



ŌWHANGO SCHOOL PĀNUI

The tamariki at Ōwhango School are engaged in our unique, rural environment, are individual in their learning, and strong in experience and success.

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Week 2, Term 1, 2026

Kia ora e te whānau, welcome to Week 2! Week 1 was such a blur, and a flurry of settling in and developing relationships and routines - so here is your first pānui for 2026. Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome! I am loving getting to know all the children, and I am the luckiest Principal in the district to have such awesome teachers on our team!

Lots of things to get through, so make a cuppa and sit down for a good read. Thanks to Kōwhai Class for adding their special magic to this newsletter so it's not all boring stuff from me!

Dates to Remember:

Wk 2	Fri 20 Feb - Y1-4 Basketball starts
Wk 3	Wed 25 Feb - Whānau Picnic 5 pm
Wk 4	Mon 2 Mar - Seniors School Camp Wed 4 Mar - Y5-8 Junior Hockey starts Wed 4 Mar - BOT Hui 6pm. All welcome Thur 5 Mar - Mountain Schools Swimming (High School Pool) Y4-6
Wk 5	Fri 13 Mar - IS Swimming
Wk 6	Fri 20 Mar - Ki-O-Rahi Y5&6
Wk 7	Fri 27 Mar - Ki-O-Rahi Y7&8
Wk 8	Thur 2 Apr - Last Day T1
Holidays!	Easter 3 - 6 April Term 2 begins 20th April

Our Kids Online: How Much Tablet Time Is Safe for Growing Brains?

With developmental delays in children skyrocketing, this video asks a crucial question every parent needs to consider: how much tablet time is actually safe for our children's young, developing brains?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdYE3CaVLYY>

Headlice:

Please check your children's hair frequently - head lice are joining us in class at the moment. We ask that you keep your child home and treat the lice appropriately before coming back to kura.

Mountain School's Swimming:

This is happening Thursday 5th March for our Y4-6's. Permission slips and transport paperwork sent home separately. Our seniors will be away on camp - but we will still be sending some to Interschools swimming the following week. *We are looking to borrow a cage trailer (with a cover if possible) for the seniors to take on camp! Let us know if you have one we can borrow 2-6 March.*

Toys and books:

Please search around your whare for any Ōwhango School library books - we are having a bit of a clean out and stock take soon. Also note that if you allow your child to bring one of their own toys to school, we can not take any responsibility for loss or damage.

Swimming:

Swimming is a compulsory part of our curriculum. Please make sure that togs and towels come to school daily - children are permitted to not swim due to sickness or injury with a note from home.

Reminder of school requirements:

Children are welcome to be dropped off from 8.30 am onwards. If you need to have them here earlier on occasion, please discuss this with myself or their teacher prior.

Children must be collected, or heading home, at 3 pm. If you are running late, please call ahead of

time. Children are asked to go home, and touch base with family, before coming back if they wish to play here. Please make sure your children are wearing helmets and shoes when biking at, or to and from kura.

Have your details changed? It is important that any medical / contact details are updated with Karen in the office please.

Stationery payments are due - please make sure to have done that by Week 3.

Hats! When this rain goes away, and the sun comes back out - as it should at this time of year - we do require all children to wear a hat for outside play. A smothering of sunblock before school is always a good idea too.

Survey:

Soon we will have an online survey as we look at updating our Strategic Plans - we very much welcome whānau / community input. For anyone who can not access online, we can provide paper copies. More details to come.

Warm Welcome!

A warm welcome to Mila, Levi, Stan, Romana, Noa and Ngakuru. We love having you at Ōwhango School 🧡

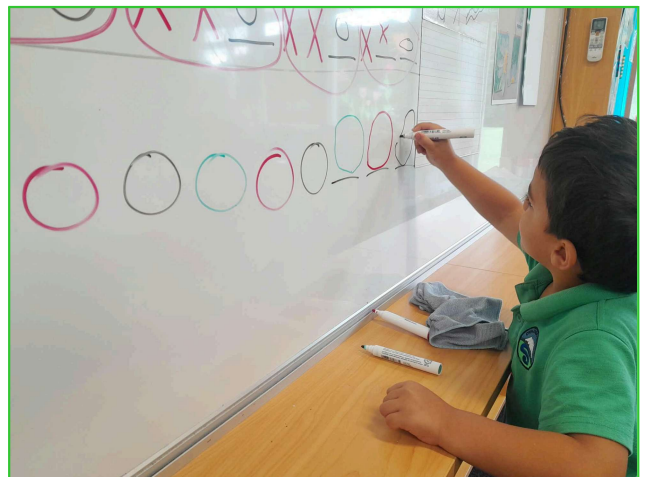
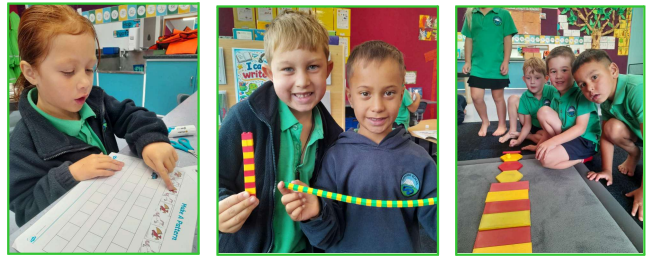


Thank you for such a warm welcome this term. It is such an honour and a pleasure to be here. See you all at the whānau picnic! Annelies

KŌWHAI CLASS KŌRERO

With a little class of 15, we have been having some fun getting to know each other, our routines and classroom expectations for the beginning of term whilst slowly transitioning into more formal learning.

