

The Owairoa Primary... School Scribe

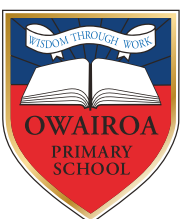
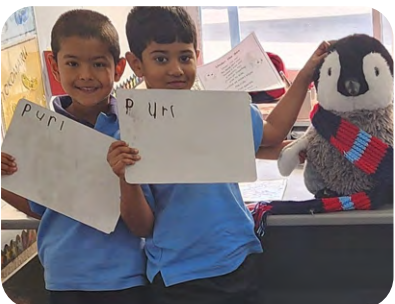


news and views from around our school

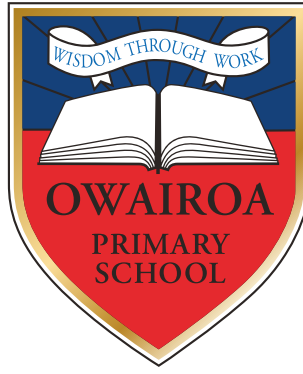
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Issue No 2, 10th March 2026



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Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we move confidently through the early weeks of Term One, it is great to see our students are settled, routines are established and there is good momentum across the school as our staff and students build positive foundations for the year ahead.

Last week's Open Home was a fantastic opportunity to welcome families into our learning spaces and strengthen the important connection between home and school. For those parents who were unable to attend, we warmly invite you to join us for our Open Classroom event next Thursday morning, where you will have the chance to experience the school day in action for an hour.

We look forward to continuing this collaborative journey and to a rewarding and successful term together.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Blake Tuimavave
- River Tuimavave
- Grayson Tuimavave
- Noah Tuimavave
- Niuvao Fotu
- Lola Fotu
- Oliver Su
- Ayaan Giraud
- Madison Donaldson
- Micayah Donaldson
- Oliver Quang Moon
- Yousif Al-Majmuei
- Diana Fernando
- Genevieve Pakalani
- Faith Pakalani
- Eshalia Naidoo

CURRICULUM DAYS SCHOOL CLOSED

We will be having our final two Government-allocated Curriculum Days on:

- Thursday 2nd April
(the day before Good Friday), and
- Tuesday 28th April
(the day after ANZAC Day).

School will be closed for students on these two days.

On these days our staff will be undertaking professional development on the new Curriculum that has been implemented.

Introducing our 2026 HOUSE LEADERS

We are proud to announce our sixteen students who have been nominated and elected as House Leaders and Deputy House Leaders for 2026.

These students have been chosen for their leadership qualities, enthusiasm and commitment to representing their peers. As leaders, they will play a vital role in guiding their house teams, encouraging school spirit and setting a positive example for all students.

We look forward to seeing them take on their responsibilities with pride and dedication throughout the year.

Congratulations to our 2026 House Leaders and Deputy House Leaders:



HOUSE LEADERS

May Li, Room M13
Aidan Collins, Room M17

DEPUTY LEADERS

Hridya Nagpal, Room M14
Latham Lopez, Room M18

AOTEA



HOUSE LEADERS

Aio Onkoba, Room M15
Connor King, Room M13

DEPUTY LEADERS

Ellie May, Room M17
Mark Shulgin, Room M12

TOKOMARU



HOUSE LEADERS

Rylee Savage, Room M15
Maddox Monkley, Room M12

DEPUTY LEADERS

Juliette Knobloch, Room 20
Eli Marais, Room M16

TAKITIMU



HOUSE LEADERS

Hannah Lin, Room 26
Caleb Wee, Room M17

DEPUTY LEADERS

Stella Collings, Room M17
Connor Winstanley, Room M18

TAINUI



Welcoming MP Simeon Brown



We were very pleased to recently welcome our local Member of Parliament Simeon Brown to Owairoa Primary School as part of his annual visit to schools within the electorate.

