



# Newsletter

Wisdom begins with Wonder



Week 6 Term 1 2026

Thursday 12 March

## Pukehou School Superheroes!

As mentioned last week, we are focusing on becoming 'Superheroes' by calmly going about each day, demonstrating our values in and out of the classroom. One of the ideas or concepts we have been learning about together is:

### pono

1. (adjective) be true, valid, honest, genuine, sincere.

### ngākau pono

1. (verb) to be loyal, faithful, dependable, sincere.

This aligns with integrity, and in keeping with our focus on being superheroes, today, we explored the...

## POWER OF INTEGRITY!



We discussed that the challenge for us all is to be **kind, truthful, honest, and fair** every day, and when we do this, we have the power of integrity!!

## Pukehou School Student Leaders

We are excited by the calibre of applicants for our student leaders and are taking our time to work through their letters of application! We will announce our initial crop of leaders at an Assembly on the 25th of March. Parents and whānau are warmly invited to attend. Assembly is usually at 2.15pm, but we may need to change the start time. We will advise closer to the time.

## WILLIAM PIKE Challenge

After our first outdoor activity early in the term, our Year 7 & 8's are gearing up for their next challenge...mountain biking at Gum Tree Park. We're pretty fortunate to have such a great facility on our doorstep!

The Outdoor Activities are only one aspect of the programme. Students also need to complete 20 hours on a Passion Project and 20 hours of Community Service. **If you have a suitable activity where we could serve, whether it be for one or 12 keen students, please contact me** [principal@pukehou.school.nz](mailto:principal@pukehou.school.nz).

Students also reflect on activities as this is an important part of their growth.

### Reflection

*On Tuesday, the 17th of February, we went to A'Deanes Bush with students from Omakere, Elsthorpe and Norsewood schools.*

*While exploring A'Deanes Bush, we were learning about nature and how to survive in the wilderness. For starters, we had a quick talk about nature and birds. Then we went for a bush walk and learnt about the big Totara (600 years old) and nature.*

*Next we made bivouac shelters with a random team of people, which was a combination of people from Omakere, Elsthorpe, Norsewood and Pukehou. After that, we went to the Tukipo River, and that's where we cooked burgers and roasted marshmallows for s'mores. After that, we went down to the creek and had to pair up for a walk down the river. We went up and down a few times. Then we had a swim in the water hole. I really enjoyed it, and I think it is a very good opportunity to learn about survival. I think it's really fun and I've already learnt lots of survival techniques.*

Kayla

Please remember that all of our policies and procedures are found on [SchoolDocs](#). Policies are reviewed as part of a three-year cycle. School families can assist with reviews by viewing the policies and adding feedback. To do so, use:

**Username:** [pukehau](#)

**Password:** [pukehau174](#)

The policies for review this term are:

- Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances
- Sun Protection
- Digital Technology and Online Safety
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices
- Firearms

Our Complaints and Concerns procedure can also be viewed in SchoolDocs. A copy of the flow chart is attached to this Newsletter.

### **Pukehou - Ōtāne Swimming Sports**

Wow, what a day! Our students absolutely shone at our Swimming Sports on Tuesday. They smashed it, showing bucketloads of grit and a can-do attitude. It also highlighted the great jobs our teachers do and the value of having our own swimming pool. Students get regular explicit instruction, and improvement in technique and confidence is noticeable.

There were many standout performances. We are still collating the results and will award certificates at our next Assembly. A big shout out to Mrs. Sowman who ran the display for junior swimmers from both schools. It was great to see younger students confidently showcasing their skills and having fun in the water.

The highlight though, undoubtedly were the relay races where our teams won both the Year 5-6 relay and the Year 7-8 relay. They were epic, nail-biting races, sending the crowd into rapture!!