Maths - All about recognising, continuing and creating patterns which will help build the foundations of mathematical understanding.



Science - Dragonflies

Thanks to Ngakuru, we had an impromptu day of learning all about dragonflies. He caught one at home and brought it to kura. We used the Zoomy 2.0 microscope from the RDC library to take a closer look at its body then drew detailed diagrams and researched facts. We were able to compare life cycles of other living things and learned some new, rich scientific vocabulary like thorax, abdomen, nymph and more. Thanks Ngakuru, following student-led discussions and interests always leads to the best learning!




H.P.E. - Swimming & Movement Breaks

Our youngest students are building on their confidence in the water by having fun through games. Others are working on their breathing, floating and kicking techniques. In the junior room, it is very tricky to teach swimming lessons across multiple ability levels whilst supervising non-swimmers who can become disruptive to lessons so please ensure your child has their togs and are ready to swim each day.



Other learning areas - The Arts, Technology, Literacy



NUIfit

CREATING FUN, INCLUSIVE, AND ACCESSIBLE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES THAT ACTIVATE WHĀNAU, PRIORITISE PARTICIPATION OVER PERFORMANCE, AND SUPPORT WELLBEING ACROSS ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

NO ENTRY FEES
LIMITED TO 10 TEAMS

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Taumarunui Youth and Community Trust




VARIOUS LOCATIONS



NUIfit
MULTI SPORTS **NO ENTRY FEES**
LIMITED TO 10 TEAMS

EVERY WEDNESDAY A NEW ACTIVITY - AIMED TO GET FAMILIES ACTIVE TOGETHER

NUIfit Information



What is NUIfit?
NUIfit is a free family whānau-based activity offered where families can come together to be active, try different sports, and most importantly, have fun together.
Create a family/whānau team and enjoy a different activity each week in a positive, supportive, and non-competitive environment.
No pressure. No expectations. Just movement, connection, and good vibes.
NUIfit is intentionally designed as an intergenerational programme, where tamariki (from age 5), rangātahi, parents, caregivers, and kaumatua play together.

WHAT MAKES NUIfit DIFFERENT

<p>NUIfit is about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Whānau & family teams ✓ Being active together ✓ Trying new sports each week ✓ Fun, laughter, and connection ✓ Encouraging and supporting one another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ No scores taken ✗ No overall winners
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The NUIfit Shield

Each week, one whānau team will be awarded the NUIfit Shield.
The Shield is not about winning games, it recognises teams who show:


Fair play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sportsmanship • Encouraging & motivating others • Team spirit • Fun, laughter, and positive attitudes
	It's about being awesome humans, not the best athletes.

WHO CAN JOIN? - Who is NUIfit for?
Families & whānau, (mum, dad, kids, grandparents)
Tamariki, rangātahi, parents & caregivers, 5 years plus, for varied abilities, and fitness levels
If you can move - you belong at NUIfit.

Bring your whānau - Create a team - Have fun
NUIfit is about connection, wellbeing, and moving together as whānau.

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NUIfit Schedule



WEDNESDAY'S
9 WEEKS

Teams of 10-12
NO ENTRY FEES

WK1	DOMAIN →	Domain Laps ALL START @ 5.30PM How many laps can your team do in 1 hour
WK2	ATHLETIC →	Basketball DRAW TO BE COMPLETED - FIRST ROUND @ 5.30PM
WK3	DOMAIN →	Athletics Fun ALL START @ 5.30PM Discus / Shot Put / Long Jump / 4/100 Relays
WK4	ATHLETIC →	Netball DRAW TO BE COMPLETED - FIRST ROUND @ 5.30PM
WK5	CHERRY GROVE →	Soccer DRAW TO BE COMPLETED - FIRST ROUND @ 5.30PM
WK6	DOMAIN →	Ki-o-Rahi Learn the game DRAW TO BE COMPLETED - FIRST ROUND @ 5.30PM
WK7	DOMAIN →	Rippa Rugby DRAW TO BE COMPLETED - FIRST ROUND @ 5.30PM
WK8	DOMAIN →	Softball DRAW TO BE COMPLETED - FIRST ROUND @ 5.30PM
WK9	TYCT GYM →	HIIT Fitness Activities ALL START @ 5.30PM

A DRAW WILL BE CREATED UPON ENTRIES CLOSING - START TIME IS 5.30PM

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