



# The Owairoa Primary

# School Scribe

*news and views from around our school*

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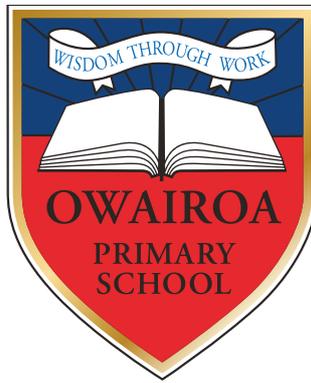


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

Principal Mr Alan McIntyre J.P., B.Ed., G.D.I.T.E., Dip. Tchg., Cert Sch Mking (CMS), A.N.Z.E.I.

Phone 0064 9 538 0060 Email [officemanager@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:officemanager@owairoa.school.nz)

[www.owairoa.school.nz](http://www.owairoa.school.nz)



## Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term Four. I hope you and your family enjoyed a refreshing holiday break and are ready for an exciting and rewarding final term of the school year.

Term Four is always one of the most eventful times at Owairoa Primary School. With a full calendar of academic activities, sporting events, concerts and prizegivings, there will be many opportunities to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of our students throughout the year. We look forward to sharing these special occasions with our wider Owairoa 'Family'.

Our Parent Teacher Student Conferences are just around the corner, providing a valuable opportunity to reflect on each child's progress and discuss their learning goals as the year draws to a close. These conversations play a vital role in supporting every student's continued success and sense of achievement.

Planning for 2026 is already well underway and accurate enrolment information is essential to this process. If your family is aware of any new enrolments for next year, or if you are moving out of the area, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

We are looking forward to a positive and productive Term Four as we work together to make the final weeks of the school year meaningful and memorable for our students.



**WELCOME**  
to our Owairoa "family"

- Jude Wark
- Abby Zhao
- Isabella Veamatahau
- Maverick Li
- Austin Li
- Alexander Ramsamy
- Daniele Di Gregorio
- Lois Li
- Ajay Thushyanthan
- Aria Mahdavi
- Eden Loyola
- Arthur Fisk
- Georgia Sharp
- Ellyna Pinfold
- Quinn Fuscic
- Theo Chapman
- Olivia Nunn
- Theo Brown
- Allegra Watson
- Nethuli Dissanayaka Mudiyanse
- Janelle Hernandez Flores
- Ekam Multani
- Aria Fu
- Grace Fu
- JJ Almonte
- Seven Yang

# Adventure Awaits Book Week

Owairoa Primary School was full of excitement as our much-loved annual Book Week captured the imaginations of our students, staff and families at the end of Term Three. This year's theme, 'Adventure Awaits' set the scene for a week filled with creativity, fun and a shared love of reading.

From the moment the week began, staff and students arrived in adventure-themed costumes, transforming our school into storybook worlds. Our Adventure Parade was a true spectacle, with wizards, explorers, superheroes and magical creatures filling our school in a colourful celebration of imagination. A special appearance from Garry Potter and Gandalf added a touch of sparkle and a few spells to the day's festivities.

Throughout the week, families joined in the fun at our Open Afternoons, where parents and grandparents took part in storytelling, crafts and literacy-based activities alongside their children.

The Book Fair in our school hall was another highlight, where students proudly showed parents their creative poster boards designed by each classroom. Students browsed the shelves, choosing new stories to take home, with every purchase going into the Grand Prize Draw. Congratulations to Arshan Rahimian, this year's lucky prize winner.

Beyond the books, students also ventured into hands-on adventures throughout the week. They explored new worlds in our Digital Dream Lab using virtual reality goggles, tackled exciting challenges in the Fun Factory and even searched for hidden golden idols during playtime and lunchtime. The PTA helped extend the fun, opening the Fun Factory to the community after school for two afternoons of laughter and adventure.

Book Week 2025 was yet another reminder of why we celebrate stories — they connect us, inspire us and encourage our students to dream big. Adventure truly awaited us all. Thank you to our staff, students and Owairoa families for making this year's event such a wonderful success.









## Principal in Person

We're proud to share that our Principal, Alan McIntyre, was recently featured in the Eastern Times newspaper in a profile titled 'Principal in Person'. The article highlights his incredible journey in education, his leadership at Owairoa Primary School and his reflections on how the school has grown and innovated over time and what makes our 'Owairoa Family' so special.

