

The Owairoa Primary

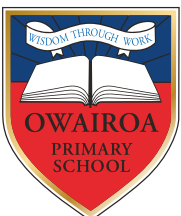
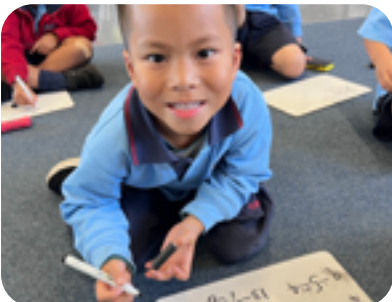
School Scribe

news and views from around our school

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Issue No 5, 9th June 2026

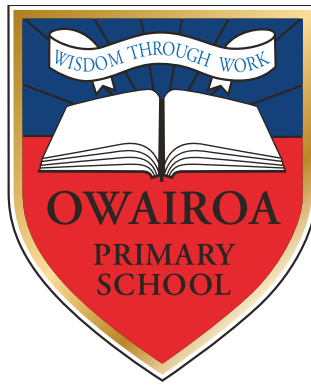


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we move towards the second half of Term Two, it is great to see our students continuing to approach their learning with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Despite the colder winter temperatures arriving, classrooms remain energetic, with students actively engaged in a wide range of educational opportunities.

This edition of the newsletter shares some of the many achievements and events that have taken place across the school in recent weeks. We are proud of the effort our students and staff continue to demonstrate and we enjoy celebrating these successes with our wider school community.

Thank you to the many parents and caregivers who participated in our recent Parent Teacher Student Conferences. These conversations provide a valuable opportunity to reflect on progress, celebrate accomplishments and work together to support each child's ongoing development.

Looking ahead, there is still much to enjoy before the end of term, with a variety of activities on the calendar. We look forward to the opportunities these events provide for students to challenge themselves, develop new skills and create lasting memories.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Quentin Lau
- Musa Batala
- Reign Schaumkel
- Nur Muttaqi
- Bryan Chen
- Mishka Bhattacharya
- Lennox Santarelli Williams
- Lena van Zyl
- Adelaide Chapman
- Dante Worsley
- Keith Worsley
- Zorawar Brar
- Ajit Brar
- Rocky Zhang
- Leah Clifford
- Maika Ramasima

SCHOOL FINISH TIME

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 will be invoiced directly from Bizzy Bodz.

National Recognition for Two Owaioa Innovations

Last month Owaioa Primary School entered the inaugural New Zealand Education Excellence Awards, a national awards programme recognising outstanding performance and innovation in schools across New Zealand.

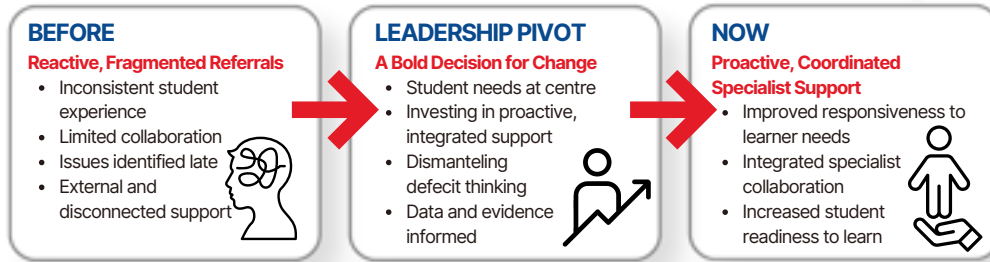
We are incredibly proud to announce that two of our flagship initiatives — the Popokotea Wellbeing Nest and the Digital Dream Lab were both selected as Top 10 finalists nationally in their respective categories.

The Popokotea Wellbeing Nest was shortlisted in the Excellence in Educational Leadership category. This initiative, spearheaded by Sally Taka, was established to provide a coordinated, wraparound approach to supporting students with additional learning, wellbeing, communication and emotional needs. Bringing together a team of specialist professionals within the school environment, the Popokotea reflects our belief that students need to feel safe, supported and connected before they can fully engage in learning and school life.

OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL POPOKOTEA WELLBEING NEST



Strategic Shift: *Transforming Student Wellbeing*



Multidisciplinary Hub: *Working Together*



Community Voice: *Being Heard*



Sustainability Foundations:

Built for Today, Here for Tomorrow

- Strong governance support with strategic leadership
- Sustainable community funding support
- Embedded multi-disciplinary model
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation process
- Continuous refinement through emerging data analysis

POPOKOTEA WELLBEING NEST

A pioneering initiative, providing a nurturing space where students with additional needs are valued, supported and empowered to thrive academically, socially, spiritually and emotionally.

The Digital Dream Lab was shortlisted in the Excellence in Quality Teaching and Instruction category. Led by our specialist Digital Technologies Teacher William Howard, the Lab has become a hub of innovation where students explore coding, robotics, 3D design, digital media and emerging technologies. At the same time, it supports teachers to grow their confidence and capability in delivering future-focused learning experiences across the curriculum.

While we did not progress beyond the semi-final stage, being recognised among the top schools in New Zealand in two separate categories is an achievement we are very proud of. To have both programmes recognised at a national level is wonderful affirmation that Owairoa Primary School continues to lead the way in creating opportunities for all learners.



Owairoa Primary School DIGITAL DREAM LAB

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Bridging the Equity Gap</h3> <p>The Problem: Variable staff confidence created inconsistent student access to high-quality technology instruction.</p> <p>The Shift: Moving from a generalist model to a Specialist-Led Workforce Structure.</p> <p>The Goal: Ensuring 100% equitable, progress-aligned access for all Year 0-6 learners.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Workforce Capability</h3> <p>Shoulder-to-Shoulder Mentoring: An onsite expert available for immediate assistance and targeted digital development.</p> <p>Specialised Training: Staff PLD sessions covering Minecraft Coding, AV Training, 3D Printing, SAMR Framework and Netsafe.</p> <p>Live Modelling: Teachers build confidence by observing expert-led lessons with their own classes.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Instructional Excellence</h3> <p>Focused Engagement: Every class participates termly in structured, high-engagement technology sessions.</p> <p>Curriculum Mastery: Learning objectives are directly aligned with Te Mitiāho, ensuring progression-aligned growth.</p> <p>Design Thinking: Students move from passive consumers to active creators and problem solvers.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">The Workforce of the Future</h3> <p>Advanced Skills: Mastering concepts once reserved for high school. Drone flying, 3D printing, VR exploration, robotics, coding and AI literacy.</p> <p>Authentic Contexts: Solving real-world problems through rapid prototyping and digital design.</p> <p>Sustainability: A robust model that prepares both the teaching workforce and the learners for a digital future.</p>
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At a Glance

- **Specialist-led model** building student capability of the future
- **Growing teacher capability** and confidence in Digital Technologies
- **Engaged, creative learners** solving real-world problems
- **Sustainable, inclusive practice** delivering measurable improvement





Voices of Impact

Classroom Teacher: "Seeing a student who normally can't sit still, focus for a whole block while problem solving is just magic."

Year 4 Learner: "It doesn't feel like school work because we actually solve problems by making things."

Year 6 Learner: "I've learnt that it is okay to mess up and try again. It took us about 3 times to get our code right and for the Sphero to do what we wanted."

Parent: "She used to just grunt when I asked about school, but after DDL she is absolutely buzzing about 3D printing and design. It's so awesome to see the school teaching real-world skills the kids actually care about."

OUR STELLAR SPACE ADVENTURE



In Week 5 on Thursday and Friday, our Year 3 and 4 students headed off on an exciting adventure to the Stardome Planetarium and Observatory. Travelling by bus in split groups, there was a real buzz of anticipation as we set off, ready to explore beyond our world. The trip linked perfectly to our Term 1 Science focus on Space, where we have been learning about the Sun, planets, stars and the unique features of our solar system.

At Stardome, we took part in the education programme Our Solar System. Inside the planetarium, we experienced a stunning visual journey through space. As the lights dimmed and the dome lit up with stars, it felt as though we were travelling among the planets ourselves.

We learned about the order of the planets, the differences between rocky and gas giant planets, and why Earth is so special. The presenters explained complex ideas in ways that were engaging and easy to understand, helping us build on the scientific knowledge we developed in class.

