



Papatoetoe West School

Together We Strive For Growth Through Learning

School wide newsletter

| Term 1

| 30 January 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

First day of School - Monday 2 February

Whakatau - Thursday 5 February 12:30pm

Waitangi Day - Friday 6 February- School closed

School Board Meeting - Monday 9 February

Swimming Begins - Monday 9 February

Meet the teacher evening - Thursday 19th February - 6pm

Book week Book Character Dress up day - Friday 20 February

International Week Fono - Tuesday 24 February - 3pm

Interschool Swimming Competition - Tuesday 24 February

House Sports Day - Friday 27th February

From our Principal

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you're feeling refreshed and ready for a great school year! Our school looks great after summer maintenance, and our teachers have been busy planning fun and engaging lessons for your tamariki. We're excited to welcome both returning and new students.

As we get ready for the first day, here's some key information to help everything run smoothly.

First Day Information:

- **Class Lists:** Check the school meeting room windows.
- **Returning Students:** Go straight to your new classroom.
- **New Students:** Please go to the meeting room when you arrive.
- **Still Need to Enrol (or show original documents to complete enrolment)?** Visit the office to complete any final steps.

You can find our **2026 staff directory** [here](#) with staff emails. This newsletter also has a short introduction to our teachers. A warm welcome to all our new staff. We will introduce you to our wonderful learning assistant team in our next newsletter.

We have an exciting year ahead, full of learning and fun. Thanks for your support- we can't wait to see your tamariki on **Monday, 3rd February!**

Ngā mihi,

Mrs Sandy Tritt
Tumuaki / Principal

PLEASE JOIN US

Papatoetoe West School
Term 1 Whakatau

THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2026
12:30 PM

AN OCCASION TO COME TOGETHER TO
WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF AND
TAMARIKI
PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR SCHOOL HALL

Meet the Admin team

Kia ora! My name is Belinda McVeigh, and I'm the Enrolment and Attendance Administrator here at Papatoetoe West School. I've been part of the Papatoetoe West team for just over three years and really enjoy supporting our kura and wider community. My role focuses on enrolments, attendance, and student records, and I'm often one of the first people whānau and students connect with. I enjoy helping things run smoothly behind the scenes so our tamariki feel supported from their very first day - and every day after.

In my own time I spend a lot of time at various cricket pitches around New Zealand & beyond! supporting my 18 year old son who plays Representative Cricket.

My favourite flower is the Sunflower I love the sunflower because its bright and cheery... and how can it not make you smile?! I am looking forward to seeing our tamariki and whanau back at school for another year of fun and learning.



Kia ora! My name is Zyrinne, and I'm excited to be joining Papatoetoe West School as the Office Reception Administrator. I'll be based at the front office, where I'll be helping welcome students, whānau, and visitors, and supporting the day-to-day flow of our busy school. My role includes assisting students, supporting in the sick bay and making sure everyone feels welcomed and supported when they arrive. I'm really looking forward to getting to know our school community and settling into life at our kura.

When I'm not in school, I am a Mum to a beautiful little girl. As a family, we love to play with her, read books and watch movies together! Weekends are family time and we go to church on Sundays too.

This year, we plan to find some time to travel back to our home country for a holiday or have more road trips together! I hope you all have a wonderful time this year!



Meet the Senior Leadership team

Kia ora, Talofa lava, and warm greetings to you all,

My name is Mrs Sandy Tritt, and I am the very proud Principal of this wonderful kura. I have been teaching for over 20 years, both across Auckland and overseas. I love working with people, especially our tamariki, and I am passionate about teaching, learning, and the work we do together each day. I feel incredibly fortunate to come to work knowing I am part of a team so deeply committed to helping our children thrive. It is both a privilege and an honour to serve the Papatoetoe community.

Outside of school, family is very important to me. I come from a large extended family, with Samoan heritage on my mum's side and New Zealand Pākehā heritage on my dad's side.

I have two school-aged children, and my husband also works in education.

As a family, we love adventures on the water, time at the beach, playing board games, and travelling together.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.



Kia ora! My name is Emma McKeown, and I've proudly served as the Deputy Principal at our kura for the past three years. Our school reflects the rich diversity of our community, and I love the way this strengthens both our learning and connections. My role is varied and includes supporting school-wide attendance and working closely with our Year 5 and 6 tamariki. I am passionate about building strong relationships with students, staff, and whānau to support positive learning outcomes. I'm excited for a year filled with learning, connection, and plenty of proud moments (with the occasional reminder to bring a hat to school).

