



## **School Information 2023**



*Nau Mai, Haere Mai*

***Kia pono ki to mahi kia whai hua ai***

Tena Koutou e te whānau,  
Nau mai, haere mai ki te kura o Whangamarino.

Welcome to Whangamarino School. We hope this is the beginning of a long, happy and successful association with our kura.

In May 2022, Whangamarino School became a Designated Special Character School under Section 200 (1) (a) of the Education and Training Act 2020.

We ensure that the tamariki of Ngati Pikiao are given the opportunity to be educated in the context of their culture and heritage. The special character status ensures future successful participation of Ngati Pikiao and all Māori students in their own community, the wider Māori community and in the wide world.

Whangamarino School gives your child the opportunity to learn in either English or Te Reo Māori (total immersion) in our classes. We enjoy a unique Ngati Pikiao identity which stems from years of being part of the local communities of Mourea, Otaramarae and Okere Falls.

The staff are dedicated, committed and professional, work hard and have a passion for teaching. We have an 'open door' policy and we encourage you to communicate with us at any time. In order for us to easily contact you, it is most important that we have your current address and phone number.

As a parent or whānau, your choice to send your child to Whangamarino School is a choice that will create and shape their amazing future.

Finally, this booklet is intended to give you basic information about school routines and our kura expectations.

Ngā mihi  
Whangamarino Staff

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## **Information**

Postal Address: Whangamarino School,  
637 State Highway 33  
Okere Falls  
RD 4,  
Rotorua, 3074

Phones: Ph (07) 3624879  
0224095699

Email: [office@whangamarino.school.nz](mailto:office@whangamarino.school.nz)  
Website: [www.whangamarino.school.nz](http://www.whangamarino.school.nz)  
Facebook: [Whangamarino School](#)  
Skool loop app: [Whangamarino school](#)

## **OPEN DOOR POLICY**

*We pride ourselves on being open and whanau friendly at Whangamarino! We hope that you will come in often, to spend time in the classroom, or have a cup of tea in the staffroom. If you have any queries or worries, come and discuss the matter. We hope your child's time here will be happy and filled with learning so that they may reach their full potential.*

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## **Whangamarino Teaching Staff – 2023**

Principal

Deputy Principal

Assistant Principal

Whaea Lorraine Northey

Matua Rehua Mihaka

Whaea Miriata Oranje

### **Auraki - Mainstream**

Whaea Miriata Oranje

Whaea Tracy Bishop

Whaea Jazmin Elkington

Whaea Hana Mason (Reading

Recovery Kaiako)

### **Rumaki - Full Immersion**

Matua Rehua Mihaka

Whaea Hariata Tapiata

Whaea Rangi Te Kanawa

Thompson

Whaea Madeline Stoneham

Whaea Keziah Smith

### **Support Staff**

Whaea Denise Langendoen - Office

Administrator

Whaea Amanda Hunter - Teacher

Aide / Office Admin / Van Driver

Whaea Catherine Kingi -

Kaiawhina

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Whaea Hilary Dewes-Green -  
Kaiarahi i te Reo

Whaea Te Rau Aroha  
Mariu-Smallman - Kaiarahi i te Reo  
Whaea Matarena Hay - Kaiawhina  
Whaea Maraea Robertson -  
Kaiawhina  
Whaea Putiputi Muru - Teacher  
Aide  
Matua Clinton Tawhi - Caretaker  
Whaea Peata Mihaka - Cleaner

### **Term Dates 2023**

#### **Term One**

31st January - 6th April

#### **Term Two**

Monday 24th April to Friday 30th June

#### **Term Three**

Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

#### **Term Four**

Monday 9th October - 15th December

**TEACHER DEVELOPMENT DAYS** We have arranged to have a development day on Thursday 6th April 2023. We may also arrange a couple of days before a long weekend or hold these during the school holiday breaks at the beginning of the year and throughout the year to minimise disruption. We will provide plenty of notice before we hold one of these days to ensure whānau are able to provide supervision for their tamariki.

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### **OFFICE Hours / Phone Calls**

Our Office Administrator works from Monday to Friday – (9 am to 2.40 pm). If we are unavailable, please leave a message on the answerphone and we will endeavour to get back to you. In the past we have had problems with our phone connection so this year our office administrator will be clearing the answer phone machine at 9am, 12 noon and 2pm. However if we have not got back to you please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or a member of the<sup>1</sup> leadership team.

