



OKOIA SCHOOL

I try, I do, I achieve; We succeed!

Term 3 Week 3 2025

Kia ora, hello to all parents/caregivers/whanau,

Thank you to everyone who attended parent-teacher interviews last week. These meetings are always a valuable opportunity to discuss your child/ren's learning, ask questions, and celebrate the amazing work they are doing each day at school.

❄ Brrr... Winter Mornings Are Here!

Jack Frost has definitely been visiting this term! Over the past few mornings, temperatures have dropped to -2 or -3°C when we arrive at school.

Please ensure your child/ren come to school dressed in **warm, layered clothing**.

While the mornings are chilly, the days often warm up beautifully, so having removable layers allows students to stay comfortable throughout the day.



☑ Attendance

The Ministry of Education is currently monitoring school attendance very closely.

It is important that we are informed of any absences, along with the reason.

Below are the main attendance codes we use at Okoia School:

- **M** - Medical (e.g., illness or medical appointment)
- **T** - No contact received regarding the absence
- **J** - Justified reason (within school policy)
- **E** - Explained but not justified (e.g., holiday taken during term time)
- **Q** - Approved period of learning from home
- **U** - Student stood down (1-5 days, reported to ENROL as per MOE guidelines)



Open Door Policy / Issues or Concerns.



At Okoia School, we operate an open-door policy and encourage open communication. You are always welcome to contact the office if you would like to meet with your child's classroom teacher or Maria to discuss any concerns. We believe that early communication is key to ensuring the best outcomes for our students.

Please be assured that all concerns or issues raised by families are taken seriously and followed up appropriately. While it may not always be immediately visible, every conversation and concern is carefully considered and acted upon. At times, resolving matters may take a little longer, especially when multiple steps or people are involved, but we are committed to working through all issues thoroughly and respectfully.

Playground Update - Junior and Senior Play Areas

To ensure all our children have a safe and enjoyable playtime, we've recently introduced **separate playground areas** for our students:

- **Years 1-3 (Juniors)**
- **Years 4-8 (Seniors)**

This change has come in response to feedback from some of our younger students, who were finding the older students' play a bit too rough—even though they enjoyed playing together.

The separation helps ensure that play remains fun, safe, and appropriate for each age group.

We'll continue to review this as needed, but early feedback shows that students are adapting well and enjoying their new play spaces.



Board of Trustees - Parent Representative Nominations



Nomination papers were sent home in Week 1 of Term 3 for the election of **four parent representatives** to the Okoia School Board of Trustees.

Nominations close at 12pm on Wednesday, 13 August 2025.

If you have a few hours to spare each month and would like to contribute to the continued success of our school, we warmly encourage you to put your name forward.

You are welcome to nominate yourself.

Completed nomination forms can be returned to the school office.

Your voice matters—help shape the future of Okoia School!

Teacher Only Day-Friday 1st August

School will be closed this Friday for all staff to have compulsory Maths professional development.

We appreciate you making other arrangements for the day.



School Photos - Friday, 29 August

Photolife will be at school on **Friday, 29 August** to take **class, individual, and sibling photos**.

More information and order forms will be sent home as soon as we receive them. Photolife is a trusted and long-established school photography company, and their ordering system is easy to use.

Keep an eye out for the forms coming home soon!

Rippa Rugby Training Sessions

This term, all students are taking part in **Rippa Rugby skills training sessions**, run by **Whanganui Rugby**. These sessions are a fun and active way for students to develop their coordination, teamwork, and game knowledge—all while staying active and enjoying the sport.



Camp Countdown is On!

Camp is coming up quickly, and we're excited to offer our students a fantastic experience in Wellington! At Monday's camp meeting, all necessary documents were handed out.

If you couldn't attend, please check your child's bag and return the forms to school **as soon as possible**.



Chocolate Fundraiser

We still have chocolate fundraiser boxes available to help reduce camp costs. Each box sells for \$90 (36 bars), with **\$30 going directly towards your child's camp fees**. Flavours include Hokey Pokey, Coconut, Peanut Slab, Creamy Milk, and Almond Gold—yum!

If you'd like a box (or more), please contact the school office.

Upcoming trips/occasions/dates to be aware of:

Term 3 Events	
Week 6	Wednesday 20th August - School Cross Country from 12.30pm
Week 7	Friday 29 th August - School Photos
Week 10	Wednesday 17 th September - BOT Election Day (if required) Friday 19th September - Last day of Term 3

Facebook & Email link



All notices will be emailed out as well as being posted on Facebook.

Any announcements e.g. postponements/cancellations/changes will be posted on our Facebook page, and we will also send out a text message. We hope that this ensures that everyone receives these updates.

Okoia School Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087980075883>

School Contact Details

Principal	Maria Johnstone	principal@okoia.school.nz
Room 2 / DP	Le'Anne Steedman	lstedman@welearn.school.nz
Room 2	Jo Cosford	jcosford@welearn.school.nz
Room 3	Joanne Gosney	jgosney@welearn.school.nz
Room 1 / Acting DP	Leah Smith	lsmith@welearn.school.nz
Office administrator	Helen Prince	office@okoia.school.nz



Reminders:

➤ Van absences or changes:

For any **Van absences or changes please phone, text or message 027 342 4761** only.

No one is in the school office after 12.30 each day and we don't want to miss your message.

- **Absent children:** **Phone, txt or message 027 342 4761** or email office@okoia.school.nz
- **School Bank Account:** **030791-0552011-00 Westpac, Whanganui.**

Account name: Okoia School Board of Trustees

- Use your child's name as reference please.

