



Te Kura o Hau Karetu

He waka eke noa: *We're all in this waka together*
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7 October 2025

Bula Vinaka – it is Fijian Language week this week!

The 2025 theme for Fijian Language Week is 'Na noqu vosa me na tekivu mai vale – My language starts at home', which is so true for any family who are learning and/or reviving their native tongue. It is so important to know your language as it helps you to know who you are.



Welcome back to school for term 4 – the most exciting term of the year in my opinion. Full of celebrations, finding out exactly how much progress students have made, end of year excitement, swimming and with the hope of plenty of sunshine!

Nau mai haere mai ki te. Kura o Hau Karetu/welcome to our newbies Ngārahu and Te Mihingā who have started in Ngā Pōtiki, JT who has started in Te Waipuna, Azaria who started in Te Awa, Whaea Emma who has started as a teacher aide with us, Whaea Devon who has started as our Counsellor in Schools, and Whaea Tei who has started as our new Social Worker in Schools. We are so excited to have you all here with us.

To our new **Social Worker in Schools, Teiana Mavropoulos**, and our **Counsellor in Schools, Devon Waikari** - we are so fortunate you have been found especially for us! I know that both Tei and Devon will be spending as much time as they can getting to know our tamariki. If you see them around, say Hi – make yourself known. If you require the services of either of these talented ladies, please let Karen or your classroom teacher know. Thank you.



Wellbeing Specialist – Devon Waikari:



Kia ora my name is Devon Waikari. I am the Awhi Mai Awhi Atu Wellbeing Specialist for your school. I can work individually with students and/or whānau, with groups, or with staff, to help you understand and deal with any issues or problems you may be experiencing. By working with you from a holistic perspective, I can assist you to develop the necessary coping skills and provide the right support, advice and guidance to increase the chances of being effective or successful in overcoming the challenges and barriers you face.

If you would like to know more about Awhi Mai Awhi Atu you can visit [Awhi Mai Awhi Atu – Wellbeing Support in Schools - HealthCare NZ](https://www.explore.org.nz/awhi-mai-awhi-atu). Or if you'd like to make a time to chat you can email me devon.waikari@explore.org.nz or text/phone/WhatsApp me on 022 011 4327 or feel free to drop into my office on Wednesdays or Fridays.



School Photos:

Our School Photos are happening on Monday 20th October. We need you all there please from 9am on the dot! Photos will consist of a class photo, portrait photo and sibling photo if requested. Completed forms are required for sibling photos. Please pick up a form from the office or text for one to be sent home. **No form, no sibling photo. Please return by the 17 October.** If the siblings attend our school, the photo will be taken during the day. If you are bringing in siblings, call to the hall from 8am. Photolife will email photo proofs to view, and then you can order online.

Sexuality education – Navigating the Journey

Our major topic for the whole school in term 4 is Navigating the Journey and lessons will begin in week 2.

This includes topics such as:

- cyber safety,
- our growing, changing bodies,
- making friends,
- diversity (everyone's different),
- keeping ourselves safe,
- emergency procedures etc.

Navigating the Journey is a culturally responsive unit of work that follows the Mason Durie model of Te Whare Tapa Wha, which parents will be familiar with as we use this model in our goal setting.

We are holding a parent evening this **Thursday 9th October from 4-5pm in the staffroom** for parents who have any questions about the content of the unit. Parents are able to opt their children out of being part of this unit of work, however, we would highly recommend children are able to participate fully and if they have any tricky questions about it, we would always encourage them to speak to you. As well, we would encourage you to ask your child about what they learned on

Important days to remember:

- **Strike day Thursday 23rd October** – we will be open for instruction on this day, however, we will have a skeleton staff. If your child is going to attend school on the 23rd October, we need to make sure we have enough staff for a safe child to adult ratio. ***Please advise Roseanne or Rachel at the office via text or email if your child is going to attend school on this day asap.*** office@tehaukaretu.school.nz or 0275269552, or you can message ..
- **Teacher only day Friday 24th October** – The Upper Hutt Cluster of Schools will be having a day of professional development where we will be learning about the latest and most up to date methods of teaching. We will not be open for instruction on this day. Please do not send your child to school. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

This term:

- **Kaukau/Swimming** – from week 6, 10th November, we will be swimming (as long as it's warm enough). Please provide your child with togs and a towel. We will advise you of the class swim timetable closer to the time.
- **Potae/Sunhats** – term 4 is a sunhat term. Please ensure your child brings a full brimmed sunhat to school each day.
- **NZ shake out day 16th Oct** – this will be at 9.30am and coincides with the rest of the country most of whom will be taking part.
- **Save your Teddy Day 16th Oct** – as part of our Navigating the Journey unit, we are holding a Save the Teddy Day where you child can bring their soft toy, dress up in their jammies, and we'll have a Teddy Bear's picnic (shared kai optional). We will teach children how to perform CPR on their teddies. 
- **Assessment** – we will be carrying out assessments on your child's learning for much of this term.
- **Special Xmas Assembly** – Friday 12th December at 2pm.
- **Reports** – these will be due out to you on Monday 15th December.
- **End of year stuff** –
 - Leaver's assembly Monday 15th December at 1pm
 - Final assembly (where teachers do awesome performing) at 1pm on 17th December.
 - School finishes Wednesday 17th December at 2pm.



Attendance – important, please read:

Our attendance for term 3 was not good – considering all the illnesses – not surprising. However, we are concerned that some children may be saying to their parents they don't want to come to school. We completely understand that parents want to do what's best for their children, especially when it comes to health and well-being. That said, we've noticed that sometimes children are kept home even when they seem well enough to be at school. We wonder if, in

some cases, you might be erring a bit too much on the side of caution e.g. “I’ve got a sore tummy” could mean “I’m worried about going to school.” If this is the case, it’d be great if you could tell us so we can try to unpack this with you and your child. Of course, every family knows their own situation best, but it’s important to balance care with helping kids build resilience and consistency with school attendance. Thank you for your support in this.

Did you know that if your child misses one day of school for the entirety of their primary schooling (80% attendance), that by the time they reach the end of year 6, they will have missed a year and a term of schooling, meaning they will have only had 4 years and 3 terms at school?

Heads up:

- **Swimming:**

Nits and swimming – Please try to keep on top of these pesky critters and check your child’s head regularly:

- Please tie your child’s hair up if it is long – children will not be allowed to swim if they don’t have their hair tied up.
- Nits can survive in chlorinated water for a few hours.
- Don’t share brushes or combs – each child should have their own.
- Treatments can be sourced from school, or through your doctor/medical centre on prescription
- If you find nits on your child, you should check all family members.
- Head lice only survive on humans. They die quickly when they are not on the head, usually within 24 hours.
- We’re all in this together – everyone please treat their kid’s heads and we’ll get out of the cycle.
- For further information go to: <https://www.kidshealth.org.nz/head-lice>

Ngā mihi nui
Karen Wellington
Tumuaki/Principal

Events Term T1 & 2 2025

Week 1 6-10 Oct	Assessments begin.
Week 2 13-17 Oct	Thursday 16 th Oct – NZ Shake out moment at 9.30am – practicing EQ readiness, plus Save Your Teddy Day – bring your teddy or favourite soft toy and learn how to do CPR on it. Bring kai for a shared Teddy Bears’ Picnic (per class).
Week 3 20-24 Oct	School Photos Monday 20 Oct. Please make sure your child is at school on time. Staff Strike Day Thursday 23 rd October Teacher Only Day Friday 24 th October
Week 4 27 Oct-1 Nov	Labour Day Monday 27 th October
Week 6 10-14 Nov	Swimming Begins
Week 10 8-12 Dec	A special Outdoor Education Trip planned this week for the whole school. A most special Christmas Assembly Friday 12 th December at 2pm – kids will not want to miss this one!
Week 11 15-17 Dec	Reports go out on Monday 15 th December. Year 6 Leaver’s Assembly Monday 15 th December at 1pm. Year 6 Dinner – 5pm Monday 15 th December – no parents allowed! Final Assembly at 1pm on Wednesday 17 th December. We finish school at 2pm on Wednesday 17 th December at 2pm.

Policies up for Review for Term 4:

Go to: schooldocs.co.nz, type in our school name and sign in. We encourage you to check these policies out and have your say if you think there should be amendments. Thank you.

Userid: maoribank

Password: waka

Term 4 policies	Review opens 6 October
• Bullying and Harassment	Board review
• Behaviour Management	Board review
• Searches, Surrender, and Retention of Property	
• Minimising Physical Restraint	Board review
• Stand-down, Suspension, and Exclusion	
• Staff Wellbeing and Safety	