### **Bell Times - Daily**

School entry	8.00 am
Classroom entry	8.30 am
Whanau Hui	8.50 am
School begins	9.00 am
Interval	10.45 – 11.05 am
Lunch	12.30 – 1.10 pm
Ends	2.40 pm

### **Attendance**

By law, parents are required to ensure their child attends school every day. Your child needs to be at school before the 8.50 am bell, preferably a little earlier so that they have time to settle in and be ready for the day. If your child arrives late you need to notify the office at that time.

If your child is absent, please notify us through Skool Loop, email, send a text to your teacher, ring the office in the morning, or write a note when the child returns explaining the absence. Unexplained absences are taken seriously and if they become regular or prolonged they will be referred to the truancy officer.

### **Transport**

The majority of children at Whangamarino travel to school by bus. There are three bus routes: Okere Falls / Otaramarae, Mourea and the town run. There is no cost for transport. Once your child is assigned to a bus run they will travel on that bus daily. Any changes to your child's normal routine need to be given by phone, in person or in writing to the office. Messages regarding your child being picked up from school must be given to the office **NO LATER** than 12.00 noon. We do not accept children telling us when and where they are to get off the buses. This is extremely important for the safety of your children and we take this



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responsibility seriously. We are responsible for your child until he / she reaches home. Please make sure your young child is adequately supervised or accompanied en-route to the pick-up point in the morning and on the return journey in the afternoon. Junior children are not old enough to cross roads or wait on the side of the road alone. We are a Road Sense school and have an ongoing road safety awareness programme throughout the school. We ask that you encourage and support this initiative with your child at home.

### **Bus/Van Agreement**

Children who travel to and from school must sign our Bus Agreement at the beginning of every new school year. This ensures that appropriate bus behaviour is followed.

### **School Loop App - (This is our main source of getting out information to parents / whanau)**

To access up to date information be sure to download our school app available on your app store. The app is called *skool loop* and you will need to select *Whangamarino school*. Once downloaded, you can use this app to check all newsletters, important information, log in an absentee and check our school notices.

### **School Website/Facebook**

We have a school website which you can visit - [www.whangamarino.school.nz](http://www.whangamarino.school.nz) & a school Facebook page called Whangamarino school

### **Free Healthy Lunches**

We offer Free Healthy Lunches for all tamariki in our kura. However, we do ask that you supply morning tea everyday for your tamaiti.

### **Stationery**

The school provides a free stationery pack at the beginning of the year for all tamariki. This is funded by our fantastic Te Roopu Manaaki, our local parent/whānau Fundraising committee. This allows every child in our kura to take full part in the classroom programmes from day 1.

### **Government's School Donation Scheme - No School Donations**

We are part of the Government's school donation scheme, so we will not be asking for voluntary school donations from whānau.

***What is the donation scheme?*** Decile 1–7 state and state-integrated schools/kura are able to choose to receive a \$150 per student, per year payment if we agreed not to ask parents and

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caregivers for donations. This initiative was designed to alleviate that pressure and expectation.

Further information about what haerenga are covered under the government scheme can be found on the Ministry's website [here](#).

### **School Uniform**

The school uniform is compulsory and can only be purchased from the kura.

- School dri fit polo shirt \$35.00
- School drifit tee shirt \$35.00
- School polar fleece \$45.00
- School Hat \$15.00

Black sandals are required for summer footwear. Black covered shoes with black ankle socks are required for cooler weather. These can be purchased anywhere in town. Children can also wear any tidy black bottoms such as skorts to wear with their school shirts

### **School Account Number**

Below is a school account number for sports fees payments etc.

Please remember to indicate the name of your child/ren so we can identify the payment. Account details are:

- Account Name: Whangamarino School
- Bank: ASB
- Account number: **12 3155 0216707 00**

We expect that uniforms will be paid in full when purchasing these.

### **Health**

Whangamarino is well supported by health agencies whenever necessary. The public health nurse visits our school each term and is available to discuss any problems or health issues pertaining to your child/ren.

Hearing advisers, speech therapists, psychologists, SWIS and other health supporters will make themselves available when the school or parents have identified that their child requires extra health assistance.

### **Covid 19**

Please check the Ministry of Health website for updates.



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### **Sickness**

Please keep your child at home if he or she is sick or has wounds, infections, contagious illnesses or any cold and flu like symptoms. We have one sick bay and keeping your child home helps them recover sooner and minimises the risk of other children catching the same condition. Any medications required after returning to school should be taken at home. Where there are exceptional circumstances then please contact the office.