Students asked thoughtful questions and impressed the educators with their understanding of concepts such as rotation, orbit and gravity. It was fantastic to see them making connections to our earlier learning about how the Earth moves around the Sun and how day and night occur. The observatory visit gave many of us a new appreciation for the vastness of space and the importance of scientific exploration.

This trip was a memorable and inspiring way to bring our Space unit to life. Experiences like this help us see how science works in the real world and spark curiosity about the universe around us. Who knows – we may have some future astronomers in our midst!



DODGEBALL

Eight of our Owairoa learners, four boys and four girls, proudly represented our school at a recent dodgeball tournament against 16 schools from across the region.

Our team showed fantastic determination and teamwork throughout the day. After a strong performance in the group stages, we finished second in our pool, earning a place in the playoffs. In an incredibly close quarter-final match, we narrowly lost by just one set in the final 30 seconds of the game. Despite the tough result, our learners should be extremely proud of finishing 7th overall out of 16 schools.

What stood out the most on the day was not only the skill and competitiveness displayed, but also the outstanding respect, sportsmanship, and behaviour shown by our learners. They represented Owairoa Primary School with pride and truly lived out our RISE values.

One of the highlights of the tournament was the opportunity for teams to nominate an MVP and a Fair Play player from the opposing school after every match. This was an amazing concept that encouraged learners to recognise both great talent and positive sportsmanship in others. Our learners thoroughly enjoyed this aspect of the event and gained a deeper appreciation for fair play and respect in sport.

A huge thank you goes to the organising school for running such a well-organised and enjoyable event. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved.



Wearing Pink, Living Respect

Pink Shirt Day is always a special occasion at Owairoa Primary School, but its true value lies in the conversations and actions that continue long after the pink shirts are packed away.

On Friday 15th May, students and staff proudly wore pink to show their commitment to kindness, inclusion and respect. Throughout the day, classes took part in meaningful discussions about bullying, empathy and the important role each of us plays in creating a safe and supportive school environment.

Students explored what bullying is, and what it is not, while learning about the difference between conflict, unkind behaviour and repeated bullying. They talked about how bullying can affect others, the importance of standing up safely when they see someone being treated unfairly and how small acts of kindness can make a significant difference.

In classrooms across the school, students reflected on the power of their words and actions. They shared ideas about helping others feel included, using respectful language and showing empathy when someone is upset. These conversations reinforced an important message: everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and respected.

Pink Shirt Day aligns closely with our school's Zero Bullying Policy and our core value of respect. It reminds us that creating a positive school culture is not the responsibility of one person or one day, it is something we all contribute to, every day.





Have You Read Eastern Time's 4th Most-Read Story of 2026

We recently welcomed local MP Simeon Brown for a tour of our school and the visit has attracted significant attention in the media.

A feature article published by the Eastern Times, titled **"MP impressed on tour of 'New Zealand's Number One Primary School'"**, has already been **viewed more than 19,600 times**, making it the **4th most-read story of 2026** on the newspaper's website.

In the article, the MP reflects on what he observed during his visit, including the unique culture, learning environment, student engagement and community spirit that make Owairoa Primary School such a special place.

We're incredibly proud of the positive recognition we have received.

Click the link below to read the full story and see why so many people across Auckland have been talking about Owairoa:

<https://www.times.co.nz/news/mp-impressed-on-tour-of-new-zealands-number-one-primary-school/>

We appreciate the Eastern Times for their commitment for local news and their support and interest in our school.



Once a Student, Always Part of Our Story



We were delighted to welcome back former Owairoa student Sharon Ali, who attended our school from 2000 to 2006. Now living in the United States, Sharon recently returned to New Zealand and made a special visit to our school, reconnecting with the place where her educational journey began. Sharon shares her memories of her time at school, the lasting impact Owairoa Primary School has had on her life and an inspiring message for our current students.

My name is Sharon Ali and I attended Owairoa Primary School during the years 2000 to 2006. At present, my family is living in the United States and I was able to come home to New Zealand after many, many years during the first three months of this year. One of the things I really wanted to do was visit Owairoa and meet with Mr McIntyre. In early March, this dream became a reality and I was able to spend two days back where my entire school journey began.

