Newsletter
Term 4 Week 4 2026

Contact Details Phone: (03) 208 9473
Email: office@knapdale.school.nz
School website: www.knapdale.school.nz

KNAPDALE SCHOOL

KNAPDALE LEARNERS ARE:
RESPONSIBLE (KAWENGA)
RESPECTFUL (WHAKAUTE)
RESILIENT (AUMANGEA)

To seek, to strive, to find and never give up.

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Community Members,

Welcome to Week 4 of Term 4! It has been a busy time here at school, with the new fence project under way, the school pool opening for the season, and plenty of events as we head towards the end of the year.

We have plenty of important updates in this newsletter, so please read through to the end.

School Docs

The school docs website has been updated. Gaining access to the site has also been updated. Here is the information required to access the site.

Go to policies.schooldocs.co.nz -
Click Continue with Google.
Choose an account.
This should take you to the new dashboard.
The search facility is at the top of the page. Please take a look at the policies currently under review. We value your input and encourage you to have your say.

School Gardens

We're looking for a volunteer who loves gardening and would enjoy sharing their know-how with our tamariki.

You don't need to be an expert. If you know your way around a veggie patch, enjoy being outdoors, and are happy to get your hands dirty alongside our students, we'd love to hear from you.

We would welcome help with:

- Planting, weeding and caring for our garden beds
- Showing students how to grow and harvest their own food
- Sharing tips and tricks from your own garden

Whether you can spare an hour a week or just the odd morning, every bit helps. Grandparents, whānau, neighbours and retired farmers are all very welcome!

If you're interested, please contact the school office on [phone] or email [email], or pop in and see me.

Hats and Sun Screen.

Could you please ensure that your child / children have sunhats for this term. As with most years, could you please ensure that the hats are clearly named so as not to cause confusion. The school will supply sunscreen but feel free to supply your own if you want to.

Haka

Kia ora koutou – can you help our boys learn a haka?

Knapdale School is looking for someone in our community who would be willing to come in and teach our boys a haka.

We'd love our tamariki to learn a haka properly, including its meaning, its history and the tikanga that goes with it, so they can perform it with pride and respect at school events and special occasions.

You might be a parent, grandparent, whānau member, past pupil or friend of the school with experience in kapa haka, or you might know someone who would be a great fit. Any time you can offer would be hugely appreciated, whether that's a one-off session or a few sessions over the term.

If you can help, or know someone who might, please contact the school and let us know.

Swimming

Our Pool Is Now Open!

If you'd like to buy a pool key for the season, please visit the **Knapdale Pool Community** page on Facebook. You'll find a link to the key form there, along with the bank details for payment.

Once the weather warms up, classes will also start swimming during the school day. Teachers will let their students know the day before, so please make sure your child brings their togs and a towel on those days.

Free Maths Practice at Home

Want to help your child grow in maths? The Ministry of Education has a free online maths practice tool for students in Years 3 to 8. It's aligned with the new New Zealand Mathematics curriculum and is a great way for your child to practise at home what they've learned at school.

https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/maths-practice

Ministry of Education Parent Portal

The Ministry of Education has kindly set up a Parent's Portal. So if you want to know what your child is learning at their year level then this is the place to go. The Ministry's Parent Portal sets out the curriculum for every learning area from Year 0 to Year 10, along with tips for what you can do to help support your child's learning at home.

👉 https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal

School Hampers

Your child will be bringing home raffle tickets and an information sheet for our Christmas raffle. Each class is collecting items for its own themed hamper:

- **Kōwhai: Christmas.** For example: wrapping paper, tape, festive decorations, Christmas crackers and greeting cards.
- **Mātai: Non-perishable treats.** For example: chips, sparkling grape juice, specialty crackers, gourmet sauces and chocolates.
- **Rimu: A Kiwi Christmas.** For example: New Zealand-themed Christmas items, treats or gifts.

Please have all items at school by **Friday 4 December**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support!

Calf Drive



If you can help with this, it would be much appreciated. Every contribution, big or small, will help us get closer to our goal and provide our tamariki with a reliable bus for transport to and from school, school trips, sporting events, camps and other learning opportunities. Together, we can make this happen!

Packet Free Lunches

A friendly reminder that we encourage packet-free lunches to help reduce waste and care for our environment. As the weather gets colder, please ensure your tamariki have plenty of nutritious food in their lunchboxes. Children often need a little extra fuel during winter to stay warm, focused, and ready to learn throughout the day.

Bell times

8.55am:	Learning Block 1
10:00am	Fruit Break
11.30	Morning Tea
11.55am	Learning Block 2
1.05pm	Lunch
1.40	Learning Block 3
2.45pm	Bus

Attendance

Our school must record all absences, along with the reason for the absence by 9 o'clock each day. This information will be monitored and gathered by the Ministry of Education at 6pm each night. If no reason is given for your child / children's absence, then we have no choice but to mark them down as truant.
Our Attendance Management Plan has been re-jigged to fit what we do at this school.

Accounts

Please remember these need to be paid. The funds have already gone out of the school accounts. If you can only pay a small amount each week/month, that's great. A small amount goes a long way. If you need to know the balance of any existing account, please contact Susan - office@knapdale.school.nz or ring the school on 208 9473.

Starting date for 2027

We will officially be starting school on Thursday the 28th of January. This gives us 2 days to slowly settle in before we are back into full weeks.

Whakatauki: *Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu. (Adorn the bird with feathers and it will fly)*

Waitangi Day
Waitangi Day will be observed on the 8th of February. There will be no instruction on that day.

Library
Our school library will be closing on **Friday the 20th of November** for Audit purposes. Please ensure that all Library books, school journals etc, are returned by this date.

Sickness
If your child / children display any symptoms of being ill, can you please keep them at home. If your child displays any symptoms on arriving at school, we will ring and ask for them to be picked up.

In the past we have had to bear the brunt from some unhappy parents. However, if a large proportion of my staff become ill, the only recourse open to me is to close the school.

To date we have had cases of chicken pox, hand, foot and mouth disease, influenza A, high temperatures, and vomiting These ailments are ongoing.

So your vigilance in regards to this matter would be much appreciated.

Concerns
If you have any concerns about anything to do with school then please get in touch with us so that they can be addressed. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher you can contact them by ringing the school office or sending them an email (listed below). If it is of a serious nature then please get in contact with Raewyn directly.

Paige Croad: paige@knapdale.school.nz Amanda Swain: amanda@knapdale.school.nz
Raewyn Ramage: principal@knapdale.school.nz Megan MacBeth megan@knapdale.school.nz

Emma Norman: emma@knapdale.school.nz

Nga mihi:

Raewyn, Paige, Amanda, Emma, Megan, Susan, Michelle, Sara, Viv, Lana.

Up and coming events

Dates for 2026 (This will be updated periodically to reflect our up and coming events) **Pet Day** November 13th **Talent Shop** November 25 **Bike Week** November 30th - December 4th **Prize Giving** December 10th **Term Ends** December 11th	School Docs Policies and Procedures We use SchoolDocs as a way to manage our Policies. Policies are always open for consultation in our school community - so go to policies.schooldocs.co.nz - Click Continue with Google. Choose an account. This should take you to the new dashboard. The search facility is at the top of the page. You will see which policies are under review and can respond to them as well.

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Sponsors



Whakatauki: *Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu. (Adorn the bird with feathers and it will fly)*