You can read the full profile here: [Principal in Person – Alan McIntyre, Owairoa Primary School](#)



### Principal in Person, with Alan McIntyre, Owairoa Primary School

*Phil Taylor - September 16, 2025*

How long have you been an educator, and where did you train? Since training at Hamilton Teachers College, School of Education at Waikato University, I've...

## Farewell to our School Board

On behalf of Owairoa Primary School, I wish to extend our gratitude to our outgoing School Board members for their dedication and service over the 2022-2025 period. Their leadership and commitment have been instrumental in guiding our school forward and ensuring the very best for our students, staff and community.

A special thanks goes to Bruce Howard, Megan Bowles, Shaun Rice, Kitty Lu, Katherine Foy, and Barry Maxwell for their valued contribution, thoughtful decision-making and ongoing support for our school.

We sincerely appreciate the time, energy and passion you have given in service to Owairoa Primary School.



## Welcome to our Newly Elected School Board

We are pleased to announce that the following parent representatives have been duly elected to serve on our new School Board for the next five years: Leia Roberts, Shaun Davidson, Brendon Foy, Emma Nasimi, and Dana Williams.

On behalf of the Owairoa Primary School community, we extend a warm welcome to our new School Board members as they begin their term of service. We look forward to working in partnership with you as we continue to build on our strong foundations, uphold our school values and ensure the very best outcomes for our students, staff and community.

Thank you for your commitment to serving our school. We are excited for the knowledge, passion and fresh perspectives you bring to the Board.

## Thank You for Your Support

Thank you to all the families who have contributed to this year's school donation. Your support helps us provide high-quality learning opportunities beyond what government funding allows. At Owairoa Primary School, the voluntary donation of \$360 per student supports:

- Extra specialist teachers in Technology, Music specialist, Sport specialist, and Language Therapist
- Programmes including Digital Dream Lab, Minecraft Club
- Additional Teacher Aide hours for students with special learning needs
- Ongoing development of our library and resources

While optional, these donations make a real difference to what we can offer our students.

You can pay easily online through our Kindo Online School Shop: <https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/shop/index.html>

Donations are tax-deductible and can be claimed from Inland Revenue after 1st April.

## Connection and Community

On Thursday 21st August, we were delighted to host a very successful South Asian Parents Evening, bringing together families from across our vibrant South Asian community. The event was designed to strengthen communication, celebrate cultural connection and further build the partnership between home and school.

The evening began with a welcome from our Principal and staff, who shared updates on school initiatives, learning programmes and ways in which parents can continue to support their children's growth and achievement.

Throughout the evening, meaningful conversations took place around the shared goal of helping every child to develop both academically and personally. Parents expressed their appreciation for the school's inclusiveness and the sense of belonging their families feel within the 'Owairoa Family'. One parent beautifully summed up the spirit of the evening, saying:

"We are really glad and appreciate the initiative you and the team took to arrange such a lovely event for South Asian Parents. The thoughts and togetherness of teachers and parents is really admiring for the children, especially in a new environment. We are really grateful that we are a part of Owairoa Primary School."

Thank you to all the families who attended and contributed to the evening. The success of events like this reflects our commitment to celebrating the rich cultural diversity of our school .



## A Celebration of Student Voice



Over the past few weeks, the Middle School has been very busy as learners have been working hard on their speech writing. This exciting learning experience supported learners to develop their skills in oral language, writing and presenting, while also growing their confidence and wellbeing.

The process began with learners planning their speeches, carefully choosing topics they were passionate about. With teacher support, they learned how to structure their ideas, creating engaging introductions, well-organised main points and powerful conclusions. Practising their delivery was just as important as writing – learners worked on expression, pace, volume and body language to ensure their message connected with their audience.



This learning linked closely with MITEY. Through preparing and delivering their speeches, learners were encouraged to express their thoughts, explore their emotions and develop resilience. Standing up in front of others to share an idea takes courage, and the process provided meaningful opportunities for learners to grow their self-belief and empathy while listening to and respecting the voices of others.

The excitement grew as speeches were presented in class. Each learner had the opportunity to share their ideas with their peers, and from there, two finalists were selected from each room to represent their class in the Middle School Speech Finals.

The finals displayed a wonderful variety of topics, reflecting the unique interests and passions of our learners. Finalists spoke about themes such as Girls in Sport, Chameleons, Dance, Space and even Balloon Art. The range of topics kept the audience entertained and engaged throughout and provided insight into what matters most to our learners.