Mr Brown makes a point of regularly visiting our school to stay connected with students, staff and the wider community. These visits provide an opportunity for him to see firsthand the positive work taking place in our classrooms and to engage in constructive discussion about current educational priorities.

During his visit, we spoke about a range of matters relevant to primary education, including the implementation of the refreshed national curriculum and the ongoing focus on improving student attendance, an important Government priority. We appreciated the opportunity to share our experiences, successes and challenges, and to highlight the commitment of our staff to delivering high-quality teaching and learning for every student.

We really value his ongoing interest shown for our school and the opportunity to contribute to wider conversations about education at both a local and national level.



A Positive Start: Meet the Teacher 2026

On Wednesday 18th February, we were pleased to welcome so many families to our Open Home – Meet the Teacher event. This annual event provides an early opportunity for parents to step into their child’s learning space, become familiar with classroom programmes and gain a clearer understanding of expectations and daily routines.

Conversations throughout the afternoon focused on aspirations for the year, individual goals and the practical ways families can support learning at home. These early connections are invaluable. When parents and teachers share insights and work collaboratively, students benefit from a consistent and encouraging support network.

If at any stage during the year you would like to discuss your child’s progress, wellbeing, or any other matters, please feel welcome to contact your child’s teacher. Maintaining open and ongoing communication helps us respond effectively and ensures every child is well supported in all aspects of their schooling.



Attendance Update

Attendance has got off to a great start since the beginning of the term, with the majority of students arriving at school on time, ready to learn, everyday.

It is very important to let the school know, via email phone call or letter, why your child has been away from school. Communication is the key, so we can provide support if and when required.

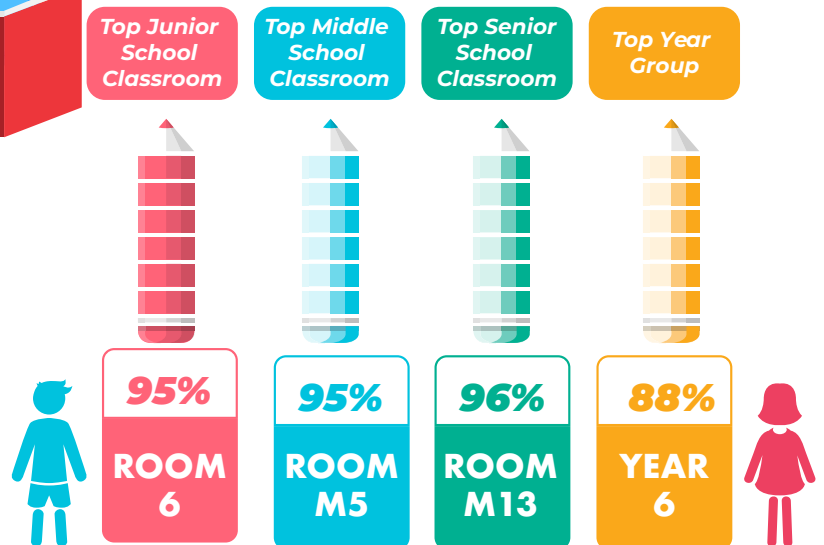
Our school is working hard to contact families if students are bordering on having more than 5 days off in the term, through emails, phone calls or home visits.

We have also been busy developing our Attendance Management Plan that will be shared on our school website, highlighting the process we go through if students begin to be show worrying or concerning attendance rates.



Attendance Update

Term 1, Week 3



Owairoa Primary School’s attendance target is for 80% of our students to attend school regularly (that is to attend more than 90% of the time) which equates to 5 days or less absence each term.

Step Inside the Classroom

Have you ever wondered what a day in your child's classroom looks like? Now is your chance to experience it first-hand. We are excited to invite you to our Open Classroom Event on Thursday 19th March from 9.15am to 10.15am, where you can step into the heart of your child's learning journey.

This special hour-long event is an opportunity to see your child in action in an educational setting. We look forward to welcoming you into the classroom and share this meaningful experience with you.



