



# NEWSLETTER



## Tumuaki Pānui

Kia ora e te whānau,

Today is the final newsletter of 2026. We have plenty to celebrate next week still however this is a final pānui and a chance to say thank you. Learning records come home tomorrow. Enjoy the reflection on learning that all your tamariki have made.

This year has been a challenging one in education with the rate of change, negative media and changes in legislation that impact many but especially Māori. We ensure we remain a community of integrity who stand up for what is important. One highlight for me has been the many schools that have restated their commitment to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This is a profession that we can be proud of.

### THANK YOU

**Board of Trustees.** Thank you to the previous and new Board for dreaming and having high aspirations for our learners and their families. Thank you for your time, commitment and care for our community.

**Melissa and Sarah.** Thank you for another year of support and a smile for every person who enters our office. We are exceptionally grateful for your organisation, heart and understanding of every person matters. Thank you.

**Kaimahi:** Thank you to all our amazing staff for working with passion and connection. You care for every ākonga in our kura. You are deeply thoughtful, excellent educators, creative and inspirational. You deserve a restful fantastic holiday!

**Khan our caretaker**-thanks for endless patience looking after every corner of our place, responding to random requests from staff and making our kura stay clean and cared for.

### Farewell and celebrations

Good bye to those who are off on other adventures from Newtown kura. Remember there is always a warm welcome at Newtown and that you will always be whānau. Ka kite ano (see you again) Lily, Chantel, Monica and Brendon!

Congratulations for completed study to Maddi Smart, Doreen Blask and Luca Harnden as registered kaiako.

To celebrate...we now even have a Doctor in our midst as Mitch graduated this week, plus someone else is engaged and we have a new baby in our midst.

Remember in the break to stay focused on the things that matter.

- Making time to be with friends and family
- Laughter, games, playfulness, sharing food
- Appreciation of this glorious country we live in
- Aroha for those who have less than us Staying generous and kind
- Speaking up for issues that matter
- Staying active
- Music, movement, a little madness

Ngā mihi nui,

Whaea Nicki  
Tumuaki | Principal

WHANAUNGATANGA  
CONNECTED

He iwi tahi tātou, he ako tahi tātou  
We belong and we learn together

## Important dates

### 2025

- **16 December** - Whole School Cards of Awesome Celebration @ school
- **17 December** - Year 6 Leavers Evening
- **18 December** - Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- **19 December** - 1pm finish - Last day of Term 4

### 2026

- **3 February 2026** -Whakawhanaunga (booking details to come)
- **4 February 2026** - First day of Term
- **6 February 2026** - Waitangi Day (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- **2 April 2026** - Last day of Term 1

## Welcome to our new student

Aria Lewis

## Welcome back

Hadiya-Lucky Abdi

### ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL

How your child starts the day is important. Being at school in time to start the day with their classmates and teachers sets them up for a positive day of learning.

**Please aim to have your students at school by 8:40am ready in class by 8.55am.**



### Attendance

It is really important that all children attend school every day unless they are sick. Every day attendance increases learning.

**If your child is going to be away please call or email us by 9am.**



04 389 6667



away@newtown.school.nz

# School Notices

## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 2025

**Newtown school closes at 1pm  
on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

skids will be providing care in the hall from 1pm. To book, please contact skids as below

Early closure on Friday,

19 December 2025

skids

Join us at skids Newtown from 1:00pm to take part in an exciting range of activities from our Adventure programme



**Wednesday - 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
**TIME - 1:00pm-3:00pm session**

Activities from our amazing Adventure Programme:



You can add on our Stay and Play session to extend the fun to 6:00pm

Join us for a fun afternoon  
BOOK ONLINE NOW AT

<https://enrolmy.com/skids-sknz/activit>

skids

**Look out for learning  
records being  
emailed to you this  
Friday**



### Seeking Donations of:

Jacket hooks for our beekeeping gear  
&  
shelves for gumboots.



## 2026 IMPORTANT DATES

### Term 1

**Tuesday 3 February** - Whakawhanaunga  
Getting to know each other

**Wednesday 4 February** - First Day of Term 1

**Public holiday:** Waitangi Day - Friday 6 February (School Closed)

**Thursday 2 April** - Last day of Term 1

### Term 2

**Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July**

**Staff only day:** Friday 29 May (School Closed)

**Public holidays:** Anzac Day observed - Monday 27 April  
& King's Birthday - Monday 1 June (School Closed)

### Term 3

**Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September**

No public holidays

### Term 4

**Monday 12 October - Wednesday 16 December**

**Staff only Day** - Friday 23 October (School Closed)

**Public holiday:** Labour Day - Monday 26 October (School Closed)



Te Kura o Ngā Puna Waioira

**Newtown School**

Love learning, love life!

**Volunteers  
needed**



### Holiday watering of our gardens

If you are at our school over the holidays having a play or visiting the markets - please bring a water bottle and give the gardens a drink - it'll be hot thirsty work for our vegetables!

please  
**RETURN**  
YOUR  
**LIBRARY BOOKS**



Thank  
you!