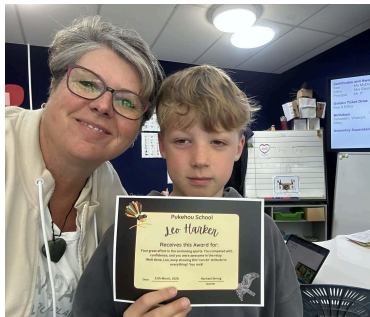
### **Celebrating our Tumeke Tamariki**



*Frieda, Maddy, and Marnix sharing an Autumn poem.*



*Hudson and Miley were awarded Kea Certificates for their amazing mahi!*



*Leo was recognised in Kāhu for his super efforts at Swimming Sports. Sadly, Waevyn was away.*



*Kaoru received a Principal Award for consistently showing Integrity. Riley was away but her kindness, consideration, and can-do attitude shine!*



*Somehow Ditmar managed to have a Golden Ticket for showing our values picked in the Prize Draw!!*

**Tennis:** The games were a bit tougher this week. All the same, there was some great competition and many 'deuce' points. The results could have swung either way. Congratulations to the St. Joseph's team.

**Miniball:** The team are showing some great skills and learning to work well together. It was a close game against the Otane Grizzlies who beat us in the last moments. We play Waipawa Lakers at 5.15pm this week.

<b>IMPORTANT DATES:</b> (Check updates on the HERO Calendar)	
<b>MARCH</b>	
Fri 20th	CHB Inter School Swimming Sports
Tues 24th	WPC#2 (Yr 7 & 8) - Mountain Biking
Wednes 25th	Assembly (time tbc)
<b>APRIL</b>	
Thurs 2nd	End of Term 1
Fri 3rd	Good Friday



### **Swimming:**

Maja represented the CHB Swim Club (Krakens) at the Junior Festival in Hastings recently. She swam in 9 events over two days, and picked up some really good pb's along the way.

*Congratulations Maja, we are proud of you!*



## **Registration for CHB Junior Football 2026 is now open.**

<https://www.chbjuniorfootball.co.nz>.



CHB Junior Football welcomes all children aged 4 years and older to take part in Saturday morning football. Children aged 4-6 will participate in skill-based activities followed by a small game each week. All other players will take part in games against other teams throughout the season.

The local football season begins on Saturday 9 May 2026 at 9:00am, with all games played at Russell Park in Waipukurau. Registration for local football closes on 10 April 2026.

For students interested in playing at a more competitive level, players in Year 6 and above may register their interest in our Intercity teams. This year we have partnered with Hastings Hibernian Sports Club, providing a strong pathway for CHB players into age-grade and senior football. Intercity players should expect to travel to Napier and Hastings for approximately 50% of their games, with weekly practices held at Russell Park. Intercity games begin on 2 May 2026, and expressions of interest must be received by Friday 20 March to allow us to confirm team entries in the Hawke's Bay competition.

## **Registrations for the CHB Hockey 2026 Winter season have now opened.**



If you would like more information regarding Fun Sticks (Yr 0-2), Mini Sticks (Yr 3-4), Kiwi Sticks (Yr 5-6) or Kwik Sticks (Yr 7-8), please contact Jacqui who will gladly forward you what she has.

## **Morning Screens = Cranky Kids. Here's Why**

When our kids were younger, we used to let them get up early on the weekend and watch TV so we could get a sleep-in, and it backfired every time!

We ended up with tired, cranky kids. So we made some changes and weekends have never been the same!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXqiVguVZPE>

## **The Secret I Tell My Kids**

I let my kids in on the big secret: I don't always know what I'm doing as a parent. I've never done this before, but it's the most important job in the world to me. I'll make mistakes, I won't always get it right, but I need you to trust that the rules and boundaries I set, coming from what I do know: they're there to protect you, nurture you, and help you become the very best version of yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ArjSxbqlws>

## **The Thinking Step Without Drama!**

I'm not a fan of the "naughty step" — because most of the time kids aren't actually being naughty, they're overwhelmed, tired, or struggling to manage big emotions.