The poster features a central illustration of a young girl in a blue school uniform, smiling and pointing upwards while holding a red folder. She is positioned next to a large blackboard with a yellow frame that says "Open Classroom" in white cursive. The background is light blue with faint icons of school supplies like a pencil, ruler, and clock. A yellow megaphone is on the left, and a yellow star is above the girl. Below the blackboard are various school items: an open book with colorful pages, a globe on a stand, a red apple, a blue spiral notebook, and a purple alarm clock. The school crest, which says "WISDOM THROUGH WORK" and "OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL", is in the top right corner.

OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Open Classroom

**Step into your child's world of learning
and experience education first hand**

THURSDAY 19th MARCH 2026

9.15am - 10.15am

We welcome your visit to see our students shine as capable leaders, independent learners, problem solvers and valued members of our school family. (No preschoolers please)

Pacific Literacy Support

During a recent visit to Fiji, our school representative was delighted to donate a collection of reading books to Namaka Public School, a long-established co-educational primary school in the Namaka area of Nadi.

Established in 1962, Namaka Public School proudly serves over 1,300 students from the local community and beyond and has been recognised as the best primary school in the Lautoka/Nadi/Yasawa district by Fiji's Ministry of Education.

We hope the books will enrich their classrooms, support literacy programmes and inspire young learners at Namaka Public School. This meaningful exchange reflects our school's commitment to developing international friendships and strengthening educational relationships across the Pacific.



Education Evaluation Survey

The Education Evaluation Centre, part of the Education Review Office, publishes independent reports about New Zealand's education system.

They want to hear from parents about your experience at the school, as part of a project about supporting schools across the country.

Here is a link to a 3-min survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/supporting_schools_parents

Each Friday afternoon, many students and Parents are eager to line up to get their frozen ice block treat, to help celebrate the end of another successful week at school. This regular Friday event is held during Term One and Term Four, helping to support the PTA's fundraising efforts.

The PTA are always happy to welcome more helpers, so if you are able to volunteer 30 minutes on a Friday afternoon to help sell ice blocks, please contact pta@owairoa.school.nz

-FRUJU- FRIDAY



Digital Dream Lab (DDL) One Year On

It is hard to believe it has been a full year since we first swiped our ID cards and stepped into the Digital Dream Lab (DDL). What began as an exciting new space for exploring shapes and 3D printing has blossomed into a thriving hub of innovation, where our learners are now mastering a massive range of digital tools.

A Year of Discovery

Last year was a whirlwind of creativity across the whole school. Our Junior School learners took their first steps into robotics with Bee-Bots, mastering sequencing and directional language, while also exploring the physical world by 3D printing toy cars to test the effects of gravity.

In the Middle School, students used Minecraft to recreate animal habitats and produced clever Stop Motion animations using LEGO to illustrate how to overcome challenges. They even turned their 3D design skills toward sustainability, engineering unique vertical planter boxes to grow seeds right in the lab.

Our Senior School students stepped up as problem-solvers, designing and 3D printing custom stationery holders to help organise classrooms across the school. They also combined research with digital world-building, creating immersive animal environments in Minecraft and filming their own “on-location” documentaries to share their findings.