It's nearly the  
**end of the  
year.**

Please look for any  
school library books  
and reading books and  
return them to school.

## Attendance Winners

These two students have been at school over 90% this term and have been randomly selected to receive a prize this fortnight.

**Elam & Miguel**

Come pick up your prizes from the office!

KIA NGĀKAU HIHIRI  
CURIOUS

Ka miharo, ka tūpono, ka auaha tātou.  
We wonder, take risks and innovate



# School Notices

## Staycation!!

Tuesday 16th December



Whole school celebration full of fun and adventure for a whole day!!

Bring your togs and a change of clothes.

There are surprise guests in the afternoon.



Congratulations to ALL our athletes who participated this year and thanks to our coaches and whānau who supported their kids on the court!

Make sure to sign up for sport in term 1 2026 - notices have been sent home or email [sports@newtown.school.nz](mailto:sports@newtown.school.nz)

**Get your signups in by Wednesday 17 December!**

**Ka rawe!**



Thanks to everyone's ohāohanga Newtown School helped fill 400 crates of donations for the Wellington City Mission!

Anyone who missed the Bus at kura can donate any unwrapped new toys, non-perishable food items and grocery items directly to the Wellington City Mission.

**Check out these awesome learning comments!!!**

I am really good at holding the pencil now and I am so pleased about that cause my writing will be so much quicker. - Hollis Moss

We have a big garden at school and we help to look after it... I love watching the plants get bigger and seeing what they turn into. It's magic. - Callie

'I thought Athletics Day was going to be so terrible but it was amazing. It was amazing because it was super fun and I got to do high jump and long jump that I have never done before. I think that I learnt resilience and discovered that things that are new to me are not always bad and can also be very amazing. I think it would be good for my parents to know this so that they can remind me when there is something else new.' Brahm

Times tables are important and you learn them and that's what you will need for a job and when you graduate. When an answer is wrong you can fix it. It's sometimes hard when you have to keep trying and trying but that shows resilience. - Hashim

I really like learning 'divided by' because I know add, take-away and times... I can use my family of facts to help me learn them. So if I know that  $12 \times 4 = 48$ , so  $4 \times 12 = 48$  so  $48$  divided by  $12$  must  $4$  and  $48$  divided by  $4$  must equal  $12$ . It's just patterns and my brain likes patterns. - Henry D

The best thing I learned this year was learning Sign Language. It's like a new language for me. I can use it for Deaf people. It's because I never knew Sign Language. I can use it with my friend when we are not supposed to talk but we can still sign even though we have to be silent. Asiya

'I was born in India and I don't know about Māori at all. In India, my class learnt English. Even though it is hard, I still like learning te reo Māori. I told my Dad on the phone "I will teach you te reo Māori." -Druv

'I like learning because it is fun and my brain grows when I learn - it gets bigger. I've got a big brain. 'Ciana

When Luke first told us about hyperbole I thought that it was a water slide! It's like an exaggeration, like - I'm so hungry I could eat a horse! - Sullivan

## Ruth's AFTER SCHOOL 2026 ART & CRAFT CLASSES

**Year 1,2&3 students**

Mondays 3-4.30  
in Pohutukawa.  
cost \$175  
Term 1 dates  
9/2/26-30/3/26

**Year 4,5 & 6 students**

Tuesdays 3.15-4.45 in Pohutukawa.  
cost \$175  
Term 1 dates  
10/2/26-31/3/26

In my classes tamariki will explore various techniques & mediums such as painting, drawing collage & printmaking, focusing on having fun & building confidence.



Contact-rutht@newtown.school.nz

## Ruth's AFTER SCHOOL 2026 STITCH CLASS

For year 4,5 & 6 students on Wednesdays 3.15-4.45 in Harakeke, Newtown school Price- \$175

Term 1 dates  
11/2/26-1/4/26

In this class students will learn various embroidery techniques to mend & upcycle preloved clothing & create textile art.

Contact - rutht@newtown.school.nz

Limited spaces

KIA MANAAKI  
RESPECTFUL

Ka whakamana tātou i ngā rongo o te katoa.  
We value the thoughts and feelings of each other.



# Around our kura

What a fun-filled last few weeks of school! We have seen our students take to the stage with Newtown's Got Talent, our mural artists and Kapa Haka rōpū participate in the opening of the new park on Owen Street. We have had trips to Scorching and Lyall Bays for snorkelling, adventures out to Matiu Sommes Island. We have taken the wero kupu in He Ranga Tupu with the whole kura challenging themselves to learn new phrases and words. We also celebrated our staff and some of their incredible achievements. Congratulations to Mitch on being awarded her Doctorate of Education! Woohoo! And a very special welcome to Lauren & Dion's baby!



