



Ohaeawai School 2025

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Fortnightly Newsletter No.17

Wednesday October 22nd 2025

Calendar

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou katoa. Greetings everyone.

Greats and Grands Day - Thank you to everyone who came and helped us celebrate all of the amazing grandparents and great-grandparents who are in our lives. Grandparents are the link between the present and the past and it was amazing to be able to celebrate with so many last Friday. We are so lucky to live in such an amazing, supportive community.

Teachers Only Day: We will be holding a Teachers Only on Friday, October 31st. This will be a day to look at the new refreshed Maths curriculum with other Kaikohe schools. School will be CLOSED to students on this day and our Oscar programme will be CLOSED.

Okaihau College transition dates: November 13th and November 20th from 11:20 am - 1:20 pm. This is the responsibility of whānau to transport students to this but we can help with organising carpooling if you let us know early.

Save the Date: Year 6 Graduation Dinner, **Monday, December 8th.** This is being held at Northland College this year, as we have employed their catering department to cater the night. More details around costings and payment will be sent home when this is finalised.

End of Year prize giving celebration:

We will be holding our end-of-year prize-giving celebration at school under our canopy DURING THE DAY. Hopefully, by sharing this now, you will have enough time to organise time off work. The date set is **Friday, December 12th, starting at 12 pm** - If your child received a trophy last year please can these be returned to school ASAP.

School Closed, Thursday October 23rd - Our school will be closed on Thursday, 23 October as NZEI members take part in nationwide strike action. This decision is part of a collective effort by teachers, principals and support staff across Aotearoa to call for fair pay, better resourcing, and improved support for learners and staff. As all of our teaching staff are NZEI members, we are unable to keep the school open, and the Ohaeawai School Board have agreed to close the school in the interest of the health and safety of our tamariki. We understand that this may cause some disruption for families and appreciate your understanding and support as educators advocate for the best outcomes for our tamariki. School will reopen as normal on Friday, 24 October.

Attendance: One of the things we are continuing to focus on in 2025 is student attendance. Did you know that if a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day, and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

It is important to let us know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure.

Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky. You know your child best. Again, we just ask that you let us know, preferably before 9 am. If you are finding it hard to get your child to school, please talk with us so we can work together. Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school.

School uniforms for 2026: Our board of trustees have decided to go with a mandatory school uniform for 2026. As has already been advertised, we will have a red tee shirt/sports top, a polo shirt and a sweat shirt you can purchase. It is hoped that black bottoms can be worn. We are happy to offer payment options, including automatic payments to help whānau if necessary. Lauren is also happy to track payments if you wanted to start paying for this a little at a time now.

Important dates:

Oct 23rd - NZEI Union strike School closed

Oct 27th - Labour Day - No School

Oct 31st - Teacher Only Day

Nov 6th - Navigation Homes picnic table making day celebrations

Nov 7th - Pet Day

Nov 13th & 29th - Year 6 transition days at Okaihau College

Dec 8th - Year 6 Graduation dinner

Dec 12th - End of Year prize giving

Dec 15th - Last day of term 4

2025 Term Dates

Term 1: 30 January – 11 April

Term 2: 28 April – 27 June

Term 3: 14 July – 19 September

Term 4: 6 October – 15 December

Wheels Days: Seniors Tuesday;

Everyone Wednesdays; Juniors Thursdays

Newsletter commonly every 2nd Thursday

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INTERNET BANKING PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL & CLASS ACTIVITIES, OSCAR programme & FUNDRAISING: Ohaeawai School Board - ASB account 12-3097-0205371-00. Use your child's name & activity as reference.

OSCAR: Please remember to send a named hat in with your child for OSCAR, this needs to be kept in their bag until the end of the day. We will start swimming in OSCAR next week. Please remember to sign your child out each day and also let the office or Toni/Aimee know if your child will/will not be in OSCAR

Michelle Edwards Principal

TE MOANA Rm 7 Yr 6 Whaea Ann

What a brilliant start to the term! Greats and Grands Day was a huge success—a massive thank you to our students and all the family members who came to make it such a wonderful morning. Hard to believe we're already into Week 3!

