

Newsletter

Waitomo Caves
RD 7 Otorohanga

Phone (07) 878 7534
Mobile 027 391 0746

Te Whakatipu i to Uira - Growing Your Glow

Term Four 2025

Week Ten - 12 December

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whānau and Friends of the School
Tēna Koutou Katoa

Individual Reports

Student progress and achievement reports will be sent home today, Friday 12 December. Each child will bring their report home for you to open and read together.

Our teachers and staff have worked extremely hard to provide accurate, meaningful information about your child's learning and achievement. We welcome any feedback you may have once you have read through the report, as we continually review and strengthen our reporting processes. You can expect our reports to look different next year as we begin implementing the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum.

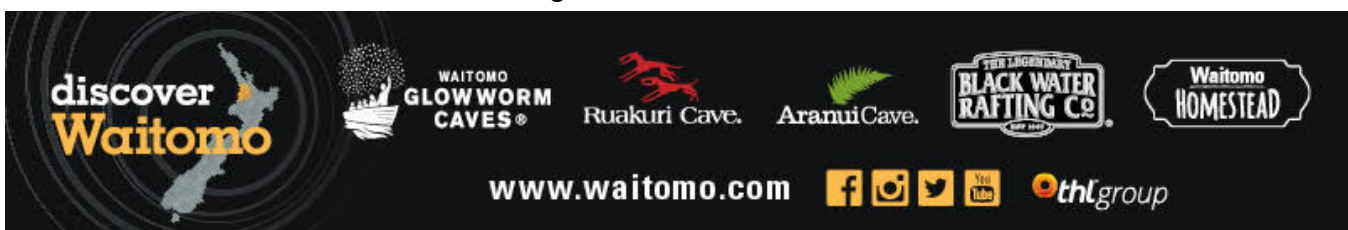
Athletics

Congratulations to Lexi Green for qualifying in the Year 7 girls' shot put and discus at the Waikato Full Primary Schools Athletics Day. Although the event was unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather, Lexi should be incredibly proud of her achievement. She earned first place in both of these field events at the COPs Athletics Day, showcasing her strength and talent.

Guardians of the Night

As part of our *Guardians of the Night* unit, Kauri Class recently completed their Ruakuri Bush Walk on the night of Wednesday 3 December. This special experience was followed by an overnight stay in the Kauri classroom, creating a unique and memorable learning opportunity for our students.

The night walk allowed the children to explore the bush after dark, deepening their understanding of nocturnal animals, natural habitats, and the way the bush comes alive at night. Students showed curiosity and confidence during the walk, making it a valuable hands on extension of their classroom learning.



The sleepover was supported by Mr and Mrs Dimond, with Alannah Batger assisting during the bush walk. We appreciate the time, organisation, and care in providing our learners with such a rich and engaging experience. The students gained not only new knowledge but also teamwork, resilience, and a sense of adventure - ka rawe, Kauri Class!



St John Weaving Wellness Programme



We are pleased to share that our Kauri Class (Year 5 to 8) students have successfully completed the St John Weaving Wellbeing Programme. This programme supports students to develop important life skills such as resilience, emotional awareness, problem solving, and strategies for managing everyday challenges.

Throughout the sessions, students explored practical tools to help them understand their feelings, build positive relationships, and support their own wellbeing. The

programme has encouraged thoughtful discussions, strengthened class culture, and empowered students to take greater responsibility for their own mental and emotional health.

We are proud of the maturity and engagement our students demonstrated during this learning. Their commitment to growing their wellbeing toolkit will serve them well both inside and outside the classroom.

Pickleball in Benneydale



2025 Prizegiving

This year has been one of real progress, strengthening relationships, and lifting expectations. Across the school, we have seen students engaging deeply in their learning, supporting one another, and showing the values that make Waitomo Caves School such a special place to learn and grow. One of the biggest highlights of 2025 has been our remarkable improvement in attendance.

A big thank you to everyone who attended our prizegiving celebrations in the multipurpose room. We had a lovely morning celebrating and enjoying listening to the Year 8's, who joined our school at different times of their primary school years.

Thank you to Glenn Heka at The Tomo Bar & Eatery for sponsorship of the medals. The following recipients were awarded for their effort throughout the year within academic, physical, social and cultural aspects. Congratulations [Carlos Mendoza](#), [Annalieze Haysom](#), [Nichole Taane-Edwards](#), [Willow Wilson](#) and [Kelani Wright](#) for consistent effort.

Congratulations to the following recipients of special awards, trophies, cups and medals at our annual prizegiving ceremony.

Most Improved Swimmer – [Lexi Green](#)

Top Swimmer – [Kyrin King \(Absentia\)](#)

Super Mathlete Award – [Carlos Mendoza](#)

Fairplay Sportsperson of the Year Award – [Lexi Green](#)

Principals Cup for Academic Achievement – [Carlos Mendoza](#)

Citizenship Award – [Annalieze Haysom](#)

Duffy Award for Excellence in Attitude – [Fay Wright](#)

To our whānau and community: thank you for your support throughout the year.

To our staff: [Mrs Magda Jordan](#), [Miss Kinneir Groube](#), [Mr Julian Dimond](#), [Mrs Alannah Batger](#) and [Mrs Glenys Stone](#) thank you for your unwavering dedication, for the heart you bring to your roles and for the teamwork that keeps our school moving forward.

And to our amazing tamariki: thank you for bringing joy, energy, curiosity, and spirit into our school every single day.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.

Have a safe and happy Christmas, enjoy the holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2026.



Celebrating Attendance

Today we celebrated attendance with some special food treats. This was a fun way to acknowledge and reward the effort our students, and whānau, put into coming to school regularly. Good attendance plays a huge role in learning success, so it was wonderful to take a moment to recognise this as a school.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping your children arrive at school each day, ready to learn.

Toy Day

On Monday 15 December we will be holding a 'Toy Day'. Children are invited to bring one toy from home to share and play with throughout the day. While staff will do their best to support the safe use of toys, each child is responsible for looking after their own toy.

We encourage students to bring a good 'old-fashioned' toy that supports imagination and social interaction. Please keep iPads, electronic devices, bikes, scooters, and skateboards at home, as these will not be part of the activities.

The focus of Toy Day is on connecting, cooperating, and interacting with others through play. Board games, card games, construction toys, dolls, action figures, puzzles, and similar items are all great options. If children do not bring a toy from home there are many to choose from at school. We look forward to a fun and engaging day together!

Our Tamariki



What's Coming Up

12 December	Reports Home
15 December	BOT Final Meeting, Toy Day, Year 8 Celebration
16 December	Last Day of School for 2025
17-18 December	Teacher Only Days
2 February 2026	Term 1 Begins for 2026

2026 School Start Dates - School starts on Monday 2 February 2026 at 8.30am.
Waitangi Day is on Friday 6 February, therefore school will be closed. School re-opens on Monday 9 February 2026.
Kick Start to School classes begin on Monday 9 February 2026 from 8.20am to 10.30am.

Have a wonderful summer holiday break everyone.
Take care, be happy, be safe.

Mrs Tamae Dimond, Tumuaki ☺