**KIA WHAKAPAU KAHA EFFORT** Ka whakapua i ō tātou kaha i ā tātou mahi katoa. We give our best in everything we do.



## Take the challenge

Take our He Ranga Tupu challenge to learn as many of these phrases as you can

<b>Karawhiua!</b>	<i>Give it heaps!</i>
<b>Kia pai te rā</b>	<i>Have a good day</i>
<b>Mā te wā</b>	<i>See you later</i>
<b>Hei āpōpō</b>	<i>See you tomorrow</i>
<b>Pō mārīe</b>	<i>Good night</i>

## Garden Goodness

### Beekeeping Classes

Ākonga from Ngāti Kotahitangi were able to get into our school beehive this week, and spotted our wonderful queen bee, lots of eggs, baby bees, pollen, nectar and honey!

If we have a great summer, we should be able to harvest honey next year!

### Bee Swarms

During November and December bees sometimes leave their hive in search of a new home. This happened at our school recently. Bees are calm when this is happening as they are following their queen in search of a better place to live.

We were able to gather these bees into a box and add them to our school hive, which has gone from being weak and low in numbers to thriving! Thank you to Mark Brown, our ex principal for coming to help on a Friday afternoon.



# Community Notices

Find us on Capital BMX  
www.capitalbmx.co.nz  
capitalbmx.info@gmail.com  
Come and have a go!




**CAPITAL BMX**



**HAVE A GO**  
Love riding bikes?  
Keen to develop your riding skills?  
Looking for a fun & family friendly Club?  
Come on down to CAPITAL BMX

Check out our new development straight  
And get tips from our coaches  
Training Thursday evening  
(bringing daylight savings)  
Club Day Sunday Morning From 0930  
BMX bikes, helmets & gloves available to use  
You just need long sleeves & long pants  
GET THE WHOLE FAMILY INVOLVED  
**2026 CLUB DAYS START SUNDAY 18TH JAN**  
Find us on Capital BMX

www.capitalbmx.co.nz

 ...the charity you wished you had as a kid



WORD, a youth mountain bike charity offering skill-building, confidence-boosting programmes for young people aged 7-17 across Wellington.

Our holiday programmes provide a safe, structured, and highly supportive environment for young riders of all levels—ranging from first-time trail explorers to more advanced riders keen to develop their technical skills.

All details and registrations can be found at [word.org.nz](http://word.org.nz).

**Come hang out with me!**



Kia ora, I'm Mahira!

Get to know Mahira through the Native Bird Close Encounter

Plan your summer fun at Ngā Manu Nature Reserve

- Take part in the L'il Explorers Trail
- Feed our hungry eels
- Spot Frosty the kiwi and Sylvie our tuatara

Summer fun for the whole family at [ngamanu.org.nz](http://ngamanu.org.nz)

Ngā Manu  
Nature Reserve

74 Ngā Manu Reserve Road, Waiānake

## 2026 Drama Classes

Splat! is offering drama classes at your school!

- Open to students of all backgrounds and experience levels
- Free trial class available
- Taught by experienced teachers
- Inclusive, encouraging and most of all FUN



[www.splatnz.com](http://www.splatnz.com)  
 [info@splatnz.com](mailto:info@splatnz.com)

## Babysitting



Kia ora! Ko Ella Dempsey toku ingoa.  
I have been working as a teaching assistant at Newtown School for 7 years!  
I am looking for any babysitting work during the Summer holidays. Happy to do full days/nights if needed!

### Text or Email

027 689 7972  
 [elladempsey3@gmail.com](mailto:elladempsey3@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY SNORKELS TAPUTERANGA MARINE RESERVE 6 DEC, 14 & 21 FEB



**MORE INFO/UPDATES**  
[mountaintoseawellington.org/events](http://mountaintoseawellington.org/events)



Dive into Taputeranga Marine Reserve and take part in a free snorkelling event this summer!

Beginners welcome! MTSW provide all the necessary gear and experienced guides to ensure your safety and enjoyment in the water. Participants just need to be at least eight years old and confident swimmers. Those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Registrations open at 9.45am. Come down to book a snorkel time for the day, as spots may fill up quickly. Bring your togs, towel, refreshments and make a day of it exploring the activities and environment at Taputeranga Marine Reserve.

### Cancellations/Postponements

Events are weather dependent. Stay updated by checking the Mountains to Sea Wellington Facebook event listings for any cancellations, postponements, or location changes.

These free events are brought to you in partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council.

## Find out more:

<https://www.mountaintoseawellington.org/events>

## Christmas Crawl



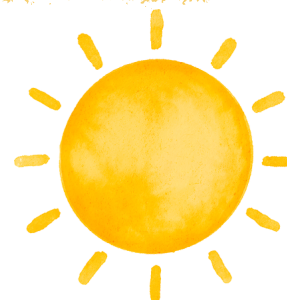
Discover the meaning of Christmas in Wellington City Churches through stories and activities

22 December - 24 December  
[www.christmascrawl.org.nz](http://www.christmascrawl.org.nz)

Looking for local free Holiday adventures?

Visit Kumutoto Ngahere and Awa

<https://www.facebook.com/KumutotoRestorationProject>



KIA MANAHAU  
RESILIENT

E hia hinganga, katū tonu, ka ako tonu  
We keep trying and learn from what we do