It really did feel like a dream returning to Owairoa after all these years. Living outside of New Zealand has made me cherish and treasure my home and everyone and everything my family and I were surrounded by growing up, even more. When I first walked through the main school gates, it felt so precious to me. Even when I was not old enough to attend yet, I would come to school because my older sister attended from 1998 to 2004. We usually walked to school with our parents or grandmother. My parents were and still are very fond of Mr McIntyre because of his kind, welcoming, funny and warm spirit towards students, families and the whole community.

There were many memories that came back to me during my visit to Owairoa, too many to mention here! I remember doing Jump Jam on the middle court with the whole school ~ it was one of my favourite things! I remember going to the school gala every year, collecting books, going on rides, eating corn dogs and candy floss and loving every moment of the day. I remember getting my pen licence!

As an adult now, I think I appreciate Owairoa so much more and see the lasting impact of my time here with more gratitude.

To current students, enjoy being at Owairoa and all the moments you spend with fellow students, teachers, staff and your families. Enjoy being a kid, playing outside, learning to read and write, practicing your times tables, building things and learning an instrument. You get to learn so much and be surrounded by so many good people who care about you and the person you are becoming. Be thankful and keep laughing. I hope when you look back on your time at Owairoa, you will be just as fond and thankful to have been at the best primary school in Aotearoa, as I always will be.

Conferences Completed

We were pleased with the participation at our recent Parent–Teacher–Student Conferences. Across the two days, an impressive 95% of our Owairoa families attended. It was wonderful to see so many parents engaging with their children's learning, exploring their work and sharing in conversations about progress and achievement.

Your involvement in events like this plays a powerful role in elevating student confidence by giving students ownership of their learning journey and encouraging them to speak proudly about their goals and successes.



Attendance Update

Term 2, Week 7



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.

Top Junior School Classroom



94%
ROOM 2

Top Middle School Classroom



96%
ROOM M3

Top Senior School Classroom



92%
ROOM 26

Top Year Group



90%
Year 1

SCHOOL REPORTING TO PARENTS



We continue to be at the forefront of curriculum change and as you may have seen or heard in the media, our school has introduced new curriculums this year for Maths & Statistics and English for Years 0 – 6.

This means we are currently changing from the old to the new curriculum. Our school has only been using the new curriculum from the start of 2026, which includes new teaching and assessment methods and content.

Because of this, you could see a change in your child's progress or achievement compared to previous years, which may be the result of changes in the curriculum expectations for your child's year level.

If you have concerns or questions about your child's achievement, we strongly suggest making a time to talk with your child's teacher. Each Teacher will have also used their own observations, classroom tasks and other tests when reporting on the progress your child is making.

Reports are currently being written and will be sent home on **Friday 3rd July**.

A Strong Start for Attendance

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success at school. Research consistently shows that students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, achieve better academic outcomes and develop stronger social connections. The Ministry of Education defines regular attendance as being present for more than 90% of the school term.

We are pleased to share that 81% of our students achieved regular attendance in Term 1, 2026, an improvement on 80% in Term 1, 2025 and well above the current national average. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects the strong partnership between our students, families and staff in making attendance a priority.

The data also shows that 95% of our students are arriving on time to class regularly, ensuring they are ready to learn from the start of each day. Most absences this term were due to illness or medical reasons, with family holidays accounting for the second-largest reason.

The Government has set a goal of 80% of students attending school regularly by 2030, recognising that every day at school matters. We are proud that our school has already achieved this benchmark and will continue working with families to ensure every child has the best opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

Term 1 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?



What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

- (M) Illness / Medical Absence 55%**
- (G) Holiday 26%**
- (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 11%**
- (T) Unexplained / Trivial 5%**
- (J) Explained and Approved 2%**

How many students were on time to class?

95% of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)

	2025 Term 1	2025 Term 2	2025 Term 3	2025 Term 4	2026 Term 1
Attendance	80%	77%	64%	70%	81% [80% in T4 2025]
Arrival on Time	81%	79%	94%	95%	95%

TREES FOR SURVIVAL PLANTING DAY



On the 13th of May, 34 students and their supportive parent helpers enjoyed perfect weather for a successful day of Trees for Survival (TfS) restoration planting. The aim of the TfS programme, which was established in 1991 by the Pakuranga Rotary Group, is to grow native seedlings, and plant these on unstable land to help prevent erosion and improve stream flow and water quality, increase native biodiversity and offset carbon emissions. It is also recognised that growing and caring for native trees has significant educational outcomes.

