'Growing a Positive Learning Attitude'

NEWSLETTER NO. 14 - 19th August 2026

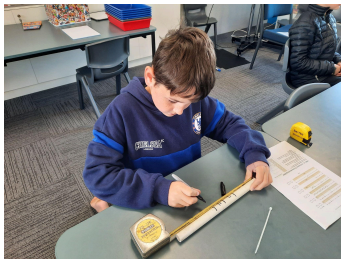
Nau mai haere mai, Greetings | Tena Koutou | Konnichiwa |Groete | Namaste | Talofa Lava | Malo e Lelei | Ni sa bula | Fakalofa lahi atu | Kia Orana | Asalam Alykum | Ni Hao |

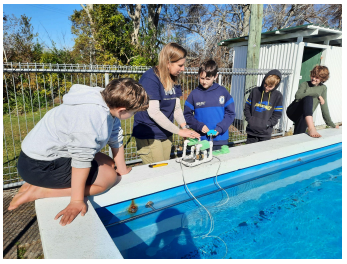
Welcome to Week 5! It is fantastic to see our classrooms buzzing with energy as our positive, happy learners dive into their everyday routines alongside our wonderful, dedicated teachers. Thank you for your continued partnership in making our school community such a vibrant place to be.

Aquabots Build Day

On Tuesday, 11 August, we were thrilled to welcome an experienced educator to lead a small group of students through an Aquabots Build Day - an exciting, hands-on day of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

After testing the waters, we will be expanding this programme into our Technology curriculum for 2027. What an amazing opportunity! The absolute highlight for the students was getting to launch and test their fully built Aquabot in the water.



Year 3 / 4 Football Team

Our Year 3 / 4 football team is hard at work preparing for the Greig Neilson Football Tournament on 17 September. They've shown great dedication over their first two weekly practices, building both their skills and teamwork. A huge thank you to Matt (Louie's dad) for generously volunteering his time to coach the team ⚽

With a fantastic range of skill levels and no shortage of enthusiasm, we can't wait to see their team spirit shine on the pitch.








Garden to Table - Rūma Toutouwai

Rain couldn't stop Rūma Toutouwai's Garden to Table session on Thursday 13 August. Since it was too wet to head outside, our garden lead, Maria, brought the learning indoors with a fascinating look at unwanted garden pests, featuring special artifacts from Bay Conservation Alliance. We are so grateful to Maria, Alison, Darren, Stormie, Caroline, Bridget, and all our wonderful supporters who make this programme such an invaluable part of our school.

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Chess Club

After a quick room shuffle to fit around other school activities, Mrs. Williams will be welcoming our chess players every Thursday at 8:20 AM in the library. With two new classrooms and everything happening at Whakamarama School, space is always a puzzle! See you at the board! ✨

Pre AIMs Games Indoor Bowls Pairs Tournament



Chloe and Falcon took to the mats on 14 August to test their skills, strategy, and teamwork at a local Pre-AIMS Bowls Pairs Tournament. The event served as valuable preparation for our athletes before they head off to compete on the national stage.

Both Chloe and Falcon showcased exceptional sportsmanship and determination throughout the day. A massive congratulations to all the pairs who participated and sharpened their competitive edge.

A special thank you to Stephen (Falcon's grandad) for supporting our pair and making their attendance possible.

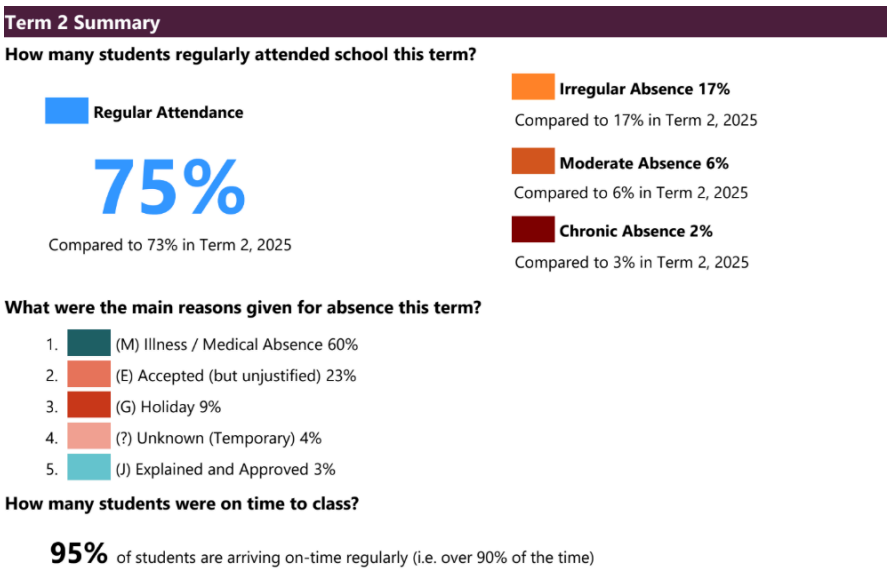
WBOP Primary Mountain Biking Champs

Interested in entering your child in the Primary Mountain Bike Championships? Please review the event information: https://dirtcraft.nz/events/wbop-primary-mtb-race/. If you decide that you would like to enter your child, please let the school know by Friday 28 August.

Date: Wednesday 16th September (postponement Wednesday 23rd September)
Time: 9.00am - 4.00pm
Venue: Summerhill MTB Park (Skills Park)
Divisions: Year 4, 5 & 6
Entries Due: Friday 4th September



Note: Because this event requires transporting bicycles, parents will need to attend and provide transportation.



Making Every Day Count: Term 2 Attendance Update

Thank you, parents and whānau, for your ongoing support in prioritising your child's learning. When students arrive ready to learn, connect, and thrive, it sets the whole school up for success.

