



Te Kura o Hau Karetu

He waka eke noa: *We're all in this waka together*
32 Hillside Drive, Māorihau, UPPER HUTT 5018
Phone (04) 5269-552, 027-5269-552
Email: office@tehaukaretu.school.nz

21 October 2025

Week 3, Term 4, 2025

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Namaste, Kumusta,

Nau mai haere mai/welcome to Storm who has started in Te Awa, Felix and Boston who have started in Te Waipuna, and Kiara who has started in Ngā Mataamua. It's great getting to know these amazing little people. Everyone we have come to our kura brings something a little bit special and we treasure the uniqueness of you all.



Strike Day – this Thursday 23rd October, teachers, principals, and support staff will all be striking as negotiations with the government have failed. I have attached a letter to this newsletter to explain why we are striking as we know this means it's a huge commitment from whānau/families to keep your children home for the day if you choose to do so. Understanding why we are doing this is vital.

A reminder that we will remain open on that day for instruction, but we will have a skeleton staff on deck, so it's important that you let us know whether you will be sending your child to school on that day so we can cater to their needs safely. **Please contact Roseanne at the office to let her know.** Thank you so much for your support and understanding everyone.

Teacher Only Day – this Friday 24th October, teachers from all over Upper Hutt will be joining for Professional Development around Child Safety, and Teacher Wellbeing. **Please do not send your child to school on this day.**



Labour Weekend – of course, it's Labour Day on Monday 27th October, so we're back at school as normal on Tuesday 28th of October at 9am.

Did you know that the original struggle started in 1840, with Samuel Parnell, who was a carpenter, refused to work more than eight hours a day in Wellington, a condition his employer had to accept due to the scarcity of skilled workers. He famously told his employer, "We're not in London," which is seen as the first strike for the eight-hour day in New Zealand.



Photo Life – You will receive an email within the next 2 weeks with the order forms for **School Photos**. Look out for this and if you don't receive anything, please check your junk/spam folder just in case. Thank you.

Measles – advice from the Ministry of Education –

"Recent measles cases linked to overseas travel have been reported in Te Tai Tokerau and Queenstown. Cases were active in the community while infectious and there is a risk of measles circulating there, and more widely in Aotearoa.

- Measles is very contagious and can make people of any age very sick.
- Watch for measles symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes and a blotchy rash.
- If anyone in your whānau has measles symptoms keep them home and contact a doctor or **Healthline urgently on 0800 611 116.**
- Vaccination is the best protection from measles. Check all whānau are immunised.
- Anyone closely exposed to measles who has not received two MMR vaccinations cannot attend their school | kura for at least eight days.

Pictures from our Save the Teddy Day:



Heads up:



- Blake Williams, Donna Williams' son, who attends Trentham School, is currently taking part in a handball-a-thon which is fundraising for Kidscan. Our kura is very fortunate that we receive kai and clothing from Kidscan. Get behind Blake – he has really got behind this as he knows how much our school whānau benefit from their generosity. His goal is to fundraise \$1000. He is currently on just over \$700. Let's get behind Blake to help him raise an extra \$300 for Kidscan. Here is the link if you would like to support him: <https://www.kidscanball.org.nz/fundraisers/blakewilliams/kcb/>
- **Volunteers:** We are always after volunteers to help out with Breakfast Club please. We have breakfast from 8-9am daily. If you are able to support us with the above, please contact Roseanne at the office. Thank you.
- **PSG Meeting** – Any parents who wish to become supporters of our fundraising efforts, please advise Roseanne. She will pass your details on to Jewel and we will set you to work on a wee project – thank you for your support.
- **Attendance:** Our attendance is back down to 85.6%. To be fair, we're still going through the flu season. What we would like though is an increase to our "being on time" levels. Currently, only 43% of our students are regularly attending school on time! Eek! Please help us to increase this level of "being on time-ness" and be at school each day by 9am. Thank you.
If your child isn't attending school for whatever reason, please tell us each day they are not in attendance and let us know why they are not attending school. The reason we ask this is for Health and Safety protocols. Ph 04 5269552, Text - 0275269552 or through the Skool Loop App.
- **Change of clothes:** Please, please, during these wet winter months, make sure your child has a change of clothes in their bags, just in case they get wet while playing. Especially pants. There's so much mud around. Thank you.



