



Newsletter

Waitomo Caves
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Te Whakatipu i to Uira - Growing Your Glow

Term Three 2025

Week One - 18 July

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whanau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

Welcome to Term 3 everyone! We have some exciting news with our new students starting school this week. Once again welcome to:

Karlyn Mateara

Valeshka Gandhi

and Kiara Gandhi



Welcome back to Carter Wanden too. We also welcome Mrs Glenys Stone, an experienced ECE teacher providing student support in Kowhai Class.

School Website

Our school website has been updated. An important focus is who we are and how we can be contacted. With additional links, photos and information check out the link or google Waitomo Caves School. <https://www.waitomocaves.school.nz/>

Learning Conferences

These are scheduled for Thursday 14 August. Please plan to keep this afternoon available for further discussions around your child's progress and learning with teachers. A pink notice will be sent home in early August.



Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

Celebrating Student Progress and Achievement

Key targets have been set as part of our Strategic Planning to raise student achievement in relation to the NZ Curriculum. Following mid year assessment and reporting, students are making progress towards developing their knowledge and skills within literacy and numeracy, and other learning areas such as art, technology, PE and health.

All students are working towards achieving NZ Curriculum goals in reading using phonemic awareness and the structured literacy programme. There have been gains in student achievement however 62% are not where they need to be yet. This is similar to 2024 although we have a changing cohort of students.

All students are working hard towards achieving NZ Curriculum goals in written language to reach their age appropriate levels making gains in their learning. 27% are achieving at expected level with 73% requiring accelerated learning. There have been some quick gains which will continue to increase with structured literacy and more explicit teaching.

All students are working towards achieving NZ Curriculum goals in math, strengthening their basic facts knowledge. Maths is another area where we are working towards accelerating student achievement to support students' progress. 38% of students are achieving at their expected level with 62% not where they need to be yet.

Staff and trustees are aware of the need to progress student outcomes and build collective capacity across the school. There is a plan that identifies actions and goals to raise student achievement. We are mindful of the complex needs of our tamariki.

Our overall goal is to have all Year 8 students reach the expected level of achievement for their age by the time they leave school, which the majority of them have already achieved in reading. Other core subject areas will be achieved by most at the end of the school year.

Ministry attendance expectation has been reviewed to reflect $\geq 90\%$. Although we are somewhat behind in term 1, term 2 picked up considerably. We know that achievement data shows there is a strong link between attendance and academic progress, however we can report that our tamariki are happy at school, they enjoy coming here, and they are making good friends. Let's continue to focus on everything that strengthens and supports our vision 'Growing Your Glow - Te Whakatipu i to Uira'. Congratulations students, teachers, whanau - kia kaha!

Small Schools Cross Country

Our school continues to host the district's cross country races thanks to the community support from Christen & Katie Dimond, HTG managers and Tokikapu Marae. The small schools cross country race will be held on Wednesday 6 August, only three weeks away. The briefing begins at 10.40am with the first race starting at 11.00am, being the Years 0-2 girls. All students from Years 0 to 8 will participate and we will require assistance with transport to the venue. To run a very successful day we need marshals, and helpers on the food stall. A pink note will be sent home for parents and caregivers very soon, please look out for this. Children will continue to train at school, on the domain, and at home in their own time.

Thank you Billy

Billy the Vet from Te Awamutu supports multiple schools in the district. He acquires new and used sports equipment and supplies schools with a range of gear to suit students' needs. We are grateful to Billy for popping in with lots of equipment for us to use. Thank you Billy the Vet.



What Now

Following up on the recent What Now show where our tamariki were filmed, here is the link to the story with Lexi and Thomas. Enjoy!

<https://app.frame.io/presentations/c79531d0-2705-4154-a77e-66965991d67c>

Police Vetting

We continue to encourage whānau and caregivers to complete Police Vetting forms in line with school policy safety checks. Getting these sorted now supports the process of parent help for any volunteer work or school camps. Please contact the office so we can send forms home to be completed. Thank you.

Board of Trustees News

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 29 July.

Elections - Here is the Board election schedule.

Close Main Roll	Wednesday 16th July 2025
Call for Nominations by	Friday 18th July 2025
Close Supplementary Roll	Monday 4th August 2025
Nominations Close noon	Wednesday 6th August 2025
Voting Papers Sent by	Wednesday 13th August 2025
Voting Day on (closes at 4.00pm)	Wednesday 10th September 2025
Accept Postal Votes	Monday 15th September 2025
Votes Counted	Tuesday 16th September 2025

Nominations are invited for the election of 3 parent representatives to the board of trustees. A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations is available to all eligible voters and accompanies this newsletter.

Our Tamariki

Kauri Class Poems

Joe is a small mythic. Billy is the most terrific. It was class time. They learned about ancient times. The bell rang for lunch. They had a big munch. There was a food fight. The next minute it was night. By Thomas McLennan	There was a boy named Bob Looking after cars was his job. He was in his shop in town When he got robbed he had a frown So he called the cops with a smile Some cops came down with a pile Of handcuffs to get the man Who stole the car made out of a tin can So they ran out of the cop car To find the robber in the bar The man got put in jail But the man wanted to bail The car got given back To the man down town with a cat. By Annaliese Haysom	One sunny day there was a dog named Bob He would always fall asleep on the job His work was to catch pig and tuff But he was too old for that stuff When they went for a hunt a pig started chasing Poor old Bob ran away and started pacing A couple minutes later he came back Chasing the pig when Bob heard a crack After killing the pig he could go back to sleep After waking he saw a dog but they didn't say a peep At first he didn't really like him but he eased up But after a little bit he realised he is a backup. By Kyrin King
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What's Coming Up

21 July	KickStart Classes Resume
23 July	MathsBuddy Resumes
29 July	Board of Trustees Meeting
4 August	Teacher Only Day - Curriculum Refresh (Maths)
6 August	Small Schools Cross Country
13 August	COPs Cross County
14 August	Learning Conferences
15 August	Community Assembly - Speeches

Mrs Tamae Dimond
Tumuaki ☺