Growing great learners for today and tomorrow

TE HORO SCHOOL

Te Kōwhai Newsletter: Term 4, 2026



Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome to Term 4.
We hope that you enjoyed the sunny days over the term break, and that we have all left behind the winter chills and ills of Term 3! Term 4 is set to be another fun one at THS - fingers crossed that the weather allows us to get out and about, with lots of learning both in and out of the classrooms.

Welcome to our new families who have joined Te Horo School. We look forward to helping you settle into our kura - please let us know how we can help.

Mihi Whakatau	Friday 16 October, 9am, School Hall. All welcome.

At Te Horo School, we work together to support your child. We are always happy to meet with you to discuss your child's needs or aspects of learning at school; please don't hesitate to get in touch - contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

As we look ahead, we are currently planning our school structure for 2027. Having accurate student numbers is a critical part of this process:

2027 Enrolments: If you have a child who will be starting at Te Horo School in 2027 and haven't enrolled them yet, please do so as soon as possible. Likewise, if you know of any families who have recently moved into our zone, please encourage them to enrol their children.

Class Placements for 2027: We will soon begin formulating classes for next year, taking into account learning, behaviour, social relationships, and overall balance. If you have specific considerations for your child's placement, please email Allie (principal@th.school.nz) by 16 October. It is significantly easier for us to consider requests prior to drafting class lists than to make adjustments afterward, which can impact other students.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.
Success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many.

Special Events for your diary:

Please see our emails, Seesaw messages and school newsletters for more information about these (and other) events:

Mihi Whakatau	Friday 16 October 9am, School Hall. All welcome.
Shakeout!	National earthquake preparedness, drill Wednesday 21 October
Labour Day	Monday 26 October
Ag Day	Tuesday 10 November See below for more info about this in Years 0-4
Assemblies	Friday 9am (school hall) 13 November (HEART awards only) 4 December
Tākiri o te Ata	Kapa Haka festival - THS as hosts (Southwards) Weds 18 November - whole school travelling to Southwards 7.30am Thurs 19 November - Year 3-8 Kapa Haka group only Please see emails and newsletters for updates
Prizegiving and Final Assembly	Monday 14 December, 1-3pm All welcome to our special end-of-year celebration
Last day of school	Tuesday 15 December 3pm







Our learning this Term: How can we support learning at home?

We have added some suggestions below to help you connect to your child's learning at school. You may wish to check out the Ministry of Education's whānau support portal. There is a wealth of information to support your understanding of your child's learning.

The Parent Portal can be accessed here

Guides for specific Year levels can be accessed here

This term, teachers will compile your child's end-of-year Learning Summary (written report). This will be emailed to you in week 9, Wednesday 9 December.

Te Mātaiaho: The NZ Curriculum Learning in Years 0-4 this Term

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu
Adorn the bird with feathers so it may soar.



Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our key focus for Term Three:

- A sense of fun: Our school is a safe and enjoyable place to be.
- Tolerance: We accept and value each other.

At home, your child could:

- Help with jobs at home, feed pets, keep their spaces tidy
- Carry their own bags, sort their own bookbags etc in the morning
- Talk about the feelings of characters in books you read together
- Strengthen the vocabulary they use to describe their own and others' feelings
- Share photos on Seesaw/by email of fun things you've done together at home.

Literacy

Structured Literacy Approach

Oral language integrated across all Literacy learning

- Phonological/Orthographic/ Morphological awareness
  - BSLA Years 0-2
  - The Code Years 3 and 4

- Reading: weekly picture/chapter book, vocabulary focus
  Small group and whole class reading - decodable texts moving to 'uncontrolled' texts
  Weekly library sessions Poetry - Year 0-2

- Writing - shared and independent writing
  Handwriting - correct letter formations, writing fluency

Structured Literacy in Years 0-2: Term 4

Room 9: Working with Mr Bond and Whāea Louise (Mon-Thurs). Mr Bond will be taking a group to work in the library.

Rooms 8 and 7: Working with Whāea Amanda and Whāea Wendy across the two classes (Tues - Thurs).

At home, your child could:

- Read, read, read! Read together, in bed, visit the library - picture books, chapter books, non-fiction too!
  Visit the local library to discover new books
  Browse the op shops to find a new treasure to read
  Yr 1-2: read your daily reading book, explore poetry and library books too

- Practise writing Heart words (words that cannot be spelt by decoding) or other spelling words
- Practise correct letter shapes (see the teacher for more info)
- Write a diary or journal, write/make cards and letters, shopping lists