What I do like is the "thinking step." It's a calm space where they can sit, take a breather, and reflect on their behaviour. And if they refuse to sit? That's when I pull out a little magic trick that works a treat!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkN3W9InAOA>



**HORSE RIDING  
HOLIDAY  
PROGRAMME**

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> - Fri 10<sup>th</sup> April    Mon 13<sup>th</sup> - Fri 17<sup>th</sup> April

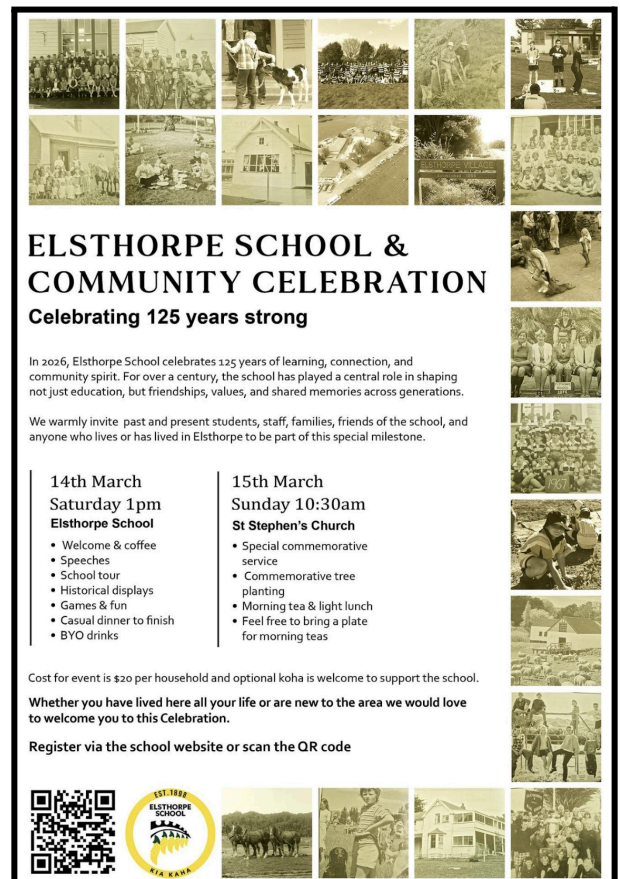
A hands-on horse riding programme for all levels. Build confidence, connect with horses, and enjoy the great outdoors. No experience needed!

Booking options: [One-day](#) | [Multiple days](#) | [Full week](#)

Location: Clive, Hawkes Bay

Contact: Julia    Phone: 027 822 3185

**The Lawn  
EQUESTRIAN**



**ELSTHORPE SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**  
**Celebrating 125 years strong**

In 2026, Elsthorpe School celebrates 125 years of learning, connection, and community spirit. For over a century, the school has played a central role in shaping not just education, but friendships, values, and shared memories across generations.




We warmly invite past and present students, staff, families, friends of the school, and anyone who lives or has lived in Elsthorpe to be part of this special milestone.

<b>14th March</b> <b>Saturday 1pm</b> <b>Elsthorpe School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome &amp; coffee</li><li>• Speeches</li><li>• School tour</li><li>• Historical displays</li><li>• Games &amp; fun</li><li>• Casual dinner to finish</li><li>• BYO drinks</li></ul>	<b>15th March</b> <b>Sunday 10:30am</b> <b>St Stephen's Church</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Special commemorative service</li><li>• Commemorative tree planting</li><li>• Morning tea &amp; light lunch</li><li>• Feel free to bring a plate for morning teas</li></ul>
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Cost for event is \$20 per household and optional koha is welcome to support the school.