Parents and whānau were invited to come along and watch their children deliver their speeches, making the event a special community celebration. The standard of speeches was exceptionally high, with many learners showing impressive confidence and skill.

By combining speech writing with MITEY principles, our learners not only built their public speaking skills but also strengthened their wellbeing and sense of belonging. Public speaking is a powerful lifelong skill, and this experience has given our learners tools, confidence and resilience they will carry forward into future learning and life.

## Parent Teacher CONFERENCES REMINDER

Bookings are open for our upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences:

- **Wednesday 29th October: 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

NB. School finishes early for students at 12.30 pm on this day

- **Thursday 30th October: 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

These conferences are an important opportunity for parents, students and teachers to meet together to discuss your child's progress, share achievement data and set goals for future learning.

Bookings can be made online, and close on **Tuesday 28th October at 5pm**. For assistance, please email [officemanager@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:officemanager@owairoa.school.nz)



# Junior School Cross Country



The sun was shining and excitement filled the air as our Year 0, 1 and 2 students lined up for the Term 3 Cross Country race. Our Junior school runners were ready to give it their best try and showed determination and perseverance to complete the course.

Each year level ran separately, which gave every student the chance to shine. It was wonderful to see the grit on their faces as they paced themselves around the course. Some raced quickly from the start, while others found a steady rhythm and kept going until the very end. Year 2 pushed hard to complete 2 rounds of the course.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the sportsmanship shown by the students. Loud cheers and words of encouragement rang out from classmates as runners made their way around the course. It was lovely to see our school values and spirit coming out through our students. A big thank you must go to the parents and whānau who came along to cheer for the students. Your presence on the sidelines meant so much and added to the fun and excitement of the event.

Well done to all the students who participated to make it an afternoon to remember. We concluded the afternoon with a ceremony to celebrate the achievements of our top runners. Certificates and medals were proudly awarded to the first, second and third place winners from each year level. Congratulations to these students on their excellent performances.

## Cross country winners:

### Girls:

	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2
<b>1st</b>	Isla White	Evie May	Isla Armstrong
<b>2nd</b>	Rupar Min	Isabella Sinovcic	Thea Hart-Potts
<b>3rd</b>	Miri Marcetic	Mileah Gilliers	Hailey Selwyn

### Boys:

	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2
<b>1st</b>	Lucah Margison	Te Kaea Monaghan	Carter Flowers
<b>2nd</b>	Max Burtendach	Maksim Aksenov	William Drugan
<b>3rd</b>	Henry Herewiri	Regan Winstanley	Maruha Kim



## Recognition Means Gold

At Owairoa Primary School, we love celebrating the positive choices our students make every day. Our House Points system has long been a favourite, rewarding students for acts of kindness, responsibility, effort and achievement, both big and small. These points contribute to each house's total, with the winning house proudly taking home the House Shield at our end-of-year Prizegiving.

Building on this tradition, we are excited to announce our brand-new Gold Card Promotion.

This prestigious award recognises students who go above and beyond, demonstrating our school RISE values of Respect, Integrity, Self-Esteem and Excellence. Each Gold Card is worth an incredible 100 house points, making it a highly sought-after achievement across the school.

Since launching the Gold Card initiative, teachers have noticed a wonderful lift in enthusiasm and positive behaviour. Students are working hard, showing their best selves and striving to earn this special recognition.

Every Gold Card recipient also goes into a weekly prize draw, with one ultimate winner drawn each term. Congratulations to our Term 3 winner, Samuel Sui from Room 3, who took home a family movie pass worth \$100!



## Excellence in ESOL Recognised

Our recent English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Verification Visit was an overwhelming success, with the visiting verifier praising our ESOL programme as “amazing,” “the finest she has seen,” and a true example of “best practice.”

The purpose of the verification was to ensure our procedures and programmes are well aligned to support students receiving ESOL funding. The report confirmed that Owairoa has outstanding systems and support in place, recognising the dedication and expertise of our ESOL team and classroom teachers.

Some of the report highlights included:

- Exceptional planning and well-targeted support tailored to individual student needs.
- Highly skilled and qualified staff who work collaboratively to ensure every learner succeeds.
- A strong focus on language development within classroom programmes, complemented by bilingual support staff.
- A school culture where cultural and linguistic inclusion is woven into the fabric of daily life.