I'm a Papatoetoe local and a mum of three, two of whom attend our kura (and love it, of course). As a family, we spend lots of time outdoors, with camping being our holiday of choice! We've also been working for the past year on convincing the "decision-maker" at home that it's finally time for a family pet - tips and success stories are very welcome!



Kia ora koutou and a warm welcome to the 2026 school year!

My name is Rebecca Baker and I am privileged to be an Assistant Principal here at Papatoetoe West School. This year, I will be leading the Junior School (Years 0-2), helping our youngest tamariki settle in and develop a love for learning. In addition to leading the Junior team, I am the SENCO (Special Needs Coordinator) for the whole kura. I am passionate about ensuring our school remains a positive, inclusive environment where every child has the support they need to thrive. With 20 years of teaching experience across all year levels, I have seen a lot of change in education, but my love for working with children and their whānau remains as strong as ever.

When I am not at school, I love spending time with my own family. We live rurally, so you will often find us gardening and tackling jobs around our property, or heading out to the beach for a swim.

I look forward to meeting you all and having a fantastic year ahead!



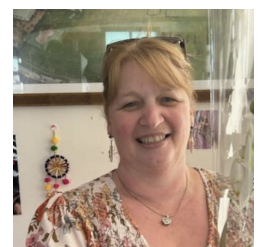
Kia ora e te whānau. Welcome back to the 2026 school year!

My name is Kelley Farley and I am a very proud, long serving member of Papatoetoe West School. I am privileged to be an Assistant Principal. I have been teaching for over 20 years and have had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside many of our wonderful kaiako as a teacher and team leader over my time at Papatoetoe West School.

I work alongside the year 3 and 4 teams this year and am feel strongly that school is a place where our tamariki not only learn to become stronger in their curriculum understanding but also in they way they are as people and being part of our community.

Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my Husband and daughter, who is embarking on her first year of University, and we are very close with my siblings. I enjoy papercrafting and chilling on the couch with our two puppies.

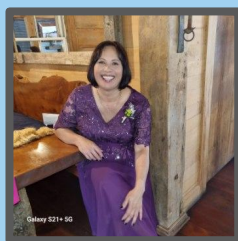
I look forward to seeing you all soon.



Meet the Year 0 team

Kia ora koutou, ko Whaea Debbie tōku ingoa. Hi everyone, my name is Whaea Debbie and I am the team leader and classroom teacher of Te Kākano, Room 9 New Entrants. I have taught across the Junior area of the school (Years 0 to 3) for many years at Papatoetoe West School. I am excited to be returning to this space and having the privilege of being your child's first classroom teacher.

My teaching philosophy is centred around whakawhanautanga (relationships) with the child at the center of my actions and decisions. This extends to you too whānau. Together, we have the opportunity to ignite a passion for life-long learning.



Kia ora! Mabuhay! My name is Ms Justine Babia. I taught in Singapore for 10 years before moving to New Zealand in 2022. I am very excited to begin teaching at Papatoetoe West School, where I will be in Rūma Tekau mā Tahi (Room 11), working with our Year 0 tamariki.

I am looking forward to building strong, positive relationships with our tamariki and whānau, and to creating a learning environment that is safe, stimulating and grounded in warmth and respect. My aim is to nurture and support tamariki and their whānau in ways that are respectful, inclusive and responsive to their needs.

Outside of the classroom, I enjoy travelling and learning about new places and cultures, and I love bringing these experiences into my teaching to enrich learning and connections.



Meet the Year 1 team

Kia Ora and Bula. My name is Whaea Elisha, and I am a Year 1 teacher and team leader. I have been teaching at this school for one and a half years and have truly loved being part of this wonderful school community. Teaching is my passion, and I find great joy in making a positive difference in students' lives. Creating a safe and caring environment is at the heart of what we do to help our students thrive. Outside of work, I love to travel and explore the world. I also cherish spending time with my daughter, embracing the beautiful journey of parenthood and all the learning that comes with it. I look forward to another fantastic year ahead!



Kia Ora. My name is Gagandeep Kaur, and I am excited to welcome you and your child to Rūma 27! I'm really looking forward to getting to know all our tamariki and working closely with whānau to create a fun, supportive, and engaging learning environment. I am passionate about supporting children academically while also nurturing their confidence, wellbeing, and love of learning.

Outside of school, I enjoy cooking, watching movies, and spending time with my family. Let's start this new year together and work as a team to ensure your child's learning journey is positive and full of growth.