### **Mobile Dental Clinic**

Once a year, the mobile dental clinic is parked at Whangamarino for almost four weeks. In this time your child will need a signed permission slip to receive free dental care in the caravan. We will let you know when it is in the school.

### **Mobile Ear Clinic**

Whangamarino also gets regular visits from the ear clinic van. The technicians see children whose parents/teachers have concerns for and these children are checked and if necessary followed up with further checking. We will let you know when it is in the school.

### **Religious Instruction**

We provide the opportunity for religious instruction for students whose parents approve of it. Parents are required to give written consent for a student to attend the programme and can withdraw this approval. Students without signed consents on file are deemed “non-consenting” and cannot take part. Our Bible in Schools, taught through Cool Bananaz, takes place every second Wednesday starting in March.

### **Newsletters**

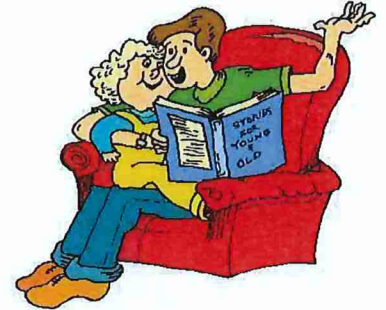
Our school newsletter is published each fortnight on a Thursday and emailed out to you and posted onto our Skool Loop App. Our fortnightly newsletter will keep you informed about all the wonderful things happening in our kura.

### **Lost Property**

Clothing found lying around the kura will be sent to the administration area lost property table. All clothing should be named because often children do not recognise their own clothes or feel too whakama to collect their clothes. Any un-named clothing not claimed after a reasonable time will be donated to a new owner. Unclaimed non uniform items will go to the trash at the end of each term.

### Duffy Books in Homes

Whangamarino School is very fortunate to be part of the Duffy Books in Homes programme. This means that three times a year your child will get to choose their own books. These books are presented to them at special assemblies by visiting role models. This programme was established 18 years ago to encourage reading and books in the home. Help your child to value and look after these books by having a special place for them and reading them together.



### Rumaki

*Mā tōna reo te tangata e mōhio ana ki tōna ao.*

Through one's language, one can acknowledge one's world.

Whangamarino School offers a Rumaki (Level 1 total immersion Māori) for students Year 0 - Year 8 who learn through Māori philosophy and a Māori world view under the context of Pīkiaoatanga. The Rumaki is further supported by advisers who work with the kaiako and students. New students must qualify

under our Rumaki Enrolment policy. We expect 100% support at home to reinforce Te Reo with your child.

Applications for enrolment will be processed in the following priorities: **First Priority** Applicants who are siblings of current and ex-students in the Rumaki. Applicants that have been enrolled in our local Ohau Kohanga Reo. Any applicant who is either a child/mokopuna of an employee of the kura or a child / mokopuna of a member of the Board of Trustees. The level of proficiency in Te Reo Māori is consistent with the level of classroom i.e. full immersion – Level 1 which is assessed by the school. The proficiency of an applicant will be ranked on a scale of 1 to five, 1 being an applicant with a high level of proficiency and 5 being an applicant that has no Te Reo.

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**Second Priority** – Students who have received at least 2 years of Māori-medium education and the whanau of the applicant have a great passion for kaupapa Rumaki.

**Third Priority** - Students that have not received Māori immersion education at school or time in Kohanga Reo, but are prepared to work hard to improve their reo. These students must have a parent / adult at home who is a fluent speaker.

### **Auraki - English Medium Pathway / Mainstream - Yrs 0-8**

We provide a nurturing safe haven for tamariki to grow into resilient, caring, independent learners.

Auraki offers a developmentally appropriate learning environment based on tamariki's needs and interests, with a focus on wellbeing and a healthy transition into kura.