The verifier also commended the ongoing professional development for staff, the integration of ESOL strategies across the curriculum and the warm, inclusive environment provided for our multilingual learners.

These findings are a wonderful affirmation of the commitment and care shown by our dedicated ESOL teachers, classroom teachers, support staff and leadership team. Together, they are helping our English language learners to thrive academically, socially and culturally at our school.



## Hats on in Term Four

Just a reminder that students need to wear their school hats to and from school, as well as during morning tea and lunch breaks during Term Four. These hats give our students much needed protection from the sun's harmful rays.

Hats are available online from Argyle Schoolwear [www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform](http://www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform) with a limited number available at our school office for \$16 each.

Our school has a 'no hat, no play' policy, so those students not wearing a hat will need to remain in a shaded area during break times. Thank you for your co-operation with keeping our students safe in the sun during these hotter months.



## Owairoa Shines at Inter-School Netball Tournament

On Wednesday 10th September, four of our Owairoa netball teams headed to the HPPA Inter-School Netball Tournament at the Howick Pakuranga Netball Courts. With the tournament spread over two days due to the large number of schools involved, Owairoa proudly competed on the second day with two girls' teams and two boys' teams.

The girls competed in their own league, while the boys were combined into one. Throughout the day, our players showed great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. Both girls' teams played brilliantly and finished the day undefeated, winning their league on goal difference. Unfortunately, despite their outstanding efforts, they narrowly missed out on taking the overall trophy home, as schools competing on the first day accumulated more points across the tournament.

The excitement didn't end there—our Boys A team powered through their games with focus and skill, winning the day outright and going on to secure the overall boys' trophy! This was a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the dedication and energy they brought to every match.

We are incredibly proud of the way all of our teams represented Owairoa, not only through their excellent results on the scoreboard but also in the way they lived out our RISE values—Respect, Integrity, Self-Esteem, and Excellence—both on and off the court.

A big thank you goes out to the parents and supporters who gave up their time to help on the day and cheered our players on.

Congratulations to all our netballers for their outstanding performances. You have once again made Owairoa very proud.





# Sprints at the Howick Domain



Owairoa Primary School held their sprint heats and finals at the Howick Domain on Monday 1st September. After a very blustery and wet weekend, it was touch and go if it would go ahead. Although the wind persisted, thankfully the rain stayed away. Staff are essential for successful athletics events, and Mr Basson worked tirelessly on setting up the course. A big thank you to Mr Basson and the other staff who were supervising on the wind swept Domain.

Athletics events encourage student involvement and we had students from multiple year levels compete in age-appropriate categories from Year 3 to Year 6. We are incredibly proud of all our students who participated in the sprint events.

It was wonderful to see so many eager participants who demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and manners throughout the competition. Whether celebrating victories or accepting defeats, our students showed maturity and respect for their fellow competitors.



# Team Spirit Shines



Our Year 4, 5, and 6 students proudly represented Owairoa Primary School at the 2025 Netball Fun Day, held on Wednesday 20th August. The event brought together schools from across East Auckland for a full day of friendly competition, teamwork and sporting spirit.

Owairoa entered four teams, each of which had spent Terms 2 and 3 training hard during lunchtimes and after school to prepare for the big day. The dedication and enthusiasm shown by all players truly paid off. Our students demonstrated impressive skill, determination and sportsmanship across every game. With many matches won and plenty of close, exciting finishes, it was clear that all their hard work had paid off.

Beyond the scores, what stood out most was the team camaraderie and encouragement between players. Whether they were celebrating a goal or cheering from the sidelines, our students embodied the true Owairoa spirit, giving their best effort, showing respect and having fun along the way.

Thank you to our parent helpers and coaches who volunteered their time to manage and support the teams throughout the day. Your guidance and encouragement helped make the event for our young netballers such a success.



## Owairoa Flips and Spins to Victory



On Wednesday 13th August 2025, our talented Year 3-6 gymnasts showcased their skills at the Howick Gymnastics Club competition.

Competing in beam, floor, bar and vault events, our gymnasts went head-to-head with numerous local schools, demonstrating remarkable dedication and spirit.

After countless hours of practice, a huge congratulations to all our gymnasts for their stellar performances and efforts representing Owairoa Primary School.

Rachel Tan in Year 3 came 8th placed for individuals, Oliver Rider in Year 4 came 1st place for individuals and our Year 4 girls; Oliver Rider, Maia Spinks, Kate Daniels, and Ane Du Plessis won 1st place for the team event.