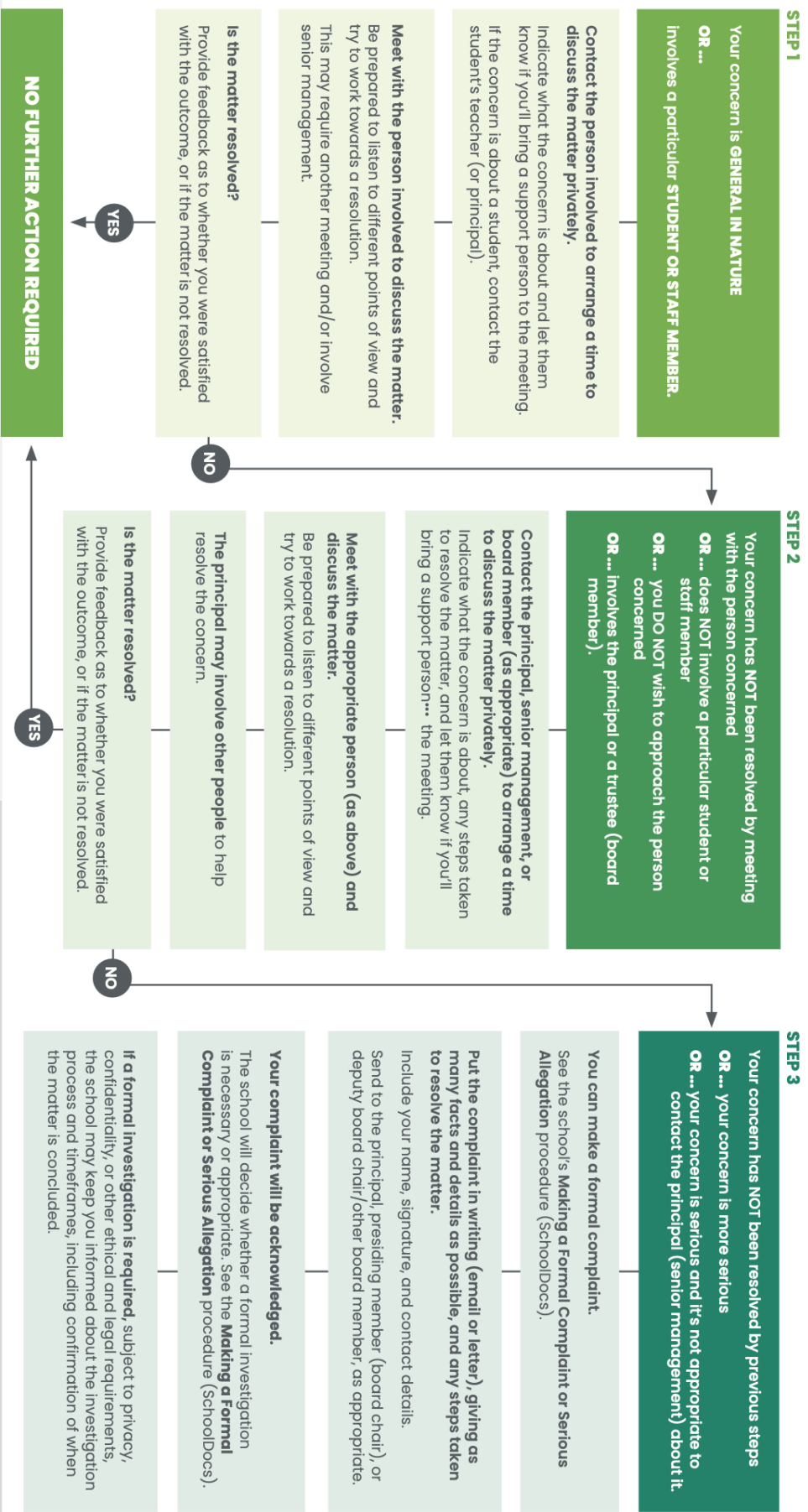
**Whether you have lived here all your life or are new to the area we would love to welcome you to this Celebration.**

Register via the school website or scan the QR code



# Concerns and Complaints Process

Most concerns can be resolved informally by discussions with the people involved.



**NOTE:** Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a complaint will not be considered unless the correct process has been followed. You may be directed back to the staff member or principal to follow the process.

This flowchart aligns with the school's Concerns and Complaints policy and procedures | Copyright © SchoolDocs Ltd

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Once a formal complaint has been resolved, there are no further avenues to pursue the complaint with the school. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you are encouraged to take advice and may wish to consider contacting other agencies. See the school's Making a Formal Complaint or Serious Allegation procedure (SchoolDocs).