Kia Ora, my name is Miss Naaila Shah, and I am the Year 1 teacher in Room 29. I am passionate about learning and education and feel very privileged to be part of such a supportive and caring school community. I believe in creating a safe and engaging learning environment where all tamariki feel confident and motivated to learn. I am really looking forward to getting to know your child and supporting their learning journey holistically throughout the year.

Outside of school, I love spending time with my family and travelling. I also enjoy playing tennis, and I adore visiting art galleries and exploring nature.



Kia Ora, my name is Julie Saunders and I'm delighted to be teaching in Rūma toru tekau. I'm passionate about teaching phonics and early literacy. I love empowering students to believe in themselves and giving students the tools to be active in their learning. I am looking forward to watching your child grow throughout the year and achieve their goals.

Outside of school I love paddle boarding, growing vegetables and watching sports but especially football (go Liverpool). I'm mum to two incredible young adults, Asher and Levi.



Meet the Year 2 team

Kia ora, I'm Mrs Hajera Sharif, and I'm excited to continue teaching in Rūma 34 with our wonderful Year 2 students.

I love teaching students about the world around them and how things work, and helping them build curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning.

I believe in the power of strong home-school partnerships, and I look forward to working closely with whānau to support each child's learning journey throughout the year.



Kia ora. My name is Mrs Lisa Dalziel. I have been teaching at Papatoetoe West for 17 years and have been in the Year Two team for 13 of those years. I enjoy working with my children to create an exciting shared classroom space. In Rūma 31, we're in for a fun, hands-on learning year, full of new experiences and lots of hard work! Let's make the most of it and grow together.

Outside of school, I enjoy working in my gardens, reading, running after three cats and going for drives with my husband.



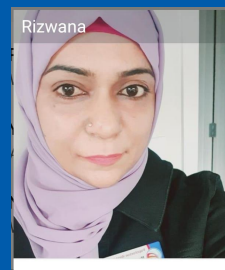
Kia ora! My name is Ms. Shane Esclamado. I am originally from the Philippines, where I taught for four years. I then moved to the United States and taught for over three years, and I am now in Aotearoa teaching Year 2 students Rūma 32. I enjoy creating meaningful learning experiences that help tamariki feel safe, confident, and excited about learning. Outside of teaching, I love spending time outdoors, travelling, and appreciating nature.

I am really looking forward to working closely with tamariki and whānau, building positive relationships, and supporting each child's learning journey.



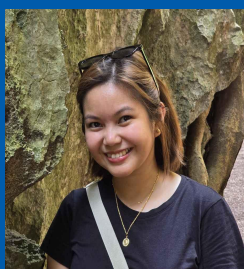
Kia ora, Assalamualekum, Namaste and Bula Vinaka ! I am Mrs. Rizwana Nisha. I'm so excited to be starting the year with my wonderful Year 2 class, Rūma 33!

With a heart full of enthusiasm and a love for making learning fun, I can't wait to embark on this year's journey of new adventures, discoveries, and growth with each of my students. Here's to an amazing year ahead, filled with learning and laughter!



Kia ora and Mabuhay! My name is Mrs. Glenna Inciong and I'm so happy to be continuing with the Year 2 team this year in Rūma 35 at Papatoetoe West School. I'm a friendly and supportive educator who loves being part of children's learning journeys. I'm looking forward to another wonderful year filled with learning, growth, and lots of fun.

Outside of school, you'll find me exploring new places, diving into a good book or binge-watching the latest series.



Kia Ora and Namaste! I hope you're as excited as I am to embark on this incredible learning journey together. My name is Mrs Sunita Devi, and I am absolutely thrilled to be teaching in Rūma 36 this year.

With a passion for education and a commitment to your success, I am here to guide, support, and inspire your child every step of the way.



Meet the Year 3 team

Kia ora! My name is Miss Hartley and I am a Year 3 teacher and team leader. I have been a teacher here at Papatoetoe West school for 7 years and love our wonderful school. Rūma tekau mā whā (14) will be a fun, engaging and caring classroom where all tamariki have opportunities to succeed. I'm looking forward to get to know you all and having a great year.

Outside of school I enjoy travelling, reading books and spending time with my family and friends.



Kia Orana, I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday and are looking forward to coming back to school. My name is Mrs Ezekiel and I am in Rūma Rua tekau (room 20). I am of Cook Island heritage and have three children. I am delighted to be teaching in the year 3 team this year. I am excited to be working in partnership with students and whānau.

My interests outside of school are: gardening, walking, playing Minecraft and learning more about the Cook Islands.