Ngā mihi nui
Karen Wellington
Tumuaki/Principal

Events Term T1 & 2 2025 Week

Week 3 20-24 Oct	School Photos Monday 20 Oct. Please make sure your child is at school on time. Staff Strike Day Thursday 23rd October Teacher Only Day Friday 24th October
Week 4 27 Oct-1 Nov	Labour Day Monday 27th October
Week 6 10-14 Nov	Tuesday 11 th November Cultural Festival from 8.30-12.30 for our kura, but this will continue throughout the afternoon. Swimming Begins
Week 7 17-21 Nov	Wednesday 19 th – Wellington Free Ambulance – keeping yourselves safe
Week 10 8-12 Dec	A special Outdoor Education Trip planned this week for the whole school. A most special Christmas Assembly Friday 12th December at 2pm – kids will not want to miss this one!

Week 11 15-17 Dec	Reports go out on Monday 15th December. Year 6 Leaver's Assembly Monday 15th December at 1pm. Year 6 Dinner – 5pm Monday 15th December – no parents allowed! Final Assembly at 1pm on Wednesday 17th December. We finish school at 2pm on Wednesday 17th December at 2pm.
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Te Kura o Hau Karetu

Thanks to the [below businesses](#) for sponsoring our school app:



If you would like to advertise on the Te Kura o Hau Karetu Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com

To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose School once installed.

Policies due 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	



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Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

Schools' Strike Day – 23rd October 2025

We're reaching out to you today to explain the reasons behind our decision to take strike action this week. We understand this may cause disruption for you and your whānau, and we are genuinely grateful for your support and understanding.

This decision has not been made lightly. It follows a lengthy period of negotiations during which the government has consistently failed to address the serious challenges we face in our schools every day.

This strike is not just about pay — it's about protecting the future of education in Aotearoa. Every child deserves a high-quality education, and right now, the system is stretched beyond what is sustainable. We are calling for meaningful change to ensure our tamariki get the support and teaching they need to thrive.

Recent messaging from the government and Ministry of Education has downplayed our concerns, implying that our actions are politically motivated. This could not be further from the truth. These tactics distract from the real issue: the urgent need to address the systemic pressures affecting our schools and, ultimately, our students.

A clear example of this is the rollout of the new mathematics curriculum. Schools began implementing it at the start of the year, only to receive a heavily revised version just this week. This makes much of the work already done redundant — a frustrating and unnecessary waste of time and energy. Despite repeated concerns raised by hundreds of principals, this kind of rushed, top-down approach continues, adding to already overwhelming workloads and further eroding trust.

Through our collective action, we are advocating for four key changes:

1. More Staff and Smaller Class Sizes

Our tamariki thrive when they receive focused support and attention. New Zealand currently has some of the largest class sizes in the developed world. We're asking for improved teacher-to-student ratios so we can better meet the individual needs of every learner.

2. Increased Support for Students with Additional Needs

The number of students needing extra learning and behavioural support is growing, yet funding and resources remain limited. Without adequate specialist support, our most vulnerable children are missing out — and that's simply not acceptable.

3. Time to Plan, Teach, and Support

Teachers and principals are drowning in administration, leaving too little time for quality teaching, planning, or working directly with students. We need more non-contact time to do our jobs well — and to do what's right for our learners.

4. Fair Pay That Reflects the Role

To attract and retain passionate, skilled teachers, we need pay and conditions that reflect the complexity of our work. Without this, we risk losing experienced educators and discouraging new people from joining the profession.

Ultimately, our working conditions are your children's learning conditions. When we are under-resourced and overworked, it's the education of our tamariki that suffers.

Taking strike action is our last resort. No teacher wants to walk away from their class. We lose a day's pay, and we know it puts pressure on families — including our own. But we believe the long-term benefits for your children, and the wider education system, are worth standing up for.

We ask you to look past the headlines and political spin, and see this action for what it truly is: a stand for the future of public education, and for every child in this country.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and belief in what we do.
From us all at Te Kura o Hau Karetu.