like to volunteer please let me, Lisa or the school office know.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or comments regarding these matters. My email address is gabrielle@dandgconsulting.co.nz. Otherwise, I look forward to sharing updates with you about the progress being made towards the appointment of a new school principal and returning Ōuruhia Model School to effective self-governance.

Ngā mihi nui,

Gabrielle Wall

Commissioner
Ōuruhia Model School

Fun times for our tamariki.