Kia Ora and Magandang Araw. I'm Mrs Flandez, I am from the Philippines, with a background in Marine Biology. I have a passion for traveling, exploring new places, and baking. I am excited for my second year teaching at Papatoetoe West School.

I look forward to welcoming my Year 3 class in Rūma 21, a safe, inclusive environment where every student feels appreciated and acknowledged. I am committed to fostering positive behaviour for learning and aim to support students in developing into confident, critical thinkers and lifelong learners.



Kia Ora! I'm Mrs Mehra, and I can't wait to meet my class this year! It's my second year at Papatoetoe West School, and I'm thrilled to be the teacher of Rūma 22. I love arts and crafts, and I'm eager to explore different cultures and places around the world.

I truly believe that tamariki learn best when they are happy and curious. I can't wait to get to know all my tamariki and create a fun, inclusive, and supportive space for all to learn and grow.



Kia ora, welcome back to school! I am Miss Qiu and I am in Room 23. I am a beginning teacher starting my first year teaching in Papatoetoe West School. I am excited to be the important adult in your children's life.

I also enjoy teaching martial arts and Mandarin.

I am here to support your children in their journey of learning, growing and glowing.



Meet the Year 4 team

Kia Ora! My name is Carrie Withers, team leader for the amazing Year 4 team. I am excited to teacher the awesome children in Rūma 17. I look forward to partnering with you to create a positive, engaging, and supportive learning environment for your child.

I came from English 17 years ago. Originally coming over for an overseas experience but fell in love with the New Zealand. I first taught in England for a number of years, now I continued my teaching career here.

When I'm not at school, I enjoy being creative through painting and drawing, as well as spending time outdoors to relax and find inspiration.



Kia ora! My name is Farnaaz Mohammed, and I'm absolutely delighted to be teaching in Rūma Tekau mā Rima (Room 15) this year, bringing my passion for education all the way from the beautiful island of Fiji. With years of experience in primary education, I am committed to creating a vibrant and inspiring classroom where each child's curiosity, creativity, and unique

When I'm not nurturing young minds, you'll find me embarking on exciting travel adventures, seeking new experiences and enjoying various sporting activities. I look forward to an exciting year of learning, growth, and fun with our wonderful tamariki and whānau.



Kia ora! My name is Nikita Kishor and I am in Rūma Tekau mā ono (Room 16). I am excited to continue teaching year 4s this year at Papatoetoe West School. I look forward to meeting and building positive relationships with all the lovely students and whānau. My goal is to help each student succeed and develop the skills they need to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

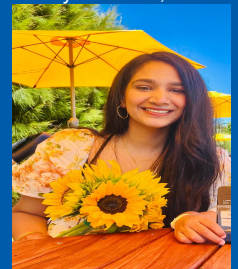
Some of my interests include travelling, going on hikes, spending time with family and friends and watching NRL.



Kia ora, My name is Gowri Menon, and I am the teacher of Rūma Tekau mā Waru (Room 18). I was born in Singapore and lived there for 17 years before moving to Dubai, where I spent seven years. I have now settled in the beautiful Tāmaki Makaurau with my husband Sid and our two boys.

I am excited to begin my teaching journey with Room 18 and to learn alongside my students. I bring with me the values, experiences, and knowledge I have gained as a student, which continue to shape my approach to teaching and learning. I look forward to building meaningful relationships with my students, their whānau, and my colleagues. My goal is to be a nurturing and supportive teacher who helps students succeed academically and grow confidently in all areas of their learning.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, and relaxing with a good TV show.



Kia ora, My name is Fiona Lamont and I'm in Rūma Tekau mā iwa (R19). I am delighted to be teaching in Year 4 and am excited about the journey of learning ahead. I have high expectations for all student to achieve success in their learning.

I encourage a growth mindset where we give things a go and learn from our mistakes.

I enjoy hiking, reading, theatre and movies. I love exploring outdoors and being with whānau and friends. My passion is for science, literacy, art and the environment.



Meet the Year 5/6 team

Kia ora and Talofa Lava! My name is Mrs Christina Latham. Born, bred and still a local here in Papatoetoe (New World Papatoetoe is my stomping grounds 🤪). My parents were both born in Samoa, in the villages of Sataua and Le'auva'a. I look forward to another wonderful year with our students and families, bringing to the fore strong values based around respect, relationships and striving for the best outcomes for our community.

You'd be able to catch me teaching, laughing, & chasing kids around up here in the senior school, Rūma Toru and supporting as a year 5&6 team leader.