Returning for a fourth and final year of planting at Miranda Marsh and Martin Grant's property in Clevedon, the planting group brought with them special guest Dave Small, who has been part of the Owairoa community for many years, has planted with the school approximately 17 years and had the 2022 planting at Miranda and Grant's dedicated to him and his wife, Beth.

Students enjoyed morning tea in the barn before heading out to the planting site. They learned more about the species of trees being planted and why the restoration area would benefit so greatly from today's efforts. Thanks to exceptional site preparation and pre-drilled holes, the students made quick work of planting an incredible 700 native trees (Mānuka, Karamū, Tī Kōuka, Hebe, Harakeke and Pukio), which had been grown in our school's shade house. Throughout the morning, quality control was a top priority, with every plant passing the "Pukeko Test" to ensure it was firmly bedded in.

A special moment in the morning saw Mrs Maas planting three kahikatea trees supplied by Miranda. These trees were planted to acknowledge the years Mrs Maas has worked alongside Miranda and Martin planting on this property, and to recognise her dedication and care for the environment for 10 years as the teacher in charge of TfS at Owairoa Primary, a role she is handing over at the end of this season.

Trees in the ground, the students walked back via last year's planting site, where they were able to see the impressive growth from previous efforts. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to see the positive impact of restoration planting over time.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch generously provided by Miranda and her helpers, the sweet treats at the end proving to be a particular highlight of the day! After lunch, students explored some established bush areas, listened for birdsong, and enjoyed spending time running around the paddocks and experiencing the freedom of being on the farm.

We are very grateful to the parent volunteers – without you, trips such as these are not possible! A huge thanks also to Miranda and Martin for hosting our planting day and for committing to plant the extra 250 trees there wasn't space to plant on the day. Finally, thanks also to Kirsten and Charlotte, our school's TfS co-ordinators, for all the behind-the-scenes mahi that helped to make the day such a success.







Supporting our Popokotea Wellbeing Nest initiative

We are very pleased to introduce another Specialist of our Popokotea Well Being Nest.

Suzanne Burgoyne – Speech Language Specialist

Suzanne Burgoyne is the owner/operator of Chattertots and a registered member of the NZ Speech Language Therapists' Association. Following her training at the University of Canterbury (1998), Suzanne has gained a wealth of experience working with preschool and school aged children with speech, language and communication difficulties.

She has worked for the Ministry of Education in NZ and the NHS in the UK in both mainstream and special schools along with clinics and early childhood settings. Suzanne uses evidence-based therapy programmes and has completed a number of post-graduate training courses.

Owaioa Primary School is fortunate enough to have Suzanne support our learners one day a week. She is able to support children with a range of speech, language and communication difficulties.

If you have concerns about your child's speech and/or language development, please contact our Sally Taka our Special Education Needs Coordinator.



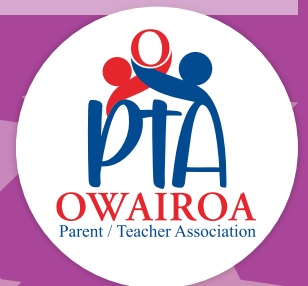
Pyjama Party Fun for Everyone

Our recent PTA Pyjama Party Disco was a fantastic success, with an evening full of laughter and dancing.

Students arrived dressed in their favourite pyjamas, ready to hit the dance floor alongside their classmates and teachers. The school hall was transformed into a vibrant party venue, complete with colourful lights and an energetic atmosphere that had everyone smiling from start to finish.

A huge thank you to our PTA for organising another fun disco event. From enthusiastic dance moves to singing along with favourite songs, the evening was packed with many memorable moments.

party!



Simultaneously Reading 'Luna Roo: The Kangaroo Baller'

Our Owairoa students were once again excited to participate in the 2026 National Simultaneous Storytime event, which took place on Wednesday 27th May 2026.