Your effort and perseverance were truly inspiring.



## Exploring Forces

During Term Three in science, our Middle School learners have been exploring the world of forces. Each week, they have taken part in fun, hands on lessons in the science room with fascinating experiments, videos, and group discussions.

The Middle School have learned about gravity, magnetism, friction, and motion. One of the favourite activities was testing magnetic poles. Learners were excited to see how magnets can both attract and push away from each other. They were even more surprised to learn that Earth acts like a giant magnet!

A highlight was the Pointing North experiment. We used two needle-magnets to find out how Earth pulls on magnets. By rubbing the needles in one direction on a magnet, we turned them into temporary magnets. Then we checked which end pointed north by using a compass.

These science lessons have not only taught us about forces, but they have also helped learners work together, ask questions, and solve problems. We're excited for more experiments in Term Four, as we keep learning about how forces shape our world.





## Parachutes, Predictions and Physics Fun

Our Senior School scientists had a hands-on focus on the Physical World. This science unit explores forces such as gravity and air resistance, and students have been diving into experiments that bring these concepts to life.

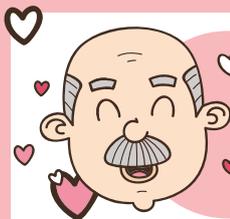
To investigate gravity, students worked in groups to drop a range of objects from the same height, carefully timing how long each one took to hit the ground. This sparked great discussions about mass, shape, and how gravity acts on different materials.

They then shifted their focus to air resistance, taking on the challenge of designing parachutes using a variety of materials. The goal? To create the slowest-falling parachute with the most air resistance. Students tested their creations, timed each descent, and reflected on what worked and what could be improved.



It's been fantastic to see students so engaged in scientific thinking, predicting outcomes, testing ideas, and analysing results. The excitement (and friendly competition!) in the room during experiments has been a joy to see.

We're looking forward to where this exploration of the Physical World takes them next.



## Save the Date

# Grandparents Afternoon

We are excited to invite our Owairoa Primary School Grandparents and Grandfriends to a special afternoon on Friday 17th October. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their learning and school life with someone special.

The programme for the afternoon is:

- 1:00 – 1:45 pm: Concert in the Hall
- 1:45 – 2:30 pm: Visit classrooms
- 2:30 – 3:00 pm: Afternoon Tea

We welcome Grandfriends too — if a grandparent is unavailable, your child can invite an aunt, neighbour, or another special person instead.

A few important notes:

- Afternoon Tea: Please send a plate of food with your eldest child on the morning of the event. Only Year 6 students will accompany grandparents during afternoon tea to allow space for everyone.
- Accessibility: Wheelchair parking and Hall access is available on request via the Staff carpark off Nelson Street.
- Students should write down their classroom for their guest prior to arrival. House Leaders will help escort grandparents to classrooms after the concert.

**We look forward to celebrating with our Owairoa community on this special day**



## Strike Action Reminder – School Closed

Please be reminded that Owairoa Primary School will be closed on Thursday 23rd October 2025 due to strike action by the Principal and Teaching Staff.

As normal teaching services will not be available due to strike action, Parents will need to make alternative arrangements for their children on this day. We understand this may be inconvenient and thank you for your understanding, however student safety remains our top priority.

## 2026 Term Dates

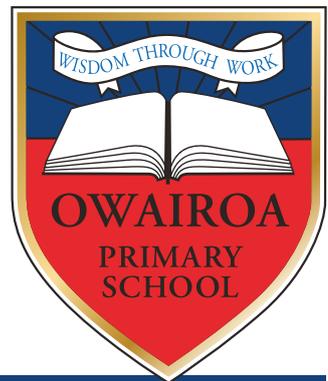
The official term dates for 2026 has been set and approved by our School Board as follows:

<b>Term One:</b>	Monday 9th February – Thursday 2nd April 2026
<b>Term Two:</b>	Monday 20th April – Friday 3rd July 2026
<b>Term Three:</b>	Monday 20th July – Friday 25th September 2026
<b>Term Four:</b>	Monday 12th October – Friday 18th December 2026

The school will also be closed for the following public holidays:

<b>2nd April</b>	Curriculum Day 4
<b>3rd April</b>	Good Friday
<b>27th April</b>	ANZAC Day
<b>1st June</b>	King's Birthday
<b>26th October</b>	Labour Day

# Enrolments are Open for 2026



A reminder to all families to complete the enrolment process if you have a child turning 5 years old soon. It is valuable for us to know this information in advance, as it assists us when planning for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026.