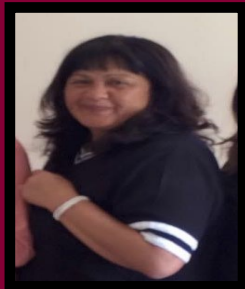


Kia Ora and Kumusta! My name is Miss Gail Calicdan, and I'm thrilled to be back in Rūma Rua this year. This marks my fourth year teaching Year 5/6 at Papatoetoe West School. I'm passionate about building strong relationships with tamariki and helping them thrive in a positive learning environment. My goal is to support them in reaching success in their own unique ways.

Outside of school, you'll find me at the gym, indulging my love for food, or spending quality time with friends and family.



Kia ora! Ko Lorraine Evans tōku ingoa. I have taught in Year 4,5 and 6 while I have been at Papatoetoe West School. This year I will be teaching alongside Mrs Kumar in Te Puāwaitanga in a Year 5 and 6 class. I look forward to supporting our students with their learning and help them reach their potential. Outside of school I enjoy spending lots of time with my whānau and friends. I love singing, listening to music and helping organise functions for whānau events. Mauri ora!



Kia ora, Namaste, and Bula vinaka!

My name is Mrs Raichal Kumar. I was born, raised, and educated in Fiji, where I spent over a decade teaching in several well-established schools. In January 2024, I began my teaching journey at Papatoetoe West School as a Year 5 and 6 teacher. This year, I feel privileged to be part of Te Puawaitanga, working with an amazing group of tamariki. Teaching is something I deeply value, and I am committed to nurturing confidence, curiosity, and success in every learner.

Outside of school, I enjoy watching movies, going for afternoon walks, sewing, embroidery, painting, listening to music, and exploring different cuisines through cooking. I also cherish spending quality time with my whānau.



Kia ora! My name is Selena Loh and I teach in Rūma Whā this year. At Papatoetoe West School, I have taught in years 3, 4, and now 5 and 6. I have high expectations for each student to succeed and I can't wait to see how much everyone grows this year!

Outside of school, you'll find me planning my next travel adventure, squeezing in a workout, binge-watching the latest series, or spending time with my family and friends.



Kia ora.....

My name is Philip Waller and I teach in Rūma Rima this year. I have been at Papatoetoe West School for 8 years. I love working in this community and can't wait to see how far my class will grow and develop this year. I am passionate about reading, writing, and maths. I also help everyone with their computers.

Away from school, I have three grown up children and one grandson. I love playing golf and growing flowers and vegetables.



Talofa lava! My name is Belinda King, and I teach in Te Putiputi. I'm a passionate and dedicated educator who loves creating a positive, fun and engaging learning environment.

I'm a huge Star Wars and All Blacks fan, and I adore an organised classroom especially a tidy workspace (which is funny because my house is totally chaotic with two dogs and four cats). I'm also into F1 even though I personally hate driving. Go figure! Come on Team Ferrari!

I have a great sense of humour, well I think so but the kids don't always agree!

I'm really looking forward to a fantastic year full of learning, laughter and success together.



Kia ora koutou! My name is Cora Mae Paler, and I am teaching alongside Mrs King in Te Putiputi. I am from the Philippines and have been teaching since 2011. I am so excited to be part of my whānau here at Papatoetoe West School and to share in the joy of learning together.

I believe that a good teacher teaches, but an excellent teacher listens. E te tamariki mā, I am truly thrilled to meet you all and embark on this wonderful learning journey with you.

Outside of school, I love to write stories, creating videos, taking photographs, writing songs, singing, running, and growing vegetables.
Ka kite anō!



Meet the Specialist teachers

Kia Ora, My name is Dr Moira Newton. I teach some children English language and support them with their academic studies. I am an experienced ESOL teacher and I love teaching your children. I am really looking forward to meeting my new groups this year. My doctorate examined the way children's knowledge of language relates to their writing achievement. I look forward to offering the children insights from my studies. I love walking, swimming, orchids, photography.



Kia ora my name is Janene Boyd. This will be my second year at Papatoetoe West school as a special needs teacher working with your children, families teachers and learning assistants. I look forward to working with the children again, and watching them grow.

Outside of school, I am a mum to 3 beautiful children who are on their own career paths. I like to make sourdough bread, decorate cakes and gardening with my husband. .



Tēnā koutou, my name is Robin Tapper (Miss T to our ākonga). I am the new Learning Support Coordinator. I have taught for many years across all levels and have a passion for visual art and technology.

Outside of school, I have two teenage daughters and love to make things - baking, puzzles, sewing, pottery, crochet to name a few! My door is always open, you will find me in Room 12.



