



ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We are a Microsoft Showcase School



Microsoft

Kia ora koutou katoa, talofa lava, bula vinaka, malo e lelei, kia orana, namaste, malo ni, asalaamu alaikum, and warm greetings to you all.

Kia ora everybody,

This is the last newsletter of the year, and what a year it has been. Before the year draws to a close, I would like to push out some final reminders.

Prizegiving

These will be held this Friday the 12th of December in the hall. The senior prizegiving gets underway at 10.30am and the junior prizegiving kicks off at 1pm.

Last day of the year

School finishes at the earlier time of 12pm on Wednesday the 17th of December for our Year 1-7's. The last day for Year 8's is Tuesday the 16th with their Graduation dinner being held at 6pm that evening.

Farewell

We bid farewell to Libby Bickley-Barry who moves down south to take up a leadership position at Te Hiwa Shirley School in Christchurch and Linda Grey who has resigned to spend more time with her family. As well as Madison Bruce, Kenzie Dempster and Sarah McKenzie who have been a part of our support staff team. I would like to thank them all for their contributions to our school and wish them the very best for next year.

New Staff

We are excited to welcome Kimberley Buchanan to our teaching team next year. Kimberley is an experienced teacher having previously taught at Baverstock Oaks, and most recently ACG Strathallan.

Property

Perimeter fencing work starts today. We are also nearing closer to getting our courts astro-turfed and fully fenced. The work contract has been secured and we are hopeful for construction to take place in the first half of 2026.

Term 1 2026

We have a Teacher Only Day on the 3rd of February. As always we will open the gates for **Kaiako Korero** on that day from 1pm to 2.30pm. This is an opportunity for parents and students to pop in, see their new classroom and say hello to their new teacher. We hope this helps any kids who may have the first day jitters.

Term 1 officially starts on **Wednesday the 4th of February 2026**.

The office will be open on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd February from 9am-2pm if you require any help with anything prior to the first day of school.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of our school. On behalf of the Ōpaheke School staff and Board, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Kind wishes

Mr Tawhiti

END OF THE YEAR

Wednesday 17th December 2025

12:00 noon finish



ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL

BACK TO SCHOOL 2026

First Day of School
Wednesday
4th February
8.25am start

Waitangi Day
Friday 6th Feb
(school closed)

Kaiako Kōrero
We have a Kaiako Kōrero on the 3rd February 2026 from 1.00pm until 2.30pm. This is when you and your child are able to pop in and meet their new teacher before the start of the school year.
(Next years class allocations will be emailed out after school finishes on the 17th December 2025)

Contact: office@opaheke.school.nz
(09) 298 5410
www.opaheke.school.nz

CONTACT US

Tasman Drive
Papakura 2113
Phone (09) 298 5410

office@opaheke.school.nz
www.opaheke.school.nz

We look forward to seeing your child at school by 8.25am ready to learn each day.
School finishes for all students at 2.30pm.



SELF REGULATOR



THINKER



INNOVATOR



COLLABORATOR



CHALLENGE TAKER



ŌPAHEKE SCHOOL

2025



CHALLENGE TAKER



COLLABORATOR



INNOVATOR



THINKER



SELF REGULATOR

Sport



Y3/4 Maungarei Athletics Day

Maungarei Athletics Day was a wonderful celebration of energy, teamwork, and determination. Students took part in a variety of events including sprints, relays, high jump, discus and shot put, showcasing not only their athletic skills but also their enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

It was inspiring to see students giving their best effort. A big thank you to the staff and student councillors who made the day run smoothly. Thank you to the whānau who came long to support your tamariki.

Congratulations to our place getters and to everyone else for your effort and sportsmanship.



Carols in the Park

Our Ōpaheke School Choir shone at Carols in the Park on Friday the 28th of November, performing a wonderful selection of songs they had worked so hard to learn. Students from our school and across Papakura filled the park with joy, laughter, and festive spirit, creating a truly memorable evening for the whole community. We are incredibly grateful to the organisers of the event and to our students for giving up their break times and evenings to bring this immaculate show to life. The energy, dedication, and celebration on display made it clear just how special this event is, and we cannot wait to work with Harvest Church to share more music, fun, and community connection next year.



SELF REGULATOR



THINKER



INNOVATOR



COLLABORATOR



CHALLENGE TAKER

MAUNGAKIEKIE GYMNASTICS



In Week 7, our Year 0-2 tamariki went to Gymnastics at Bruce Pulman Park, Papakura.

Our tamariki enjoyed the opportunity to explore new equipment and activities, such as the balance beams, trampoline, swinging bars and foam pit!

A big thank you to our parent helpers who gave up their time to support our tamariki. We were fortunate to be provided funding by the Manukau Counties Community Facilities Charitable Trust. Without their support, this opportunity would not have been possible for our Junior School. Ngā mihi!



CHALLENGE TAKER



COLLABORATOR



INNOVATOR



THINKER



SELF REGULATOR

Special Assembly by Maungarei Y3/4 Students

It was lovely to see so many parents join us as Maungarei students lit up the stage in a truly memorable Special Assembly on the 4th December. Parents were treated to a vibrant mix of cultural performances that celebrated the diversity of our school community, followed by festive Christmas items that brought plenty of cheer.