We are in the process of organising our staffing and funding entitlement for 2026. To assist us to be as accurate a possible with our future numbers, we would appreciate hearing from school families who have siblings that are 4 years old (who are not yet enrolled) and will be starting school next year. If this applies to your situation, please come to the Office to pick up a sibling enrolment pack.

If you know of any friends or neighbours who intend to enrol at Owairoa Primary School in 2026, please ask them to contact our School Office, to find out more information and start the enrolment process.

## 2026 Out of Zone Enrolments Ballot Dates

Students who do not live within our school zone can apply for a place in our out of zone ballot as part of our enrolment scheme. We will be holding the following ballot for Out of Zone Enrolments for 2026:

- Term Four 2025 Ballot Closed: Wednesday 8th October 2025, **Ballot draw date: Wednesday 15th October 2025** (Auckland-wide common ballot date)

Further ballots may be held throughout the year if spaces are available, as follows:

- Term One 2026 Ballot Close date: Wednesday 11th February 2026, **Ballot draw date: Wednesday 18th February 2026**
- Term Two 2026 Ballot Close date: Wednesday 22nd April 2026, **Ballot draw date: Wednesday 29th April 2026**
- Term Three 2026 Ballot Close date: Wednesday 22nd July 2026, **Ballot draw date: Wednesday 29th July 2026**

For more information regarding enrolments, please email [principal@owairoa.school.nz](mailto:principal@owairoa.school.nz)

# HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



## Holly Shaw, Tokomaru Deputy House Leader

My name is Holly Shaw and I am 10 years old. I am the Deputy House Leader for Tokomaru. Some of my hobbies include dancing, drawing dragons, and reading. My favourite subjects at school are ISTEAM and writing.

One of my favourite things about going to Owairoa is the hardworking teachers. There are lots of amazing opportunities for children of all ages, including Kaitiaki, Librarian, lunchtime sports and much more.

Some of my most memorable moments at Owairoa include Rock Climbing, tree planting and being part of the Rave Readers.

The advice I would give to other students is to try hard, never give up, and give everything a go.



## Fergus Main, Tokomaru Deputy House Leader

My name is Fergus Main, and I am 10 years old. I am proud to be one of the Deputy House Leaders for Tokomaru in 2025. I enjoy playing football and spending time with my friends.

I like Owairoa because it offers so many fun opportunities, such as being a Kaitiaki, a Librarian, participating in sports, and much more. The students are friendly, and the teachers are always helpful. They work hard to provide the best education while making school an enjoyable place to learn.

Some of my favourite memories at Owairoa so far include the obstacle fun run and the rock climbing trip.

The advice I would give to others at Owairoa is to always try your best, even when something feels tricky. Get involved in lots of activities, you never know if you'll love something until you give it a go!

My advice for Tokomaru students is to wear the correct uniform and give everything your absolute best. Every house point counts, and your hard work will pay off when Tokomaru wins the 2025 House Shield!



# TOKOMARU



# School Blog Update



Make sure you go online to our school website, to keep up to date with our school blogs.

These are a great way for our junior, middle and senior school teams to share highlights of the learning journey throughout the school year.

## Junior School Blog - Highlights of Book Week



What an incredible week we have had celebrating Book Week across the whole school. From start to finish, the week was filled with laughter, imagination, and a shared love of stories. It was wonderful to see our learners, teachers, and families all joining in to make this such a memorable event.

We began the week with our Adventure Parade – the creativity on display was amazing, with students proudly stepping into the shoes of their favourite characters. From wizards to superheroes, animals to adventurers, the parade was a feast for the eyes and a celebration of the endless possibilities that books bring into our lives. It was fantastic to see our staff joining in the fun too, and we loved the effort and detail so many families put into creating their costumes.

Another highlight was our Open Parent's Afternoon. Families were warmly welcomed into classrooms to take part in crafts, storytelling, and literacy-inspired activities alongside their children. The buzz of excitement from parents and children working together was truly special. It was a wonderful reminder of the power of community in supporting our children's love of learning.

Book Week would not have been complete without a little magic! Students were thrilled to welcome both 'Gary Potter' and Gandalf to our celebrations. Gasps of delight filled the courts as we all joined together to help Gary summon his wand. With a few magical words and a pop of confetti, his first spell was a success!