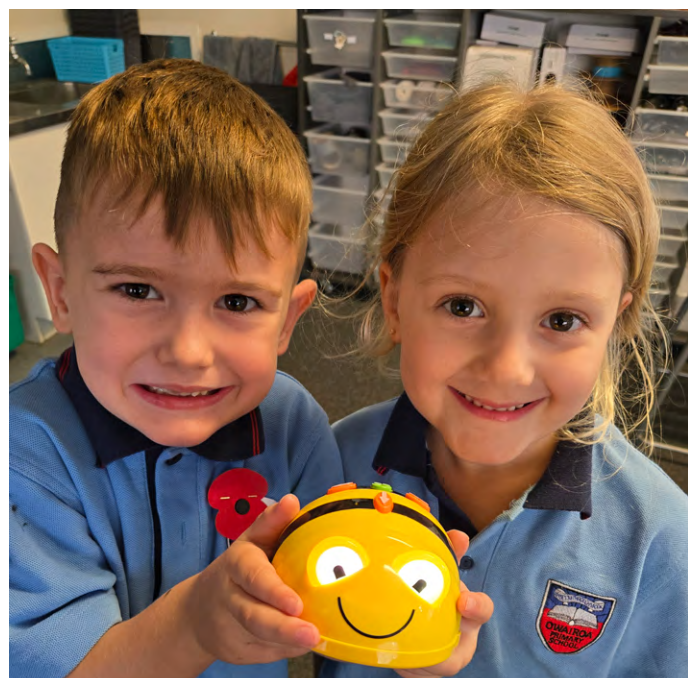
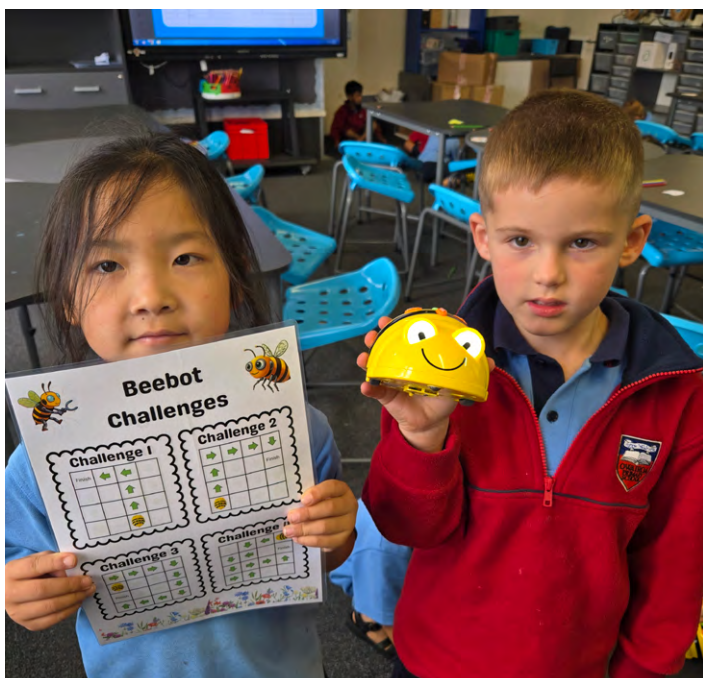
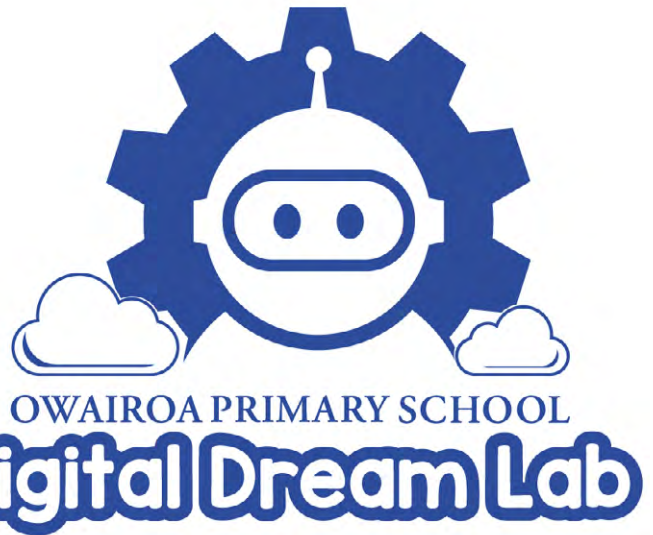
Building on Our Success