Students showcased their talents with confidence and pride. The hall was filled with smiles, applause, and a wonderful sense of togetherness.

A big thank you to our performers and teachers for making this celebration so special.



PTA Notices



Lunches Term 4

Register and Order at www.dollarforschools.co.nz

Sushi and Subway
Fridays



Order now or by 9am for delivery that day

**\$1 for every lunch goes to
our School!**



SELF REGULATOR



THINKER



INNOVATOR



COLLABORATOR



CHALLENGE TAKER



As part of our Inquiry Learning around the Economic World, our Year 0-4 students are making and selling products at our School Market Day.

When: Monday 15th December
Parents welcome from: 2:00pm
Where: School fields, by the court

Important to know:

- Students will have an opportunity to shop prior to the gates at the office opening at 2:00pm.
- Year 0-2 whānau: if you would like to shop with your child, please collect them from their classroom first.
- Items will be sold using **cash only**. Your child may bring coins to school on Monday 15th December to make purchases. Small change is appreciated as floats will be limited.
- Adults, please use the toilets located at the office.
- If you wish to take your child home before the final bell, please sign them out at the office.
- Products are limited to what students have prepared, it will be **first in, first serve**.

We appreciate your support as our youngest tamariki build confidence and learn through this experience.

Price List

MARKET DAY ITEMS

Key Rings	\$1.00
Necklaces	\$2.00
Playdough	\$2.00
Limited Edition Playdough	\$5.00
Bracelets	\$2.00
Photo Frames	\$2.00
Lolly Bags	\$2.00
Stress Balls	\$1.00
Ice cream	\$2.00
Pom pom Toys	\$2.00
Designer Book mark	\$2.00
Guess the lolly jar	\$1.00
Bath Bombs	\$2.00
Cup cakes	\$4.00
Sherbet	\$2.00
Xmas Cards	\$2.00
Candles (small)	\$2.00
Candles (large)	\$4.00
Mug Gift Packs	\$5.00
Gingerbread Cookies	\$1.00
Santa Stockings	\$5.00
Xmas Baubles	\$3.00
Sensory Bottles	\$2.00

Thank you for your support



CHALLENGE TAKER



COLLABORATOR



INNOVATOR



THINKER



SELF REGULATOR

Rainbows End

Our amazing Road Patrol and School Councillor students wrapped up the year with an awesome day out at Rainbow's End on Friday, 5 December.

It was our way of saying a huge thank you for all their hard work, early mornings, leadership, and dedication. From thrilling rides to lots of laughs, they definitely earned this celebration.



AUCKLAND COUNCIL LIBRARIES
PRESENTS

Raumati READS SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



6 December 2025 – 1 February 2026

Keep your kids reading with fun activities and more.

Search **Libraries school holidays**

Proudly sponsored by



**Auckland
ZOO**

**Auckland Council
Pools and Leisure**



Proudly sponsored by



**Auckland
ZOO**

**Auckland Council
Pools and Leisure**



AUCKLAND COUNCIL LIBRARIES
PRESENTS

Raumati READS SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Be in to win awesome prizes!

Read for 10 days to **earn a reward!***
Read for 20+ days to **enter the prize draw**

Auckland Zoo passes

Auckland Live event vouchers

Auckland FC game vouchers

**Auckland Council Pools and Leisure
'Learn to swim' lessons and more!**

*While stocks last.

Search **Libraries school holidays**



SELF REGULATOR



THINKER



INNOVATOR



COLLABORATOR



CHALLENGE TAKER

IMPORTANT DATES

11 Dec	Service Awards Ceremony
12 Dec	Senior Prizegiving - 10.30am
12 Dec	Junior Prizegiving - 1.00pm
15 Dec	Librarian Celebration
15 Dec	Y0-4 Market Day
16 Dec	Y8 Graduation and last day of school
17 Dec	Y0-7 last day of school - 12pm finish
3 Feb	Kaiaiko Kōrero 1-2.30pm
4 Feb	First Day of Term 1
6 Feb	Waitangi Day - No School

TERM DATES 2026

Term 1, 2026 - Wed 4 Feb to Thurs 2 Apr

Term 2, 2026 - Mon 20 Apr to Fri 3 Jul

Term 3, 2026 - Mon 20 Jul to Fri 25 Sep

Term 4, 2026 - Mon 12 Oct to Wed 16 Dec 2026



**Order Back
to School
stationery
now and
beat the
rush!**



Stationery lists
are ready to
view at
myschool.co.nz

START OF YEAR 2026

*Office Opening
Hours*



**IF YOU
HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS
OR REQUIRE
HELP WITH
PREPARING
FOR YOUR
CHILD TO
START
SCHOOL ON
THE 4TH FEB?**

WE'LL BE OPEN

9AM - 2PM

**MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY
TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY**



**Stay "in the loop" with
our communication app!**

**Events | Cancellations | Notices
Newsletters | Permission slips
Instant notifications | Absentees
Parent Teacher Interviews**

Simple free download:

In Google Play & App Store search
'Skool Loop' & choose our
organisation once installed.



CHALLENGE TAKER



COLLABORATOR



INNOVATOR



THINKER



SELF REGULATOR