Throughout Book Week, the hall was open for Scholastic book purchases, surrounded by creative artwork and inspiring displays that were made collaboratively within the classrooms. We also enjoyed time in the Fun Factory where children spun, climbed and wriggled their way through a series of exciting obstacles. Another exciting part was experiencing the world through 3D vision goggles. The students loved this immersive experience, enjoying life-like, fun short videos that transported them on new adventures.

Reading every day helps children grow their imagination, build vocabulary, and develop a lifelong love of learning. Book Week 2025 has been a joyful reminder of why we celebrate stories – they connect us, inspire us, and create memories (and stories) that we can share together.

## Middle School Blog - The Adventure Awaits



Book Week is almost here, and the excitement around our school is electric! Year 3 and 4 learners have been busy preparing for this amazing week, and the results are nothing short of spectacular. From creative displays to imaginative costumes, everyone is getting ready for a celebration of reading like no other.

One of the highlights is the Book Week boards that line the walls of our hall. Each class has worked hard to design their own board, filled with bright colours, clever designs, and fascinating illustrations about their favourite books. The learners' artistic creativity has truly shone through, with teachers supporting them every step of the way. Some boards feature hand-drawn characters, while others have interactive elements that make them fun to explore. Walking past the boards is like stepping into a world of stories!

The preparation has also been full of fun activities. Classes have shared book recommendations, acted out scenes from stories, and even created small book-themed crafts. Laughter and excitement can be heard throughout the classrooms as students proudly show off their work. It's clear that everyone is enjoying the process of bringing their favourite books to life.

And of course, the big buzz is about costumes! Students are already planning the characters they want to dress up as, from brave heroes to magical creatures. Teachers are just as excited, sharing ideas and helping students bring their costumes to life. The thought of seeing the school grounds filled with a parade of beloved characters has everyone eagerly counting down the days.

Book Week is more than just a celebration of reading—it's a chance for all Owairoa learners to unleash their creativity, share their favourite stories, and have fun with friends. The adventure is about to begin, and we can't wait to see where these books will take us!

## Senior School Blog - A Quest for Stories



Book Week was a highlight of the term, with an adventure theme that brought plenty of colour, creativity, and of course, lots of reading. Each day brought new excitement as students arrived in different costumes, showing off their favourite characters and stories in imaginative ways.

On Tuesday afternoon, the whole school came together for a lively parade, with "Gary Potter" (Mr Rossiter) proving to be a real crowd favourite. Later in the week, our Senior School open afternoon was a success, with parents joining in classroom activities and experiencing the learning first-hand.

Students also had the chance to explore some special extras, including the ever-popular Fun Factory, trying out VR headsets in the DDL classroom, and searching for hidden golden idols during break times. These activities, along with the many opportunities for reading and sharing stories, made for a memorable week of adventure and books.

We're so pleased with the enthusiasm and participation from our students and whānau, Book Week has truly inspired a love of reading across our school.

### Looking ahead

#### ⊕ October

- 14 Mathex Competition
- 16 NZ Shakeout
- 17 Grandparents Afternoon
- 21 HPPA Touch Rugby
- 21 School Board Meeting 7pm
- 23 Strike Day – School Closed
- 27 Labour Day – School Closed
- 29 Parent Teacher Conferences  
1pm – 8pm
- 30 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3.30pm – 6.30pm
- 30 Year 3 and 4 Poetry Finals

#### ⊕ November

- 4 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 7 Junior Poetry Competition
- 13 Auckland Table Tennis Tournament
- 14 PTA Mufti Day



With Term Four here and summer fast approaching, it is time for students to be in their summer uniform. This includes short-sleeved polo shirts, shorts for the boys and culottes for the girls. All students are required to wear black leather sandals and need to wear their official school hat, as we have a 'no hat, no play' policy during the summer months.

New uniform items can be purchased from Argyle, our school uniform supplier, who courier items directly to your home, or you can purchase second hand items from our PTA Uniform Shop. For more information on both of these options, please head to our school website [www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform](http://www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform)

*With kind regards,*  
*Alan McIntyre*  
**PRINCIPAL**





**Before School Care: 7.00am - 8.30am**  
**After School Care: 3.00pm - 6.00pm**  
**School Holidays: 7.30am - 6.00pm**

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