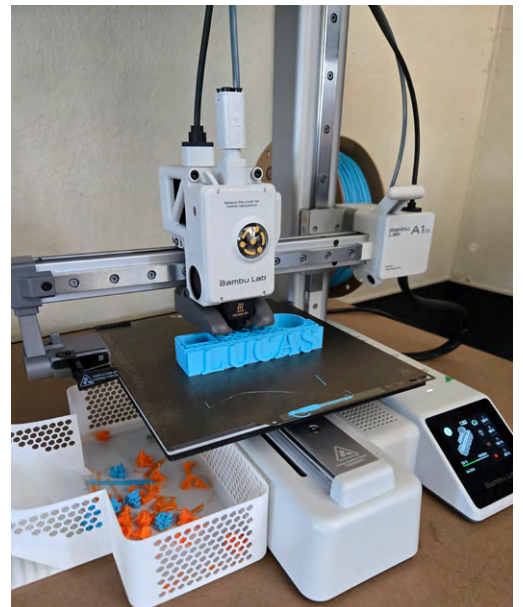
We have kicked off 2026 with an even deeper dive into the world of 3D design. The DDL is currently buzzing as students move from simple shapes to complex, functional items. Our Seniors are currently immersed in the full design process, engineering their own custom 3D-printed pens, while the Middle School are creating “Desk Pets” complete with printed stat cards for a classroom game. Meanwhile, our Juniors are making their mark by turning their own unique handwriting into 3D-printed name tags and creating ABC magnetic tiles for their classrooms.

Looking ahead to the upcoming terms, we have some truly ambitious goals to broaden our digital horizons. We will be exploring Digital Art with a focus on how we can represent New Zealand’s unique culture, landscapes and native species. Coding will also remain a major pillar; we are building on the foundations of 2025 by introducing Sphero BOLTS and KaiBots for our juniors, alongside advanced Minecraft challenges and LEGO Robotics.

The adventure doesn’t stop there—we are also set to investigate how Virtual Reality can enhance our classroom learning and will even be introducing “Drone 101” skills to teach the basics of flight and aerial technology.

All of these activities are carefully designed to align with the New Zealand Curriculum’s Digital Technologies goals. By engaging in these projects, our learners are not just becoming tech-savvy; they are developing the critical thinking, persistence, and collaborative skills needed to become the digital creators and ethical citizens of tomorrow.





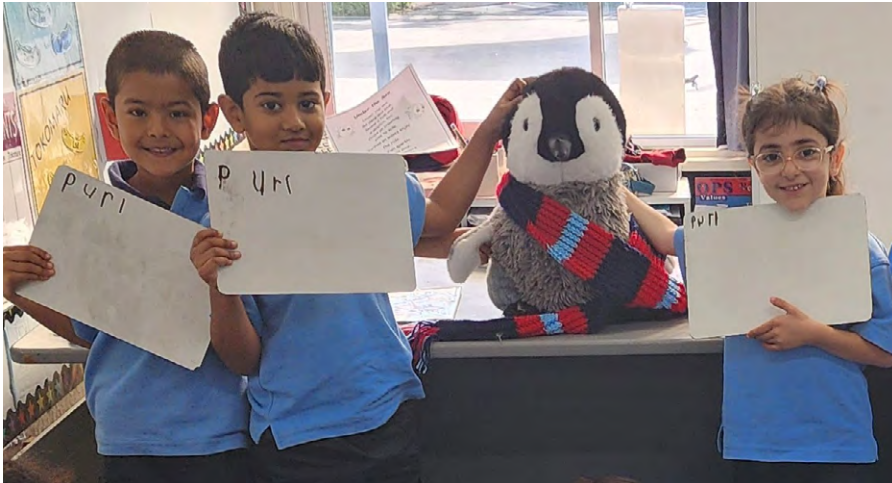
School Blog Update



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 Welcome Purl the Penguin



The Junior School was introduced to a special visitor during assembly last week. After reading the wonderful adventurous story of “Granny McFlitter, the Champion Knitter” by Heather Haylock and Lael Chisholm, we were honoured to welcome Purl the Penguin to the Junior School.

With her very fluffy tummy and Owairoa knitted scarf, Purl is a long way from home. However, she is excited to see all the learning that takes place in our Junior School classrooms.