In this milestone 25th Anniversary of the National Simultaneous Storytime event, our students enjoyed 'Luna Roo: The Kangaroo Baller' written by Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd. This book was read simultaneously by over 2.28 million participants across New Zealand, Australia and around the world at the same time.

National Simultaneous Storytime is held annually and every year a picture book is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the world. The annual campaign supports children's literacy by encouraging reading as a fun, community event.

It is a fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using a children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the curriculum, which you can see in some of our classroom activities in these photos.



OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Open Classroom



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

THURSDAY 25th JUNE 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)**

Tackling Technology



DATE
7pm,
Thurs 11 June

VENUE
Owairoa
Primary School

RSVP
3pm,
Wed 10 June

**Purchase tickets
on Kindo**
\$10pp or \$15 couple

Raising kids in a *digital* world

Technology can be a helpful tool, but it's also a minefield – especially for our kids!

With the latest information on topics including cyberbullying, grooming and sextortion, as well as insights on parental controls, appropriate boundaries and healthy habits, this talk is your vital guide to keeping kids safer online.



Kristin Ward, Parent Coach

With a background in social work and child & adolescent mental health, Kristin helps parents to be on the same team as their kids, no matter what challenging behaviour they are facing.

Main Programme - Owairoa

Monday 6th July

Tin Foil Sculptures

Join us for a hands-on day where creativity takes centre stage! Children can twist, shape, and design their own unique creations turning imagination into shiny works of art.

ONSITE \$42.00

Tuesday 7th July

Super Senses

This day is all about curiosity and creativity. Where every child can engage their senses and enjoy meaningful play. Come along to explore.

ONSITE \$42.00

Wednesday 8th July

Movies

Get ready to watch the latest movie at Hoyts Botany! Sit back, relax and enjoy Toy Story 5. Limited spaces available.

TRIP \$52.00

Thursday 9th July

Quiz Quest

Join a team and compete in our kids quiz day. From general knowledge to quirky trivia, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

ONSITE \$42.00

Friday 10th July

Matariki

No programme available

Monday 13th July

Kids in Action

Children will jump into a variety of games and challenges today. From team games to crafts, let's make memories on and off the field.

ONSITE \$42.00

Tuesday 14th July

Hungerball

Bring your energy for an exciting visit from the Hungerball crew! They'll be bringing along their inflatable arena for you to enjoy and battle it out.

ONSITE TRIP \$50.00

Wednesday 15th July

Inflatable World

Bounce, slide and race your friends at Inflatable World, Pakuranga. It will be an unforgettable time that will blow you away! **Socks must be worn to play.**

TRIP \$52.00

Thursday 16th July

Fun Fizz

Bring your excitement for a day with fizzing art, colourful science, and tasty treats! Children will explore colourful fizz-inspired activities.

ONSITE \$42.00

Friday 17th July

Dress Up Party

Come along dressed as your favourite character, superhero, or anything your imagination dreams up! Enjoy a day packed with music, games, and laughter.

ONSITE \$42.00

Thursday 9th: Big Kids Trip Option (9-13 year olds only)

BKT East Programmes: Zone Bowling Botany (separate booking link)

Join us as we head to Zone Bowling in Botany for arcade play, laser tag and bowling.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP IS FROM COCKLE BAY SCHOOL ONLY. LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.

8.30am - 3.00pm: TRIP \$60.00

Location

Based in the school hall
7.30am - 6.00pm

Prices

7.30am - 8.30am	\$8.00
8.30am - 3.00pm	see above
3.00pm - 4.30pm	\$10.00
3.00pm - 6.00pm	\$14.00

Please bring daily

- Morning Tea, Lunch, drink bottle and hat

Book online now!

enrolmy.com/bizzy-bodz

or call us on:

09 530 9020 or 021 837 051

Early Bird

Discount!

Book and pay in full on or before **Thursday 18th June** to receive **10% off** your holiday programme fees.* Don't miss out!

How to book

To create an account visit:
enrolmy.com/bizzy-bodz

Or use your current Enrolmy account and search for 'new activity'. You can filter your search by school site or venue. If you require care before 8.30am or after 3.00pm, you will need to also select 'Before Care' or 'After Care' for each day this is needed.