The Ministry of Education has set a national target: 80% of students attending school regularly (90% of the time or more) by 2030. In practical terms, this means a student needs to miss fewer than 5 days across an entire term.

Each term, we receive an attendance report showing our school's trends across year levels, ethnicity, and gender. Take a look at the summary [above] of our provisional Term 2 attendance. While we have some work to do to hit our targets, we know that by working together, we can get our learners where they need to be.

Yummy Apple Stickers - Entry closes 4th September to claim our free sports gear - Get your stickers in to the office now

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A Fantastic New Addition Outside Rūma Tūī

Have you spotted the fabulous new picnic tables on the deck outside Rūma Tūī? They have already become a massive hit with our tamariki during lunch eating time.

A huge THANK YOU to our School Board and PTA for funding these fantastic tables. They are a super addition to our school environment, giving our students a beautiful, comfortable spot to sit together and enjoy their lunch in the fresh air. We are so grateful for your continued support in making our school grounds such a great place to be!

Communication Channels

When it comes to staying connected with the school, direct communication through email, phone or a face-to-face meeting is always the most effective path with our staff. We want to hear from you, and we are here to help.

While ClassDojo is great for quick classroom updates and school-wide announcements, direct channels ensure your messages receive the focus they deserve in a timely manner.

Corrections on site

A massive thank you to the corrections team for their recent mahi at our kura. During a dedicated half-day onsite visit on 8 August, this fantastic crew worked incredibly hard mowing, weeding, and giving our grounds a thorough tidy-up. They consistently show great care for our school environment, and we truly appreciate the ongoing support they provide to our community.



Help Shape Our Future; Your Voice Matters!

Together, we make our school a great place to learn and grow. The Board warmly invites our parents and whānau to share what you think our school should start, stop, or continue doing.

Teachers handed out a feedback form at our recent 3-Way Conferences. **Please return to school by Friday 21 August.**

Every voice counts, and we want to ensure our 2027 - 2028 strategic plan reflects our entire community. We value your time and look forward to hearing your thoughts as we work together to set the course for the coming years.

Teacher Only Day

Have you marked your calendar? School will be closed on **Friday, 23 October 2026.** Our staff will be spending the day preparing for 2027 - exploring the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum (including the updated Science and Social Sciences learning areas) and further embedding the Science of Learning.



We appreciate your support in bringing this great learning opportunity to our staff.

Policies and Procedure

All school policies and procedures can be viewed at our SchoolDocs Site using the username and password below. The SchoolDocs Site contains a search tool allowing you to search for a topic or theme.

How to login:

1. Go to schooldocs.co.nz
2. Click Search for your school (top, right)
3. Start typing our school's name and select it from the dropdown list.
4. Enter our community username (whakamarama) and password (unity)

School Docs
Policies and Procedures

This term policies under review are:

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School Community Engagement Policy, Inclusive Culture, Enrolment, Student Attendance, Concerns and Complaints Policy. Anyone can review any policy that has a review button.

To start reviewing, login and click the **Start your review** button.

These children all have an August (Here-turi-kōkā) birthday!!



7 Years Freja
9 Years Herry, Kurt
10 Years Arjun, Flynn
11 Years Brayden
13 Years James, Falcon

SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

Please keep yourself up-to-date with the school newsboard that comes out fortnightly in the newsletter or on the the school website

August / Here-turi-kōkā	
10th - 14th	Maths Week
Thursday 20th	School Assembly 2pm - Come join us!
Monday 24th	PTA Meeting 7pm at Whakamārama Community Centre
Tuesday 25th	Board Meeting 5.300pm
Monday 31st	Choir Performance #3 and Performance Night!
September / Mahuru	
Tuesday 1st	Tall Poppies Speech Competition
Sunday 6th	Fathers Day
7th - 9th	Aquatic Skills: Kārearea and Tūī
Thursday 10 September	Field Trip - Years 4-8: Our Precious Wetlands (BCA)
Wednesday 16th	Wig Wednesday
14th -18th	Te Wiki o te reo Māori
Friday 18th	Grandparents Day
Monday 21st	PTA Meeting 7pm at Whakamārama Community Centre
Thursday 24th	School Assembly 2pm - Come join us!
Friday 25th	Teacher Appreciation Day
Friday 25th	End of Term 3!
October / Whiringa-ā-nuku	
Monday 12th	Term 4 Starts
Saturday 17th	SHOW DAY
Monday 19th	PTA Meeting 7pm at Whakamārama Community Centre
Tuesday 20th	Board Meeting 5.30pm
Thursday 22nd	Marimba Festival
Friday 23rd	Teacher Only Day
Monday 26th	Labour Day - School Closed

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:

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If you would like to advertise on the Whakamārama School Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com
To download the app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose Whakamarama School once installed.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

HEY KIDS – COME AND PLAY TEE BALL AND SOFTBALL/BASEBALL IN TERM 4, 2026!
SATURDAY MORNINGS - U8 Tee-ball 9.00am, U11 Diamond Ball 10am, U14 Softball/Baseball 11.00am.
Games are only 60 minutes; ANYONE can play and heaps of action and fun!
WBOP SOFTBALL ASSN. CARLTON BALLPARK, 412 Ngatai Road, Bellevue.
31st October – 12th December 2026. Only $20.00 for 7 weeks of games.
Register your name with the school Sports Co-ordinator for more information or visit our website...
Have a Go Days: Sunday 18th and 25th October 10am-12pm
Website: www.sporty.co.nz/wbopsoftball
Email: juniorsoftballwbop@gmail.com











Te whanake ake he akomanga ngākau reka