

2nd December 2025

Staffing Update for 2026 – He whakamōhio ki te whānau

Kia ora e te whānau,

We have some exciting staffing changes for 2026 to share with you.

Michelle Hawkins Deputy Principal

Michelle will be stepping out of a full-time classroom role next year to concentrate on her Deputy Principal position. She will lead the senior team and targeted math support programmes across the year 1-6 school, and work alongside kaiako in classrooms during teacher release. He mihi nui ki a Michelle, her leadership and expertise in numeracy will continue to benefit many of our tamariki.

Nau mai, haere mai Georgina Dewsnap.

We are thrilled to announce that we have employed a fantastic new kaiako, Georgina Dewsnap, who will be joining our kura in 2026. Nau mai, haere mai Georgina, we are so excited to welcome you into our school whānau.

Read more about Georgina here...

Kia ora e te whānau,

Ko Whaea Georgina ahau. I am excited to be joining Te Kura o Paetūmokai in 2026. I am an enthusiastic and outgoing teacher who loves living in the Wairarapa. I have a strong passion for sports and active learning, and I enjoy creating a fun, energetic, and supportive environment for my ākonga. I love building meaningful relationships with my learners, encouraging them to step outside their comfort zones, and bringing a hands-on, lively approach to every lesson. Helping my ākonga develop confidence, teamwork, and a love of learning is something I am very passionate about, and I look forward to being part of the school community.

Ruma Kiwi 2026

As previously shared, Whaea Maeghan will be teaching in Ruma Kiwi with Matua Mikaere on study leave for 2026. Matua Mikaere will still be connected to our kura, he will join us for a few weeks at the beginning and end of the year, supporting our Te Reo Māori learning and release teaching. Ka mau te wehi!

Technology 2026

We are also fortunate to have Maree Patten joining Technology, supporting rich, hands-on, future-focused learning opportunities for our students.

We are very pleased to confirm that Whaea Julie, our fantastic counsellor, will continue to be available to all tamariki and whānau in 2026. He taonga ia ki tō tātou kura, her calm presence and support services are invaluable to our hauora kaupapa. In addition, Mrs Jo Gould will be working three days a week in classrooms, providing a consistent and supportive presence for our kaiako and tamariki during their release time.

Teacher Aides / Kaiārahi 2026

We are pleased to confirm that all of our Teacher Aides/Kaiārahi will be continuing with us in 2026. He pai ake tēnei mō te ūmanga me te noho mārō, this consistency provides stability for our tamariki and ensures ongoing support from adults they already know and trust. Their steady presence in classrooms helps maintain smooth routines and supports learning and hauora across the school.

What an incredible staffing line-up for 2026, adding even more strength to our already amazing team of kaiako! We are heading into the new year with positivity, stability, and a strong sense of direction for teaching and learning.

Classrooms for your reference:

| Class Name Akomanga | Location | Kaiako Teacher |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Kereru | Akomanga Tahī Rm 1 | Whaea Abby Junior Team Leader |
| Kōkako | Akomanga Tahī A Rm 1A | Whaea Anna |
| Tui | Akomanga Rua Rm 2 | Whaea Annette |
| Piwakawaka | Akomanga Wha Rm 4 | Whaea Georgina |
| Pūkeko | Akomanga Toru Rm 3 | Whaea Hanna |
| Karearea | Akomanga Rima Rm 5 | Whaea Rebekah |
| Kiwi | Akomanga Ono Rm 6 | Whaea Maeghan |
| Kea | Akomanga Whitu Rm 7 | Rūma Arotāu Sensory Room |
| Tauhou | Hard Tech Technology Centre | Ms Compton |
| Whio | Food & Textiles Technology Centre | Whaea Maree |
| Kowhai | Office Area | Whaea Michelle Senior Team Leader |

Ngā manaakitanga,

Vanessa

Tumuaki | Principal

Featherston School Te Kura o Paetūmokai