- In Waiwaha we explore the New Zealand Curriculum through developmentally appropriate learning experiences like play based learning for our juniors
- We develop the Key Competencies throughout our programmes for all levels.
- We integrate Pīkiao into our curriculum through karakia, himene, waiata, moteatea, purakau (stories), rotarota (poems) and some te reo Māori.
- In Manawakotokoto (Year 3- Year 6) and Hinetauranga (Year 7 - Year 8) we focus on students taking greater responsibility for their own learning, ultimately becoming self-directed learners. There are greater opportunities for students to be involved in inquiry projects connected to real world challenges.
- Whānau Auraki will be implementing Ngāti Pīkiao Critical Histories as well as Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

**Emerging Adolescents - Year 7's and Year 8's** As your child moves through the middle school years, life can be exciting and challenging for both them and you. This is a time of change in almost all aspects of their lives. While at Whangamarino School you can expect to see some of the following behaviours: Children will change physically and can be irritable as their hormones cause mood swings. Arguing will not help and can cause situations to escalate. They are moving from a dependent to a more socially independent state where they can be greatly influenced by friends and peers. Sometimes their friendships can be turbulent and cause them to be worried and emotional. Hormones and growth can cause fluctuations in their work habits and ability to accept consequences. Because of their rapidly

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changing world, physically, emotionally and socially they can become anxious and forgetful. They are moving towards self motivation but still need short term incentives.

### **How can you help?**

Parents play a dominant role in influencing a child's confidence and motivation to become a successful student. Your child may no longer wish to see you at kura but they still need your active support.

You can support the kura by encouraging your child to attend regularly, in uniform and equipped to participate.

If you show active support for what the kura is trying to achieve then your child will feel it's worth listening, cooperating, and showing pride in themselves. They will view kura as a positive place where problems can be solved alongside and with the teachers.

Trust your own feelings about your child. If you are sure they need additional support or stimulation, or things are not going right, talk to their teacher or the senior leadership team about your concern.

We are committed to providing your child with the best possible education.

Remember, issues with your child can be very emotional so it's important to focus on the problem or behaviour. Meet your child's teacher or Principal so if problems do arise you have already developed a positive relationship with our kura.

Encourage your child to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour. There will be occasions when they need to work harder, form better relationships with others and learn to think for themselves. Above all look for ways to participate, attend parent/teacher meetings, Te Roopu Manaaki hui, Whānau hui and school events. Offer your support and encouragement and listen to your child when they wish to share kura experiences with you. By listening to their concerns and worries you will be able to acknowledge their problems and help find solutions.

### **Students with Learning Support Needs**

#### **Does my child have additional learning needs?**

Early identification and intervention are critical features for supporting every tamaiti in reaching their potential.



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Parent-Teacher conferences are the best time to discuss the question of whether your child needs additional support. If you are concerned about your child's social, emotional or academic progress please discuss it with your child's classroom teacher by either using the time available during a conference or arranging a separate meeting with your child's teacher through the school office.

If your child's teacher is concerned with your child's progress, they will share this information with you during a conference and/or you may notice in our reports that your child is not meeting the learning progressions expected of them.

The first point of contact is always your child's classroom teacher. If both parties agree that there are some additional learning needs, the classroom teacher will elevate those concerns to the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator, (SENCO). Our SENCO Whaea Hana Mason will review your child's data through Etap or Te Waharoa then conduct additional assessments independently and alongside the classroom teacher and then arrange a time to meet with you and the classroom teacher to discuss the findings. At that meeting, a plan will be made on what additional support could be provided and how that support could be accessed. Working in partnership with parents is critical in achieving a constructive and positive outcome for your child's learning needs.

### **Whānau Hui**

Both Auraki and Rumaki hold a Whānau Hui once a term. It is an expectation that whānau in both Auraki and Rumaki will attend or send a representative to attend these hui.

### **Trips out of School**

We have a saying in our school – ***“No slip, no trip”!*** We always seek your permission to take your child on a trip. This is usually in the form of a pānui with the trip details and a return slip at the bottom. It is essential we have your written permission, but should you misplace the pānui, then a handwritten note will be accepted.

On all haerenga there will be times that staff need to make the call with regards to toilet stops and lunch stops and these will be factored into all future haerenga.

For all trips out of school children are expected to wear clean and tidy full school uniforms, and we often leave them at school (with another teacher) if this is not the case.

We always need whānau helpers to come along on trips. It is a requirement that we have the correct ratios of adults to children when leaving the school. Every parent or caregiver must be police vetted before attending any school trips. Forms are at the school office to fill in.