This Wednesday is especially exciting: the class has filled the marble jar, so we'll be celebrating with a well-deserved Fun Day as a reward! It's also a farewell celebration as we say a sad farewell to Izzy and her family, who are moving out of the area. We will certainly miss her greatly and wish her all the best in her new home!

This term, in literacy, we are currently exploring explanation texts. We've started an interesting unit focusing on key aspects of global warming and climate change. In Maths, we've just kicked off our Financial Literacy unit and will soon be moving into Geometry and Algebra—it's a busy term for numbers!

TE AWA NUI Rm 9 Yrs 4 & 5 Mrs. Atkinson

What an awesome day we had on Friday for Greats and Grands Day! Team Awa Nui children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning and gift with their treasured grandies! Thanks for the yummy baking and supporting this special event.

Coming up we have Pet Day! We have lots of activities that children can start preparing to do, please check out the school Facebook Page or the newsletter attachment from Week 1.

Over the next few weeks I will be doing lots of end of year testing to see where children are at and discussing learning goals and achievements with them. Please take the time to chat to them about their learning and how important it is to stay focused in class to help with their own learning journey.

We will start swimming next week! BRRRR! Too cold for me, but I know some children are looking forward to this. We will not swim every day but I encourage children to bring togs and towels each day incase we have a chance to have a quick dunk to cool down!

PLEASE NAME ALL TOGS AND TOWELS!

ALSO! PLEASE NAME SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND JERSEYS! As we get warmer weather we find lots of children ditching their clothes during the day! They often end up in lost property and unnamed clothes find it difficult to find their owners!

TE AWA Rm 1 Yrs 3 & 4 Mrs. Craig & Whaea Kemble

It was great to see all the Greats and Grands on Friday. Everyone had a great morning and it was lovely to see the children sharing their learning with their grandparents.

Thanks so much for all the delicious kai sent in for morning tea.

Book Character Day was a highlight last week - it was great to see so many students participating. Next week we will begin swimming. We will not be swimming everyday to start with. Please make sure your child brings their togs and towel in a plastic bag. It would be great if you could name their togs and towel too.

For maths we are working on fractions - being able to identify fractions, add and subtract fractions and find fractions of a set. Knowing our basic facts and times tables is crucial for fractions.

TE AWA TUATAHI Rm 2 Yrs 2 & 3 Mrs. Clarke

Thank you to all the grandparents who came along to Greats and Grands Day last Friday.

We had such a great day and we hope the grandparents did too. This week we have been learning to find a fraction of a number. We are revising our adding and subtracting and continuing to practise our basic facts.

For writing we have been learning to write in paragraphs and to make sure we have clear ideas with detail. Some of us are doing well with this. Our next focus is to get the capital letters correct. I have almost finished all of the reading testing and I am so proud of the progress most children have made. Please keep reading at home and borrowing from the library. Make sure children have their book bags everyday.

Pet Day is coming up in Week 5.

Keep an eye out for notices and information so you have plenty of time to prepare.

TE MAUNGA Rm 5 & Rm 6 Yrs 1 & 2 Miss Stewart & Mrs. Gardiner & TE MAUNGA ITI Rm 4 NE & Yr 1 Mrs. Stevenson

We are looking forward to Pet Day 7th November. At home you might like to choose to make Pet Rocks, Miniature Gardens, Lego Animal Creation, or an Aqua Bowl to enter. There is also a photograph category (My pet study, Rural Fun, Something Old). At school for Pet Day, we will be creating animals from recycled materials. We would appreciate clean recycling (e.g cereal boxes, margarine containers) we could use to make our animals.

The weather is getting warmer and it is great to see children wearing appropriate clothes, especially shorts and tshirts that cover shoulders.

After Labour weekend we will start class swimming. This will be weather dependent. Please name all clothing, togs and towels. This really does help us return items. We will be swimming on **Wednesday** afternoons.

This morning we had a wonderful visit from Hillcrest Kindergarten in Maunga Iti. We had fun showing them around our school and teaching them new games to take home.