Mabuhay! My name is Mark Gil (*pronounced "Hill," reflecting the Spanish influence in my home country, the Philippines*). As a special needs teacher for more than a decade, I am passionate about supporting students through respect, understanding, patience, and care.

My teaching journey has taken me to various places namely, Singapore, the United States, and now New Zealand, where I continue to advocate for inclusive learning and help every child feel seen, valued, and capable of success. My goal is not only to teach, but to build confidence, resilience, and a true love for learning that prepares students for life.

In my free time, I enjoy connecting with nature, exploring new places, savouring various cultural treats and delicacies, and spending meaningful moments with my two lovely kids and my loving wife.



Meet the Specialist teachers

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I'm Manpreet Kaur, excited to join as the part-time LSC across Papatoetoe West and South Schools. With experience supporting tamariki and whānau facing challenges, I'm passionate about play-based learning and inclusive education. Looking forward to working alongside you all!



Kia ora, my name is Januel, and I am a music teacher and musician. I earned my bachelor's degree from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, and this marks my first year at Papatoetoe West School. I am deeply passionate about teaching music, as I believe that incorporating music into our lives can help us grow as individuals and strengthen our connections with one another.

When I'm not at school, you can usually find me having a great time playing basketball with my three kids! I also love spending time practicing my saxophone.



Kia ora and Namaste!

My name is Mrs Priya and this year I am working at school as a Garden to Table teacher as well as a CRT (Classroom Relief Teacher). I love helping children learn through hands-on experiences, especially in the garden and kitchen, where learning really comes to life.

I have a passion for nature, adventure, dance, and travelling, and I enjoy spending time with my family. I also love creating a positive and happy atmosphere around me and sharing this energy with students.



Kia ora! I'm Miss West, the art teacher in Rūma 38. I've been a classroom teacher for six years, and I'm passionate about guiding students through a diverse range of visual arts, including photography, screen printing, animation, zine and comic creation, and painting.

Outside the classroom, I enjoy reading, spending time in nature, listening to music, and cooking. I'm excited to meet all the new students and parents joining us in 2025 and look forward to a year of creativity and exploration!



Kia ora and Namaste!

My name is Mrs Tania. This term, I am excited to be working as a CRT teacher across the wider school. I am an experienced and passionate educator, fluent in five languages, and I enjoy bringing rich cultural perspectives into my teaching. I am committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment where every child feels valued and inspired to succeed.



Kia ora! Ko Apryl Bell tōku ingoa.

I am of Māori, Scottish and Irish descent and the mother of 5 adult children and 8 moko. I have been a classroom teacher at Papatoetoe West School for the past 18 years, and this year I am excited to step into a new role as a CRT teacher, working across the broader spectrum of the school.

Ngā mihi - Regards!



Meet the Specialist teachers

Tēnā Koutou Katoa. Hello everyone. Welcome to a brand new school year! My name is Miss Karen Bowie. This year I will be part of the Literacy Support Team and working in classes within Year 0 - Year 3.

Outside the classroom, I spend quality time with my young family. We love being outdoors and exploring different places in New Zealand.



Hi everyone!

My name is Hayley and the tamariki call me Mrs J. I used to be in Te Kakano on Tuesdays - and took literacy groups on Wednesday and Thursdays. This year I'm excited to be doing Literacy support with our youngest learners on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

When I'm not at school I love to run, be in my garden, walk with my dog Spud and spend time with my friends & whānau.



Kia ora, I'm Lynne Devantier and I started full time at Papatoetoe West in 2015. While retirement is a consideration, I enjoy teaching our students so much I haven't been able to completely tear myself away. You will find me working alongside our Y4 - Y6 students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Maths is my particular passion as the students know!

With eight grandchildren, time away from school is busy but rewarding. Reading, gardening and socialising with friends also keeps me occupied.



Trish Langdon is another of our wonderful part time teachers. Trish has been part of our school community for many years and has held several roles with us ranging from class teacher to leading literacy interventions.



The following pages are a repeat of the newsletter sent out during the school holidays incase you missed it!



Papatoetoe West School

Together We Strive For Growth Through Learning

Let's get school ready!

Items your child needs to bring to school...

Stationery

This year our stationery lists came home with your child's report last year. If you need another copy they can be found on our school website - scroll through to find the correct year level or order the packs through Qizzle



Hats

Our school policy is that in term 1 and 4 the students **MUST** wear a hat when they are outside the classroom. Please ensure your child has a named hat at school each day. If your child can leave a hat at school each day, that would be appreciated.