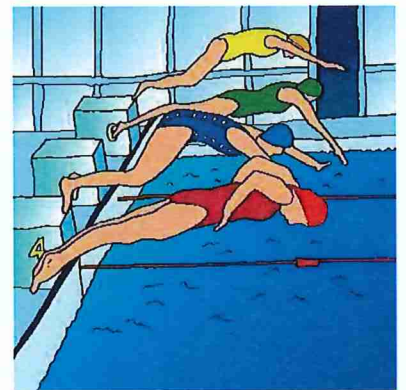
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This can be a great opportunity for you to become involved in your child's school experience first hand. Other whānau members are welcome, provided they are over the age of 18 years. We rarely use whānau vehicles, but in the event that we need to use private vehicles, the driver must have a full current licence and the vehicle must be warranted and registered. All passengers must be seat-belted.

Tangihanga - There is an exception to the rule; i.e. no permission slips will be sent out when Whānau Rumaki take our tamariki out to attend tangihanga. This is part of the kaupapa of being enrolled in Whānau Rumaki. Our Rumaki kaiako will explain this in more detail to whānau at regular whānau Rumaki hui.

### **Swimming**

Swimming is an essential part of our school programme during the summer, especially as we have so many rivers and lakes in our area. We have our own beautiful swimming pool at the school and this is used in term 1 and late term 4 depending on the weather. All children are expected to participate in the swimming programme to gain confidence in the water. We ask that children wear appropriate swimming attire. Togs for girls, and shorts for boys. Please name their swimming attire, towel and provide a plastic bag for wet gear. If your child is not able to swim, a note is required please.



### **Assessment and Reporting to Parents**

With the removal of National Standards at the beginning of the 2018 academic year, there have been many discussions in the education sector about what should replace them. At Whangamarino School, we have been excited about re-connecting with our NZ Curriculum, **which was held in high regard globally as an innovative and holistic approach to teaching and learning**, ultimately equipping students with the skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing society. Unfortunately, the introduction of National Standards narrowed our focus on reading- panui, writing - tuhituhi and mathematics - pangarau and actually resulted in **poorer achievement results compared to other countries around the world**.

A returned focus on our curriculum, will allow us to achieve the original vision of the Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and the **National Curriculum – ensuring our students are: confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners**. Of course, we will still be committed to ensuring the foundations of panui - reading, tuhituhi- writing and pangarau - mathematics are strongly embedded into our curriculum, but we will be broadening our focus to encompass the NZ Curriculum Key Competencies of:



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- Thinking
  - Relating to others
  - Using language, symbols and texts
  - Managing self
  - Participating and contributing

## **What changed?**

The way we report to parents about student progress changed in 2018, allowing us to report more frequently to parents through:

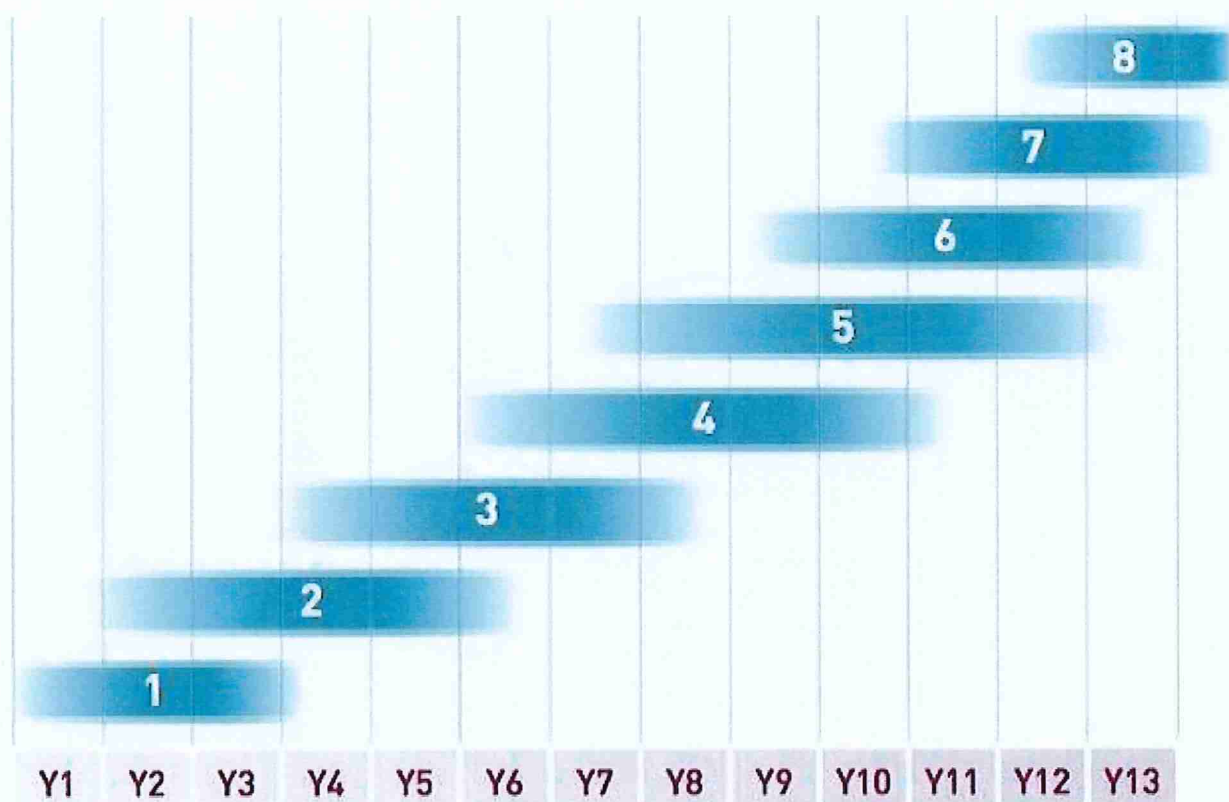
- increased parent / teacher conferences,
- student led conferences encourages our students to be more actively involved in their learning, goal setting and communicating their goals to their parents,
- online access to student achievement in real time, outlining what progressions they've achieved at their age level, and what progressions they are currently working on.

