Newsletter

Wisdom begins with Wonder

PUKEHOU SCHOOL

Week 2 Term 1 2026 **Thursday 12 February**

Principal Korero

It has been a lovely start to the school year with our students quickly settling back into the business of learning. In Kea class, we welcome Sam and Maddy. Sam is the younger brother of Zoe; Maddy and her family are new to school and the community. They have fitted in beautifully, and we know you will make them feel welcome too.

Assessment & Reporting

There have been some recent announcements by the Government in these areas. The Ministry of Education have a Guide to your child's reporting and progress which provides a good overview. There is also a Parent Portal, which has links to resources that whānau can use to help learners at home.

In relation to PAT (Progressive Achievement Tests), we have consistently used these over many years. We will move to the new SMART assessment tool this year as it makes sense. Assessment will be opened to whānau in HERO, and goals have been transitioned to the new NZ Curriculum, which we will be reporting on this year. The teaching team will also receive Professional Learning over the first two terms to enhance our capability in this area.

With all the changes, we feel it's important that we start the year with a clear direction forward. **Student Goal Setting Conferences** will be held in **Week 5** where students, parents, and teachers identify academic, social, and personal goals. Bookings will be open next week.

William Pike Challenge (WPC)

Our Year 7-8 students are again participating in the WPC. Over the course of the year, they will need to complete five outdoor activities, 20 hours of service to the community, and 20 hours on a passion project. The first outdoor activity this week saw our students join with Omakere, Elsthorpe, and Norsewood Schools for team-building and survival skills. Students explored the amazing A`Deanes Bush, constructed bivouacs, used cookers to prepare burgers, and learnt river crossing skills in the Tukipo River. It was a hugely successful and fun day, and I was proud of the way our seniors worked with students from other schools. Later this term we will go mountain biking at Gum Tree Park, and I (along with the students) can't wait!!

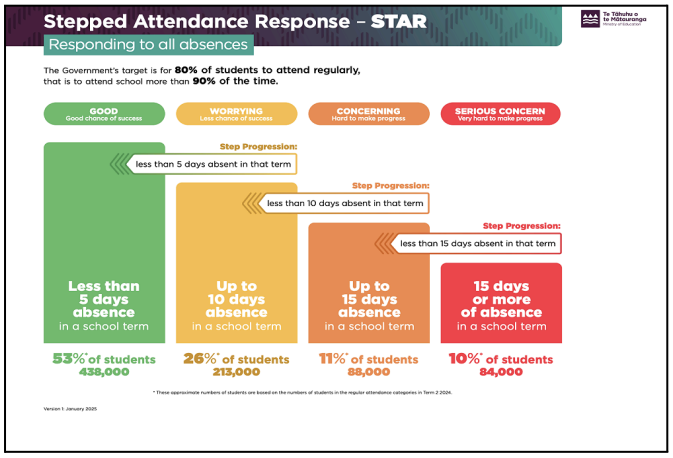
The end of the line

Along with Mrs Strong and Jacqui, I help drive the Minivan each day to transport students to and from school. It has been fantastic to welcome and farewell students at the start and end of each day as we pick up and drop off. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication shown by the team, volunteering to make sure there is transport for students to get to school.

'Big Bill' has been sold. I know there was a huge amount of work behind the scenes to obtain Big Bill and keep the service running over many years. I am thankful for the efforts, especially those of the Pukehou Bus Group, but unfortunately, it became unsustainable. We are thankful for our sponsors, past and present. We will officially thank them in the near future, and hopefully, there is an opportunity to continue working together once a Minivan is purchased.

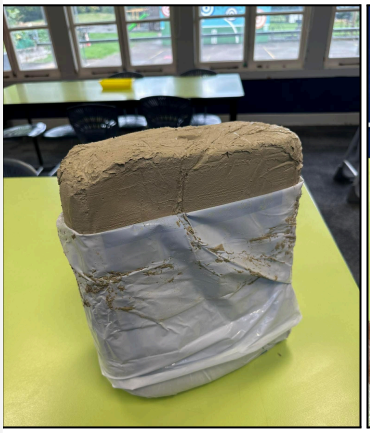
Attendance

The Ministry have clearly made attendance a priority again this year, and rightly so. Poor attendance has a significant effect on a child's learning, especially over time. One day a week absent consistently equates to 10 days a term (or two weeks), 40 days a year, and after five years 200 days which is the equivalent of a whole school year!! All schools have implemented Attendance Management Plans that align with the Ministry STAR.



Curriculum

I am the Artist is our curriculum unit focus this term which is exciting. I know that our creative tamariki will flourish, and we are planning how best to showcase their talents. Stay tuned for more information.