Drink bottle

Please ensure that your child has a **NAMED** drink bottle. In this weather it is important to keep hydrated.

Swimming togs

All our students participate in swimming in Term 1. Our Year 0-3s use our school pool and our Y4-6s students participate in community swimming at Papatoetoe Centennial pools once a week.

The classroom teacher will let you what days their class is swimming so you know when your tamariki need their togs.



Book bag (Y0-3 only)

Students should bring their book bag each day.

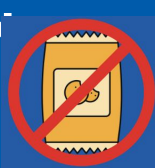
PE Shirts (Y3-6 only) House Teams

You will notice the purchase of a T-shirt is on the stationery list, which can be purchased at school for \$19.50. If your child still fits their one from last year, they don't require a new one!

Zero-waste healthy snacks

Snacks that shouldn't be brought to school

Snack or large packets of chips
Whole packets of biscuits
Fruit strings/sticks/roll-ups
Drinks other than water



Some suggestions for zero-waste healthy snacks:

Fruit
Vegetables e.g. carrot sticks, broccoli, cucumber
Rice crackers
Mini muffins
Popcorn
Small rice dish
A sandwich
Vegetable crisps
Trail mix, Nuts and seeds



Only a couple of things- it's a snack!

We are working hard to reduce waste at our kura. If students bring a snack for their second break, we ask that it is **zero-waste**.

This means:

- Using **reusable containers** instead of throwaway packaging.
- Buying snacks in bulk and packing smaller amounts at home.

Students need to bring home any rubbish left over from their lunches. This supports our goal to

'Be Sustainable', which we know is important to our community. Thank you for helping us with this kaupapa.





Papatoetoe West School

Together We Strive For Growth Through Learning

SCHOOL UNIFORM 2026

Dear Whānau,

This message is to remind families about our school uniform expectations and the uniform options available to support our students.

Papatoetoe West School continues to offer uniform items through NZ Uniforms, providing families with access to durable and appropriate uniform choices for students. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to provide high-quality, durable uniform choices for our students.

We would like to remind families about our footwear and sock expectations, which will be more consistently applied starting from the start of this year. Your support in helping students transition to wearing the appropriate footwear in line with these guidelines is greatly appreciated.

We understand that this may require some families to make small adjustments, and we thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that students meet these footwear expectations. Through our partnership with KidsCan, with adequate notice, we are able to provide appropriate school shoes for any families that would like support with this. This can be arranged through our school office.

We will be more actively supporting students to follow these guidelines. Thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining smart, safe, and consistent uniform standards for all students.

Ngā mihi nui,

Papatoetoe West School Board

A copy of the school uniform policy can be found on SchoolDocs <https://papwest.schooldocs.co.nz/>

A copy of our school uniform rules can be found with our enrolment information, and at the school office.

Footwear Guidelines:

- **Main Shoe Type:** Students are required to wear plain black lace-up shoes or Velcro fastened shoes. These shoes should be sturdy, comfortable, and suitable for everyday school activities.
- **Sandals:** Students may wear plain black sandals with a secure back strap, such as Roman sandals or school sandals, which provide comfort and support while maintaining a neat appearance.

Sock Guidelines:

- Plain black or navy blue, with no logos or patterns visible.



Footwear Not Allowed:

- Casual footwear like clogs
- Heelys
- Open-toed shoes
- Ballet flats
- Jandals
- Sandals without a back strap

Stay Connected with us

Skool-loop is our main app we use for communication (all notices/newsletters through the app are also automatically loaded on our website).



Facebook

Follow us on facebook! We'll be using this platform to share some of our tamariki's learning experiences as well as some key reminders.



Your Contact Information

If you have moved or changed phone numbers over the holiday, please contact your child's teacher or the school office so that we can update your information. It is **imperative** that this is up to date so that we can be in touch if there are any concerns, celebrations or emergencies.

Seesaw

Seesaw won't be used as a platform school-wide this year

Planned absences

The Importance of Attendance

Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning and well-being. Being at school every day ensures they don't miss out on key learning opportunities and helps build strong routines.

A gentle reminder:

- If you need to plan an absence, please notify us in advance.
- Please email or see the Principal or Deputy principal (sandyt@pap-west.school.nz or emmam@pap-west.school.nz).
- Requests for absences longer than one week, especially for holidays, are unlikely to be approved. In line with Ministry of Education guidelines, extended absences may result in your child being removed from our roll.