Trip Days

Please ensure you drop off your child by 9.00am on trip days as the buses are booked to leave at 9.15am.

*Conditions apply

Bookings

- Bookings can be made on or before the day of attendance however please note there are **limited spaces available**
- Drop off and pick up outside of booked hours will incur an extra fee
- Refunds are not available once the holiday period has begun, however day swaps can be made in advance by contacting the Head Office (subject to availability)

Payment/WINZ

- Payment is required at time of booking to be confirmed
- WINZ forms need to be submitted when making your booking
- If applying for WINZ, a 25% deposit is required to secure your booking



Bizzy Bodz



Howick RSA and Trusts

PO Box 38-043

HOWICK 2145

admin@howickrsa.co.nz

15 May 2026

Kia ora

Very many thanks to your staff and the children at your school for their efforts in raising funds for our Howick RSA Poppy Trust over the ANZAC period.

The ANZAC message of service and sacrifice, and comradeship is an important message for any generation, and particularly as part of the development process for children. That so many participated in our Howick ANZAC Day services on Stockade Hill is a good indication that the message is not being lost.

All money raised through the Poppy collections go into our Poppy Trust, a registered charity, and are used solely to support veterans and their immediate dependents who may be in need. This year's collection is likely to be a record, another indication that the ANZAC message continues.

Next year, if you would like any support around any ANZAC activities in your school, please let us know and we'll do our best to assist.

Once again, many thanks to you and your school for your support, it is an important part of our community engagement.

Best regards

Barry Dreyer
President

Howick RSA Association Community Club Inc

Building Strong Home Learning Habits Together

At Owairoa Primary School, home learning is designed to reinforce classroom learning, develop positive learning habits and strengthen the partnership between home and school. Our expectations increase gradually as students move through the school, while maintaining a strong focus on reading, literacy and mathematics.

We encourage families to make home learning a positive part of their daily routine. Consistent practice at home helps students build confidence, independence and success in their learning.

Years 0–2

Home learning is provided Monday to Thursday, with a poem sent home each Friday.

Expected Time: 10–15 minutes per night.

Home Learning includes:

- Reading book
- Maths basic facts practice
- Literacy-based activities

- Weekly vocabulary words
- Year 2 students also learn weekly spelling words

How Families Can Help:

- Read with your child each day.
- Talk about new words and their meanings.
- Encourage your child to share what they have learned at school.
- Practise basic maths facts in fun and engaging ways.
- Enjoy the weekly poem together.

Year 3

Home learning is provided Monday to Thursday.

Expected Time: 15–20 minutes per night.

Home Learning includes:

- Weekly spelling list
- Reading log
- Number facts practice
- Home Learning book signed by a parent or caregiver

How Families Can Help:

- Encourage daily reading or read together.
- Support your child to complete their reading log.
- Practise multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times tables.
- Explore number combinations that make 100.
- Make up stories together and introduce new and interesting vocabulary.
- Sign the Home Learning book when tasks have been completed.

Year 4

Home learning is provided Monday to Thursday.

Expected Time: 15–20 minutes per night.

Home Learning includes:

- Daily practice of weekly spelling words
- Reading log
- Maths facts practice
- Weekly reminders about library, sport, and important classroom events

- Home Learning book signed by a parent or caregiver

How Families Can Help:

- Encourage regular reading at home.
- Support daily spelling practice.
- Practise multiplication and division facts until they become automatic.
- Have conversations that introduce new vocabulary and ideas.
- Sign the Home Learning book when tasks have been completed.

Years 5-6

Home learning is provided throughout the week and monitored using a weekly Home Learning sheet.

Expected Time: 20–30 minutes per night.

Home Learning includes:

- Reading for 20 minutes daily
- Daily practice of weekly spelling words
- Daily practice of number facts
- Weekly Home Learning sheet
- Daily parent signature in the spelling notebook

- Weekly parent signature on the Home Learning sheet

How Families Can Help:

- Encourage a regular home learning routine.
- Support independent reading every day.
- Check and sign the spelling notebook after daily practice.
- Encourage regular practice of number facts.
- Review and sign the Home Learning sheet at the end of each week.
- Communicate with the teacher if home learning cannot be completed.

