

Newsletter

Waitomo Caves
RD 7 Otorohanga

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Te Whakatipu i to Uira - Growing Your Glow

Term Three 2025

Week Three - 1 August

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whanau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

Teachers Only Day (TOD)

This is a reminder that we are closed for instruction on Monday 4 August. The ministry has assigned TOD's for curriculum refresh therefore on Monday staff are looking forward to unpacking more of the new maths curriculum.

Small Schools Cross Country

We are all set to participate in this event on Wednesday 6 August, next week. We urgently need helpers on the food stall and assistance with transporting children to and from the HTG hut venue on Te Anga Road. Please contact school first thing on Tuesday morning or leave a message on the school mobile number - 027 391 0746, to offer your help.

COP's Cross Country

The COP's cross country race will be held on Wednesday 13 August with a briefing at 10.40am and a start time of 11.00am. The COP's race is for the top runners gaining 1st to 4th placings in the small schools race. A notice will be sent home following the small schools race if your child/children are eligible for running at COP's. Once again this is another great opportunity for fundraising and your help is appreciated. We are fundraising for the annual ski day trip.

Community Assembly

Our next Community Assembly will be the afternoon of Friday 15 August. This is when we get to share our speeches with you. Please come along to support us with our delivery of speeches. Starting time is expected to be at 12.45pm and will be confirmed on Skool Loop.



Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences are scheduled for Thursday 14 August for parents and caregivers who wish to meet with teaching staff regarding their child's learning, progress and achievements. These are held in the multipurpose room and a schedule notice for your appointment will be sent home on Tuesday next week.

Attendance

Waitomo Caves School values student attendance and we continue to expect high attendance from students. Understandably illnesses are an exception however we do need parents to send their tamariki to school to avoid truancy.

It is important to note that:

- Formula for absence is 1 day away = 3 days to catch up
- A student who misses five school days every term, or one day per fortnight (90% attendance) from Year 1-10, will miss the equivalent of one year of school by the time they reach Year 10

In New Zealand, school attendance is a national priority, with the government aiming for 80% of students to attend school regularly (90% of the time) by 2030. This goal is part of a broader effort to improve attendance rates, which have been declining and are lower than in comparable countries.

Our summary the ministry has provided from our school management system is not looking great as this time last year was better. Chronic absenteeism has improved by 22%.

Term 2 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?



Regular Attendance

13%

Compared to 24% in Term 2, 2024



Irregular Absence 20%

Compared to 21% in Term 2, 2024



Moderate Absence 43%

Compared to 10% in Term 2, 2024



Chronic Absence 23%

Compared to 45% in Term 2, 2024

Rippa Rugby Skills

King Country Rugby Development Officer (RDO), Dan Tasker visited our school for the first time over the past two weeks to help us with skills and drills for rippa rugby.

We all had a great time learning some new games to strengthen our passing, catching, and team work.



Design and Technology

Look at our awesome sewing skills. Children have been creative in preparing some masterpieces for upcycling. We look forward to sharing more of our work with you soon.



Board of Trustees News

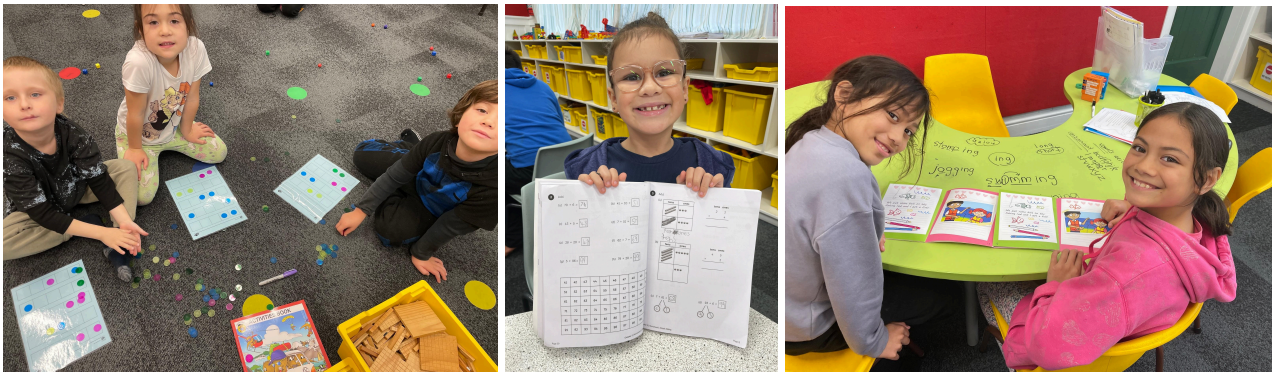
Elections - Here is the Board election schedule. Please ensure your nominations are in before closing at noon on Wednesday 6 August. **This is a priority for our school as if we do not get enough parents to represent the board the ministry assigns a commissioner. This comes at a substantial cost to the school, funds which can otherwise be used to support our students' learning.**

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. Please contact the school office if you require one.

Our Tamariki

Kowhai Class Learning



What's Coming Up

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	
19 August	Ōtorohanga College Experience Day	
22 August	Visiting School	
29 August	Ski Day Trip	
2 September	Next BOT Meeting	Mrs Tamae Dimond, Tumuaki ☺