Building Works - Hall Project

The team from Atkin Construction have been hard at work on the Hall, making it weathertight and reconfiguring it into our administration space. We got to have a walk around last week and began to get a feel for the different spaces. It will definitely provide more scope for community usage with there being access from the car park and toilets!

The time frame is tight. They are hoping to have the administration space finished and us moved in before the end of this term. Demolition is set to occur over the Term 1 break, and then the project will be completed mid-May after the area has been remediated.

As it gets closer to the time, we will have an official opening and launch for the community.

Rob Pratt (Principal)

IMPORTANT DATES:

(Check updates on the HERO Calendar)

FEBRUARY	
Fri 20th	Junior Gatsby (See attached notice)
MARCH	
Tues 3rd)	Goal Setting Conferences
Wed 4th)	" " "
Tues 10th	Whole School Swimming Sports
Fri 20th	CHB Inter School Swimming Sports
Tues 24th	WPC#2 (Yr 7 & 8) - Mountain Biking
APRIL	
Thurs 2nd	End of Term 1
Fri 3rd	Good Friday

Our Kids Online

2-Minute Tuesdays - Parenting Tips and Tricks! *with* Rob Cope

Parenting - It's Okay to Get it Wrong!

Parenting is hard. Brutal, even. And guess what? I get it wrong all the time. We're all stumbling through this together, messing up, learning, and trying again.

If you've ever felt like you're the only one dropping the ball — you're not. Let's talk about the beautiful, messy chaos of raising kids… and remind each other we're doing better than we think!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJ7L1TJkWBE

4 Game-Changing Books For Parents

If you're raising kids in the digital age, these four books are absolutely essential. From screen addiction to brain development to anxiety and resilience, these titles will give you the science, the strategies, and the clarity every modern parent needs.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYwy3wTBfhk

Recycling items not accepted in kerbside bins:

Mobile Phones - Sustainable Coastlines Charitable Trust (collection box at school).

Light Bulbs and plastic plant pots can be dropped off at Mitre 10 stores.

Small Batteries

- **Waipukurau Transfer Station:** 177 Mt Herbert Road (Free disposal).
- **Pōrangahau Transfer Station:** 4148 Pōrangahau Road (Free disposal).
- **Council Offices:** 28-32 Ruataniwha Street, Waipawa.
- **Waipawa Library:**.
- **The Sustainable Ewe (Waipukurau):**. Central Hawke's Bay District Council

For other items, go to
https://environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/campaigns/recycle/recycle-item/

weave
HAWKE'S BAY

Embrace Parents

Building confidence, understanding, and practical tools for raising neurodiverse tamariki

About the programme

Embrace Parents is a free 8-week programme for parents and caregivers of neurodiverse tamariki. It offers practical, strengths-based support to help you better understand your child's needs, navigate day-to-day challenges, and build routines that work for your whānau.

Each session blends evidence-based approaches with real-life strategies, supporting you to create a calmer, more connected home environment. You'll learn alongside other whānau in a welcoming, judgement-free space.

Programme details

- Weekly sessions over 8 weeks (2hr sessions)
- Free to attend
- Facilitated small-group programme
- Limited spaces available, registration is essential

What you'll learn

By the end of the programme, you will have skills and tools to help you:

- Understand your child's behaviour through a neurodiversity-affirming lens
- Strengthen emotional regulation and co-regulation
- Support sensory needs in everyday settings
- Build positive communication habits at home and with school / kura
- Create routines that reduce stress and increase independence
- Respond to challenges with confidence and compassion

What's coming up

Check out our upcoming programme dates and locations on our website:

weavehb.org.nz/current-events-courses

Find out more at **weavehb.org.nz/events-courses** or scan the QR code to register your interest.

0508 678 910
weavehb.org.nz

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HAWKE'S BAY

Embrace Tamariki

Helping neurodiverse children understand themselves and thrive in their own way

About the programme

Embrace Tamariki is a free 8-week programme for neurodiverse tamariki aged 9–12. It provides a safe, supportive and fun space for children to build confidence, strengthen their life skills and learn more about themselves.

We celebrate neurodiversity and encourage every child to feel confident in who they are — kia tū rangatira ai rātou. Activities are engaging, strengths-based, and designed to meet each child where they're at.

Programme details

- Weekly sessions over 8 weeks (1.5hr sessions)
- Free to attend
- Small-group learning with hands-on activities
- Limited spaces available, registration is essential

What your child will learn

Tamariki will learn strategies and tools to help them:

- Recognise feelings and find calm in challenging moments
- Strengthen emotional regulation
- Build social skills and good friendships
- Understand what it means to look after ourselves and each other — tiaki i a tātou
- Keep themselves safe and make good choices
- Nurture their tinana (body), hinengaro (mind) and wairua (wellbeing)
- Grow positive thinking and self-confidence

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