Maths and Statistics Structured Maths Approach, using Oxford Maths as key resource	• Room 9: Number Operations (subtraction, sharing), Measurement (time), Financial Maths (money), Directions/pathways • Rooms 7 + 8: Number Structure, Operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication), Measurement (time) • Room 5: Operations (division, problem solving), Statistics (data detectives) Measurement (volume, capacity), Financial Maths • Room 6: Operations (multiplication methods), 3D shapes, Probability, Financial Maths, Measurement (volume, capacity, maths), Pathways (grids, maps) **At home, your child could:** • Help you to source some cards, dice and dominoes (great op shop finds!) and play the games we share on Seesaw or make up a game together • Play board and card games • Practise counting - forwards, backwards, in 2s/5s/10s and then practise times tables/division facts • Help with building, baking and cooking - excellent for developing a range of maths (and other!) skills https://nzc-maths-practice.nz/ Ministry of Education portal for students in Years 3+
Wider learning in Years 0-4	Each day is filled with fun! Additional learning includes: • The Arts: singing (Christmas carols!), visual art projects, choir (year 3-8) • Health and PE: cooperative games, PMP/Active Brains, summer sports, swimming (later Term 4) • Te Ao Māori: Preparing for Tākiri o te Ata (week 6), te reo Māori class sessions • Forest School (Years 0-2) Year 3 students are welcome to join the school Choir this term - Thursdays 9am Ag Day - Tuesday 10 November See below for more about Sand Floral Saucers (Year 0-2) and Mini Gardens (Y3-4) Later in Term 4, we aim to run an outdoor learning programme: building forts, cooking over fires, art projects (and more!) More details to come - we'd love you to join us! **At home, your child could:** • Take photos/video of a project or challenge and share with the class on Seesaw • Practise small ball skills: throwing, catching, hitting with bats/racquets • Play outside, build forts, enjoy gardening • Practise our Kapa Haka waiata and haka: link here to School website

AG Day fun in the classrooms:

Floral Saucers and Mini Gardens

As part of our Ag Night celebrations our classes will be making beautiful floral creations on Tuesday morning, 10th November. You are very welcome to join us!

We will be sharing some inspiration with the students, some pictures below to help you talk about this at home too.

We'd really appreciate if these items could be sent along to school:

Years 0-2 Floral Saucers	A deepish, small bowl to make their display (like a pudding bowl) Flowers and foliage (please bring on the day) that we can share across the class
Years 3-4 Mini gardens Theme: Fun in the Sun	A container - about 30-50cm is ideal (ice cream container, small box etc) Any items to create their scene (lego figures, little houses, shells, fairies etc etc) Flowers and foliage (please bring on the day) that we can share across the class

You're welcome to send the container and optional items to school over the next week or so, we'll keep them safe until the making day :) Sand provided.

We will share photos on Seesaw of our creations, and they will also be available to view after school Tuesday 10th November and during Ag Night (til approx 6pm).

As always, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any queries.

Ngā mihi nui,
Wendy, Amanda, Jo, Louise, Bobby and Richard







Bits and Bobs for Te Kōwhai

Sharing Learning

We endeavour to share different aspects of our daily learning fun on Seesaw. You can download the app and teachers will share the 2026 class code with you. We encourage you to 'like' and pop a comment on our posts.

Seesaw

Your child's written report (Learning Summary) was emailed to you at the end of Term 4. Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any queries about the report or would like further information about your child's progress.



Lost Property, clothing

Please help us by writing your family name on all clothing. We are always amazed by the beautiful clothing left unclaimed at school. We encourage students to take responsibility for their belongings and your support is truly appreciated. It is really helpful to have a change (or two!) of clothes in your child's bag. This means that a quick change is stress-free if they get wet or muddy during the day.

Library

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Room 5	Room 6		Rooms 7, 8, 9

Your child will be able to take out two books at a time and they can change them during their class library time. Please make sure books come back to school. If you have any outstanding books still at home from last year, please return them ASAP.

Assemblies

Assemblies this term are Friday mornings, 9am in the school hall. Dates are noted above, and are advertised in the newsletter and on the school website (calendar tab). Everybody is welcome.
If your child is a HEART student you will be notified and invited to join us in celebrating your child.



Cellphones, Smartwatches

Not many of our junior children have these, however, if your child has a smartwatch or cellphone at school, it must be handed into the teacher and they are then locked away in the school office for the duration of the school day. If you need to get a message to your children during the day, we ask that this is directed via the school office so that we can ensure the message gets through to the children.

NGĀ MIHI

Please don't hesitate to be in touch with any queries.

Ngā mihi nui,
Team Te Kōwhai, Te Horo School



Room 9 (New Entrants, Year 0-1) Louise Leith
louise.leith@th.school.nz
Co-teaching with Richard Bond Term 4
richard.bond@th.school.nz

Room 8 (Years 1-2) Wendy Keating (Deputy Principal)
wendy.keating@th.school.nz

Room 7 (Years 1-2) Amanda Searle amanda.searle@th.school.nz

Room 5 (Year 3) Jo Hillier (and SENCo) jo.hillier@th.school.nz

Room 6 (Year4) Bobby Pansters bobby.pansters@th.school.nz

Supported by our incredible team:

- Hannah Fraser, Dave Saunders, Richard Bond, Sarah Newbould, Fiona Hett (classroom release)
- Jo Fothergill, Matua Ricki Baker (Kapa Haka)
- Learning Support teachers: Dan, Sue and Krystyna in rooms 9, 5 and 6
- Learning support team: Reuben, Mandy, Jo Mason, Janeen and Melissa