Home learning is most successful when students receive encouragement and support from home. Small amounts of regular practice can make a significant difference to a child's confidence and achievement.

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 - Mitey in Team Two



In Mitey in Term 1 the focus was on exploring and sharing ideas about relationships with friends.

This tied in well with the beginning of the year and building relationships with new people. There were many activities aimed at getting to know each other involving writing about themselves including details of their favourite colour, food, number of siblings, how they get to school, pets, hobbies, t.v shows/movies they like. A “Guess Who” activity was included as a fun things for parents to look at during the Open Home.

Classes discussed how to be a good friend and discussed ways of relating to others. How to make a new friend and how good friends make us feel/not feel

was also focused on. Links to our Oral Narrative resources such as “Roo and Vladimir” and “Tu Meke Tui/Tuatara” were made. There was also role playing of different scenarios involving friendship issues and using kind words and a kind tone. Appropriate ways of relating to others was also included in the class treaty.

Bullying was also addressed and related to our Pink Shirt Day. What bullying is and what to do if it happens was discussed.

Identifying emotions and feelings was also a focus in Term 1. Children identified how certain situations make them feel and what that experience involved. Children then wrote on these topics. The Oral Narrative resources were also used to explore the characters’ feeling and emotions towards other characters and situations. How these emotions could change and develop throughout the story was also identified.

In Term 2 the focus is on recognising the ways I am the same as, and different to other people. Students have shared about where they come from, what their home life is like and the languages they may speak, helping us to celebrate the diversity within the classroom community. This will be continued and developed throughout the term.

Middle School Blog - Stardome



On Friday 15th May, our Middle School students had the exciting opportunity to visit Stardome Observatory at One Tree Hill. It was a fantastic day filled with curiosity and discovery as students explored the wonders of space.

During the visit, students were able to walk around the observatory and engage with a range of interactive exhibits. They explored different displays about planets, stars, and the wider universe, sparking lots of thoughtful questions and conversations.

One of the highlights of the trip was a fascinating demonstration led by a Stardome expert. Students learned about the planets in our solar system and discovered incredible facts about space. It was wonderful to see students so engaged and eager to learn more.

The favourite part for many students was the 3D space movie in the planetarium. As the lights dimmed, they felt like they were travelling through space and among the stars.

This trip helped bring our classroom learning to life in a fun and memorable way. It was a fantastic day!

Senior School Blog - Reaching for the Stars



Over the last two weeks in science, our classes have been learning about the Solar System. We explored the planets, the distances between them, and how they move around the Sun. We discovered that the planets are all very different sizes and are made from different materials. The inner planets, such as Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, are rocky planets with solid surfaces. The outer planets, including Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, are much larger and made mostly of gas and ice.

We also learned some fascinating facts about how planets move. Each planet takes a different amount of time to orbit the Sun, which is why years are different lengths on different planets. We were surprised to learn that on some planets, a day can be longer than a year! For example, Venus spins very slowly on its

axis, meaning one day on Venus lasts longer than the time it takes to travel around the Sun. We explored how gravity keeps planets moving in orbit and how scientists use models and simulations to help explain the huge size and scale of the Solar System.

As part of our learning, we went outside and took part in a practical Solar System activity. One student represented the Sun while other students became the planets. We practised being the planets and rotating either clockwise and anticlockwise around the "Sun" to model how planets orbit in space. Some planets moved faster while others moved more slowly, helping us understand why some planets have shorter years and others take much longer to travel around the Sun. This activity helped us visualise the movement and spacing of the planets in a fun and active way.

Looking ahead

☺ June

- 9 Interschool Cross Country
- 11 PTA Tackling Technology Talk 7pm
- 12 Year 5/6 Poetry Finals
- 15 Photolife photographs
- 16 Photolife photographs
- 16 School Board Meeting 6.30pm
- 17 Photolife photographs
- 18 HPPA Football Funday
- 23 Positive Puberty Parents Info Evening 6pm
- 24 HPPA Boys Soccer
- 25 HPPA Boys Soccer
- 25 Open Classroom 9.15am – 10.15am

☺ July

- 3 PTA Mufti Day
- 3 Last day of Term Two - School Reports go home
- 20 First day of Term Three





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

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