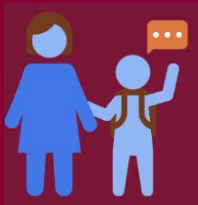
Let's work together to make attendance a priority and set our students up for success.

Traffic at the School

Work is been completed over the next few weeks to make our Drop Off Zone a safer space for our students.

The drop off zone will be closed from 1:45 pm each day. You will not be able to park in this area to pick up your children,.

A reminder that we have plenty of off street parking on Hillcrest road as well as at the Panthers carpark.



Drop off/pick ups Safety reminder

School gates open at **8:15 am**. Please do not drop children off earlier as there is no supervision. Students must also be picked up by **3:10 pm**.

We kindly ask families to limit early pick-ups during the day to avoid disrupting learning. Belinda one of our wonderful Admin Team, will be supporting with these matters.

Thank you for your cooperation as we start the year strong!





Papatoetoe West School

Together We Strive For Growth Through Learning

2026 dates

TERM 1

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Number of weeks | 9 |
| Term start & end dates | Term starts: Monday 2 February to Thursday 2 April (86 half days) |
| Public holidays | Waitangi Day - Friday 6 February |
| School holidays | Friday 3rd April - Sun 19th April (includes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good Friday - Friday 3 April• Easter Monday 6 April |

TERM 2

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of weeks | 11 |
| Term start & end dates | Term starts: Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July (106 half-days) |
| Public holidays/ School not open for instruction | ANZAC DAY - Monday 25 April King's Birthday- Monday 1 June |
| School holidays | Saturday 4 July- Sunday 19 July |

TERM 3

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Number of weeks | 10 |
| Term start & end dates | Term starts: Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September (100 half-days) |
| Public holidays | None |
| School holidays | Saturday 26 September to Sunday 11 October |

TERM 4

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Number of weeks | 10 |
| Term start & end dates | Monday 12th October to Wednesday 16th December (94 half days) |
| Public holidays | Labour Day - Monday 26 October |

- 386 half days in 2025
- Ministry of Education to allow for 2 additional teacher only days (date TBC)

School-wide events

Here's a look at some of the key events and special weeks we share across the year. We also acknowledge and celebrate other occasions – like other Language Week (LWs), environmental initiatives, health-focused days. For the latest updates and dates, please check our fortnightly newsletter or the 'Upcoming Events' page on our school website.

JANUARY

01

FEBRUARY

02

MARCH

03

5 - WHAKATAU



16-20 BOOK WEEK



27 HOUSE SPORTS

16- 20 INTERNATIONAL WEEK



APRIL

04

24 WHAKATAU



MAY

05

JUNE

06

1- 5 SAMOAN LW



30/6-1/7 PARENT
TEACHER MEETINGS

JULY

07

3 MATARIKI
PARAKUIHI



24 WHAKATAU



AUGUST

08

3-7 COOK ISLAND LW

14 FUN RUN



17- 21 TONGAN LW

SEPTEMBER

09

21-25 TE WIKI O TE REO
MĀORI



OCTOBER

10

16 WHATAKAU



26-30 FIJIAN LW



NOVEMBER

11

6- JUNIOR ATHLETICS
10- SENIOR ATHLETICS



9-13 INDIAN LsW

DECEMBER

12

9 - PERFORMANCE EVE



14- PRIZE GIVINGS



PAPATOETOE WEST SCHOOL

UNIFORM INFORMATION

WHERE & WHEN CAN YOU BUY YOUR UNIFORM?

NZ Uniforms: Unit 5, 20 Lambie Drive, Manukau.

Store Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-4pm.

Phone: 09 950 6747 | **Email:** manukau@nzuniforms.com

Shop Online: pap-west.nzuniforms.com

HOW CAN YOU PAY?

WINZ/OT/Charities/Trusts/Whānau & Family QUOTES

WINZ CUR Number: 001604113

You can also get a Quote online. Just add your items to the shopping cart and choose the Quote option at the checkout. Visit our website for more information on getting a Quote.

OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS

Uniform Club: Save for your student's uniform by adding regular payments to your Uniform Club account during the year. Visit our website to find out more about Uniform Club and to join.

We also accept **Afterpay** (in-store only), and **Zip** (in-store & online). Visit our website to find out more about Zip and to join.

We also accept cash, eftpos and credit cards.

NAME LABELLING

We can attach your name to your uniform items for only \$4 per label while you wait. Guaranteed to last.

NZ UNIFORMS ALSO STOCKS

School shoes, school bags, belts, socks, hair accessories, shoe polish, boxers and more.

Visit our website for more details-
www.nzuniforms.com