



GORDONTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Anchored in MANA - Manaakitanga - Awhina - Ngākau Pono - Ako

Tēnā koutou katoa.

In this weeks newsletter:

- 🔗 MX Champions
- 🔗 Winter Sports
- 🔗 Events

From the Principal

Welcome to the last week of term 1. Daylight saving ended over the weekend. I dutifully adjusted all our clocks at home but I paused to wonder why we still have it. I'm old enough to remember a time when we didn't change the clocks with the seasons and I can't ever remember being the poorer for it. I'm certain the cows don't know the clocks have gone back. Their life keeps on going regardless of what time the clock is showing. Perhaps we could just move the time by half an hour and just leave it there?



Children enjoying the much needed rain



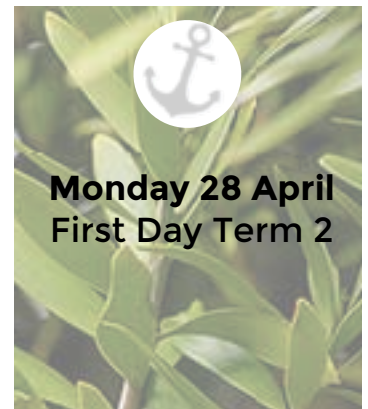
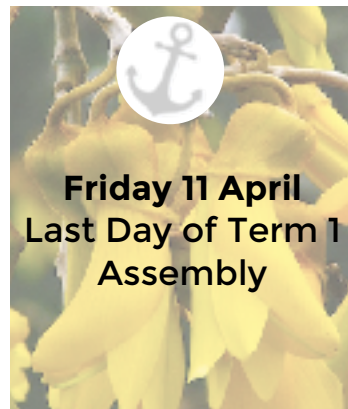
Last week's visit to the Marae was postponed because of the weather, but also because Hukanui were hosting a tangihanga on the same day at short notice. We will try and reorganise something in term 2, perhaps coinciding with Matariki.

This week we are taking a very small contingent of children to Hukanui Park in the village to be part of a ceremony with Ngaati Wairere to acknowledge the turning of the first sod on the playground. This will comprise the group mostly that has been involved in the consultation on the playground. Parents whose children are selected will be contacted individually.



Communication.

The school has many ways by which we communicate with families and whānau. This newsletter, the @school app, e-mail, messages sent home in books as well as team newsletters to name a few. Of late some teachers have been spending a great deal of time responding to inquiries from



families where the information has already been shared widely but hasn't been read. I urge you to take time to read the information sent home before making your inquiries.



Homework

There has been some inquiry about Homework lately. Homework, as described in our policy is 'an extension of our teaching and learning programme. Teachers set home learning that is appropriate to each year level. We communicate expectations to students and follow up with parents and caregivers as required'.

The type and nature of homework is set at the discretion of the teacher.

What is homework?



Perhaps a reader and some spelling in the junior area, and in the senior area - reinforcement or practice activities based around what children are learning in class.

It might be some research around a topic where the student can bring in some raw information to assist in their learning.

Homework is optional! We will send it home but if you don't get to it on occasions, that's fine. Every household is different. We'd like you to try but if you just can't, you can't.

Homework is not:

An opportunity for parents to advance their children through the curriculum. If your child needs support in their learning then we provide some opportunities for that in school. If you feel your child(ren) would benefit from tutoring then that is a decision for you.

Project work - it is largely useless and hard to tell at times who has completed it.

New learning - material that has not been covered in class.

Hours of work - this will certainly be the case in high school but very young children also need rest and downtime. Families are often busy with extracurricular or sports activities and we acknowledge that.

I give our teachers the discretion to set homework appropriate to their rooms as they see fit. Homework can be set Monday to Thursday. Other than home readers there is no homework set on Fridays.

Kupu o te wiki

Learn a new word each week in Te Reo Māori.

Each week we will share a new word with it's pronunciation as well as translation.

Wā
(Wah, as in up the wahs!)

Time



Coming up...

April

Friday 11 - Last Day of term. Assembly
Friday 11 - House Colours Dress up day

Term 2

Monday 28 April - First day of Term 2
Tuesday 29 April - School Photos

May

12 May - Book week.

Nau mai, Welcome

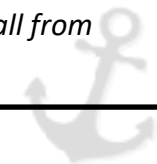
The Gordonton District Committee, Ngaati Wairere & Waikato District Council, invite you to the inaugural Blessing for the turning of the sod for the Hukanui Playground.

Date: Tuesday 8 April 2025

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Location: Hukanui Reserve in front of the Old School Buildings, Gordonton

We ask that you bring a plate for a shared morning tea to follow the blessing (Goods can be left at the Gordonton Community Hall from 8am).



William Pike Challenge

There will be an information evening for parents of Te Rākau students who are interested in their child being part of the William pike challenge. That will be in Week 1 of next term, Wednesday 30th April starting at 6.00pm.

This week our House Captains are running a House Capture the Flag Competition during lunchtimes. This will coincide with the Student Council’s House Colour Dress up day on Friday.

Interesting School Holiday timings this term with Easter and Anzac weekends included. Lots of opportunities to make the most of the statutory family time. If you are travelling, stay safe and we will see you next term.

Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī (That’s all for now)
Keith O’Donnell
Principal



Congratulations to Pippa Walker for her amazing effort in the 2025 BMX National Championships. Pippa placed 2nd in the 8 year Old Girls division.

SERVICING YOUR LOCAL AREA

Kirn Parmar

Sales Consultant

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Community Notices

News from your local Waikato District Councillors – April 2025

Have your say on the Council’s Long Term Plan that sets the rates for the next two years and establishes a new model for managing our waters services.

Consultation on the Waikato District Council’s proposed Long Term Plan opens on Friday 11 April and runs to 11 May. Drop-in sessions will be run for those interested to discuss the plan with Council staff.

For this and more Council news, see your Tamahere-Woodlands ward councillors’s monthly update for March-April here: www.crystalbeavis.com/updates

Contact your Tamahere-Woodlands Ward Councillors:
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GIRLS JUST WANNA KICK!

YOUTHTOWN
SINCE 1932



14th - 17th April 8.30am - 3.30pm
AGE: 7-15



COST: \$20 PER DAY

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