With some help from the teachers, Purl chooses the best class every week in

assembly to spend time in their classroom. With her small beady black eyes, Purl looks out for the best class that sings beautifully, has fantastic listening skills, says please and thank you when receiving a certificate and sits up nice and quietly.

Currently in Room 2, Purl has been learning about the first sound of her name, and the students are really helpful when she forgets. It can also be a bit tricky saying and sounding out the letter P with a beak. Purl has had to sit quietly while the students sketch and labelled her during writing time. Being a penguin, Purl absolutely wishes that she could go swimming, however she enjoys a good nap when it is quiet and peaceful.

Although Room 2 have loved having Purl in their class, Purl is excited to visit another classroom. Will it be your class sitting nicely, or using their manners? Perhaps you are showing the Owairoa R.I.S.E values during assembly. We wonder which class Purl will visit next?

Middle School Blog Swimming



Our Year 3 learners have been making the most of swimming lessons this term. We are very lucky at our school to have our own swimming pool, which we use during Term 1 and Term 4. This gives everyone a wonderful opportunity to build important swimming skills in a safe and supportive environment.

During lessons, learners focus on developing water confidence and learning essential water safety skills. They practise floating, kicking, breathing techniques and moving through the water with control. Water safety is a big part of our programme, as it helps children understand how to stay safe in

and around pools, rivers and at the beach.

We are also very fortunate to have a dedicated swimming assistant who works alongside our teachers. This means learners receive extra support and guidance as they build their skills. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow each week, along with their smiles and enthusiasm in the pool.

Senior School Blog

Galloping into the New Year



Learners across the Senior School welcomed 2026 with enthusiasm as they explored Chinese New Year and the arrival of the Year of the Fire Horse. The Fire Horse symbolises energy, confidence and determination, qualities that strongly reflect the positive mindset our students are embracing as they return to school and set goals for the year ahead.

Room M15 channelled this symbolism into a striking Fire Horse art piece, thoughtfully designed and brought to life through bold colour choices and careful detailing. Their collaborative masterpiece is now proudly displayed outside their classroom. Room 20 also embraced the artistic spirit of the festival, creating stunning stained glass Fire Horse artworks that shine brightly on their classroom windows.

Room M17 has been immersed in the creative process, working diligently on their own Year of the Fire Horse drawings, with a clear focus on precision and artistic expression. Meanwhile, Room M16 explored the celebration through language, crafting vibrant Chinese New Year poetry that captures the excitement and traditions of the festival. Their poems are now displayed on their classroom wall.

Room M18 and M14 delved into the history behind the festival, engaging in reading comprehension tasks to deepen their understanding of its origins and customs. Together, these learning experiences have fostered creativity, curiosity and cultural awareness, a meaningful way to begin 2026.

Looking ahead

☺ March

- 11 HPPA Cricket
- 13 PTA Mufti Day
- 16 Poppy Day appeal starts
- 18 Launchpad starts
- 19 Open Classroom
9.15am – 10.15am
- 24 School Board Meeting 6.30pm
- 25 HPPA Swimming
- 27 PTA School BBQ/Games Event
- 31 PTA Meeting and AGM 7.30pm
- 2 Curriculum Day – School closed
for students
- 2 End of Term One

☺ April

- 20 Term Two Begins



End of Day Reminder

The school day ends at **3pm** and while we appreciate that sometimes situations arise and Parents can't be here on time, we seem to have a growing number of students arriving at the office each afternoon, with their parents running late for after school pickup.

Please ring the school office on **(09) 538 0060** if you know you are held up, so we can let your child know the new pickup arrangements for that day.

Any students who are not picked up from our school office by **3.15pm** are taken to our on-site after school care provider, Bizzy Bodz, who will supervise your child until you arrive. Casual rates apply and you will be invoiced directly from Bizzy Bodz.

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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For all questions or queries please contact our office or the programme

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