Our vision:
To build confident and resilient life-long learners.

Our mission (how we will achieve our vision):
Teachers will empower students to be active learners who work in partnership with the teacher.

Teachers will ensure students know what they are learning, when they have been successful and where they are going to next.

Self and peer assessment is a routine step in the learning process.

Success criteria are most effective when great examples of work are used to show what quality looks like.

Teachers will use the learning progressions in the curriculum in order to confidently work with a diverse range of students.

The school recognises the influence of the home and will endeavour to build and nurture learning focussed partnerships with parents and whanau.

Our values:

Kindness, respect, honesty, responsibility, courage.

Our houses:
Haszard, Simmonds, Barnett, Rongowhitiao

5 May 2026

Kia ora koutou katoa.

We are well into our normal routines and learning this term, and it's great to see everyone settled and engaged. Teachers have planned well-structured, engaging lessons that keep students focused and support them to learn what they need to know.

Our senior students have also stepped into leadership roles, helping the school run smoothly in many key areas, including the tuck shop, library, and sports equipment, to name just a few.

Our school is looking fantastic, with new carpet in every classroom and bright, colourful turf on the courts. It has been wonderful to see so many people out enjoying the refreshed spaces—children and adults alike. Michael will see a huge difference when he is back next Wednesday.

There's quite a lot of information in this newsletter, (click on the blue links for more information) but we feel it's important to keep everyone well informed. So sit back, relax, and enjoy the read.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mō tō koutou tautoko - Thank you for your support.
Sandra Hamilton

SMART Testing

This year, we are introducing a new assessment tool called SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool). From 2027, all students in New Zealand in Years 3–10 will take this same standardised test at each year level.

SMART is designed to give teachers a clearer understanding of where your child is in their learning—what they can already do and what they are ready to learn next. The assessment will take place at school during normal class time, usually lasting between 30–45 minutes, and can be completed either online or on paper.

While SMART will become an important assessment tool in the future, schools can choose how and when to introduce it. We have decided to begin using it this year so our students feel confident and well prepared ahead of it becoming a requirement in 2027. This testing will take place during Weeks 4 and 5.

It's important to remember that SMART is just one part of the overall picture. Teachers also use classroom observations, conversations, and other assessments to build a well-rounded understanding of your child's progress and to plan learning that supports their next steps.

Reporting

Our reports, which will go home at the end of this term, will have a fresh new look to reflect updated government expectations.

When reporting to parents and whānau, schools are now using a shared set of Progress Descriptors: *Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient,* and *Exceeding*. These help give a clearer picture of how your child is progressing in relation to the new curriculum. Alongside these descriptors, you'll also see teacher comments, assessment information, and examples that show your child's progress over time.

This is a significant change, as the refreshed curriculum has clearer, and in some cases higher, expectations for what students should know and be able to do at each year level. Schools across New Zealand are working hard to put these changes into practice, and we understand that it's a lot to take in.

As always, our priority is supporting every child to make steady progress, grow in confidence, and feel well prepared for the next step in their learning journey.

Winter Sports

The school winter sports have started this term - football, netball and basketball. Thank you to the coaches, managers and parents for helping these codes to run smoothly on the day. These couldn't go ahead without your support.

Pink Shirt Day

We are supporting Pink Shirt Day again this year. Everyone is encouraged to wear pink on Friday the 15th May to show we stand against bullying. This also ties in nicely with our MITEY and Keeping Ourselves Safe units. Click on the heading above to make a donation towards this fantastic cause.

Ignite Music

Year 1-2 are encouraged to try the *Ignite the Beatz* programme which has been designed specifically for them. Each term the student gets to try two new instruments. At the end of the programme, the students would have had a good feel for a variety of instruments, and this should give them an indication of which particular instrument they would like to continue with.

Music lessons use the following link to register interest: https://www.ignitearts.co.nz/registration/

Coming Up Events!

15 May - Pink Shirt Day
21 May School Orienteering
21 May - Assembly Hosted by Room 5
26 May - BOT Meeting
1 June - Public Holiday - Kings Birthday
2 June - Teacher Only Day
4 June - Interschool Orienteering
11 June - School Photos
12 June Assembly Hosted by Room 2
26 June Assembly Hosted by Room 4
29 June - BOT Meeting
3 July - Final Assembly for Term 2

NOHO ORA MAI

Sandra, Sarah Topping, Kirsty, Sarah Du Toit, Hildegard, Haylie, Andrea, Jessica Forkert, Anne Beal, and Michael

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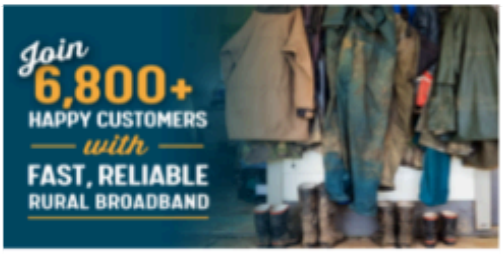
THANK YOU!