



Newsletter

Waitomo Caves
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Te Whakatipu i to Uira - Growing Your Glow

Term Four 2025

Week Eight - 28 November

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whanau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

This is our penultimate newsletter for 2025! The end of the school year is coming to a halt rather quickly as we prepare for prizegiving and end of year activities.

☀️ Attendance Celebration! Term 4 is Our BEST Yet! ☀️

Kia ora e te whānau,

We have some **AMAZING** news to share about our school attendance this term — and it's all thanks to YOU and your tamariki!

🎉 Our Term 4 attendance has skyrocketed! 🎉

Compared with Term 3, our students have made some incredible progress in coming to school regularly, being on time, and showing up ready to learn.

Here's what we're celebrating:

💚 63% of our students are now in the GOOD attendance band!

That's a HUGE jump from just **25% last term!**

This means more children are here every day, learning, growing, and taking part in awesome classroom activities.

❤️ AND... we now have 0 students in the Serious Concern band!

Yes — **ZERO!**

In Term 3, 10 students were in that category. Now, none!

This is a massive achievement and we are SO proud of our tamariki and their whānau for this turnaround.

💛 What this means for your child:

- More time learning
- Stronger friendships



Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

- Better progress in reading, writing, and maths
- More confidence and belonging
- More fun and exciting school moments!

School is where the MAGIC happens and your child being here each day makes a huge difference.

Thank you, whānau!

This improvement shows how much you value your child's learning and how committed you are to helping them succeed. Your efforts with morning routines, transport, communication, and encouragement have truly paid off.

We see you. We appreciate you.

And we're cheering with you! 🎉👏

Let's keep this amazing momentum going!

We're aiming for even MORE students in the GOOD attendance band in the next two weeks. Every day counts. Every child matters.

Together, we've shown what's possible — now let's finish the term strong!

Ngā mihi nui,

Waitomo Caves School 🏡❤️☀️

Looking Ahead – 2026



Next year we continue to have two classes, Kowhai and Kauri. Mrs Magda Jordan will be teaching Kowhai Class Years 1 to 4 and Mr Julian Dimond will be our principal release teacher for Mrs Tamae Dimond in the senior room, Kauri Class with Years 5 to 8. There will be additional teaching support and teacher aide support.

The Board of Trustees have approved funding to release Mrs Dimond full time for 2026. This would not only cover the management role for the principal's position but also Mrs Dimond will plan to provide additional support in the classroom promoting wellbeing for all, enhancing student learning, and professional learning opportunities for our teachers in the curriculum

refresh. This is a focus for the school's strategic plan. Finance will be used from reserves. Based on our provisional roll MOE calculations we are on track to maintain current staffing levels for 2026.

Prizegiving

Our annual prizegiving will be held on Thursday 11 December starting at 10.00am. Please ensure you are seated 10 minutes before in the multipurpose room. Following our presentation we will have a shared kai for lunch. We ask that families please bring a plate of finger food to share. The school will also provide some snacks for you and our tamariki.

We are excited to say The Tomo Bar and Eatery have sponsored the 2025 medals. Thank you Glenn! Make your way to The Tomo over the summer break and enjoy some kai and drinks.

Fundraiser for Carols in the Cave

Unfortunately we didn't have enough confirmed volunteers to complete the job of getting chairs and equipment into the cave and have them set and packed away for performances, therefore declining this fundraising opportunity. We appreciate the willingness of support from the small group of volunteers who said yes and hope you may be available to try again next year.

PhotoLife Photos

Families have been emailed their photo access codes this week and we hope you have enjoyed perusing your child's school photos this year. To order photos please go to the following link and enter your code to begin the ordering process <https://photolifeonline.co.nz/ordering/access>. If you have not received your access code please check your junk, spam or promotions folders first before contacting Miss Groube. To be eligible for free delivery make sure to order before midnight Wednesday 3 December.

Individual Reports

Student reports on progress and achievement will be distributed on Friday 12 December. Each child will bring their report home for you to open it with them.

Teachers and staff have worked very hard at providing you with the information on your child's achievement. Each report is drafted, crafted, reviewed, checked and rechecked. Please provide any feedback once you have read through your child's report as we continue to strengthen our reporting process and reflect on how to improve this.

We aim to provide a new report format next year in line with the curriculum refresh. The timing of this will depend on the Ministry's release of approved assessment tools.

Our Tamariki





What's Coming Up

28-30 November

1-3 December

2 December

5 December

11 December

12 December

15 December

16 December

17-18 December

2 February 2026

Carols in the Cave

Whakawhanaungatanga Day for Year 8's & Whānau

Vision & Hearing Checks

Pickleball Tournament

Prizegiving

Reports Home

BOT Final Meeting, Toy Day, Year 8 Celebration

Last Day of School for 2025

Teacher Only Days

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.

Mrs Tamae Dimond
Tumuaki ☺