This year we will be joining LINC-Ed 'Hero' as our New Zealand Ministry of Education approved online student management and reporting system. Hero shares our school's vision to put student learning at the forefront. We will no longer be providing written, hard-copy reports to whānau as information about your child's progress will be provided on-line.

## **What will be in our future Online School Report?**

The new school reports will primarily focus on student learning goals in the key curriculum areas of panui -reading, tuhituhi - writing and pangarau -numeracy. Progressing through the curriculum subject areas, most students will progress through levels 1-5. Within **The New Zealand Curriculum** and **Te Marautanga**, the level that each child is learning at will vary compared to the other children in the same year. Once your child has mastered most of the skills, knowledge and understanding of each learning stage within the level, they will move on to the next level.

## Years and Curriculum Levels



There will also be feedback on how your child has performed under the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) Key Competencies. You can find more information on the NZC Key competencies [here](#).

### Term 1:

Week 4: Tuesday 28th February - Kanohi-ki-te-kanohi Hui

This will be an opportunity to:

- Meet your child's teacher
- Learn about the expectations and routines in your child's class
- Meet the other parents of the students in your child's class
- Learn about how you, as parents, can support our kura in fundraising and community building activities



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- Ask any questions you might have

## **Term 2:**

### Week 10: Kanohi-ki-te-kanohi Hui / Parent-Teacher-Child Meetings

- Tuesday 27th July 2.40 – 6.30pm
- Wednesday 28th July 2.40 – 6.30pm

For our formal face-to-face (kanohi-ki-te-kanohi) whānau and kaiako (parents/caregivers and teachers) meetings we will use an online electronic appointment system. The meetings are 15 minutes per slot.

## **Term 3:**

### Week 10: Student Led Open Classrooms

- Tuesday 19th September, times TBC
- Wednesday 20th September, times TBC

The students themselves facilitate the sharing of their learning journey to-date with their whānau inside the classroom. They are guided by their teacher and prepare a variety of interactive activities showing their ownership, accountability, and accomplishments of the learning they have completed over time. This is an opportunity for them to answer parent questions, to celebrate and have fun.

## **SO WHY NO WRITTEN REPORTS?**

The days of traditional written reports are quickly becoming obsolete. The reality is educational teaching practices have evolved far from relying on traditionally written reports that are essentially a one-way, once (or twice) a year document. These reports involved long hours of teacher time in isolation from the students and were written well after the actual assessment date, and well before they were actually presented to parents. The result was that by the time you were receiving your child's report, they may have progressed even further and the information was no longer relevant.

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Digital technologies not only support one way information flows but improve the quality, timeliness and richness of the information that is shared. The digital report can be accessed anytime and anywhere by multiple family members. As the process is less labour intensive for our teachers we are able to report on a wider range of curriculum areas and key competencies. Furthermore, reporting is closely related to actual assessments of student achievement of progressions articulated in the New Zealand/Te Marautanga curriculum documents. It will now be easier for parents to see the progress their child makes against the goals that were set with their kaiako.

The online environment provides new and unique opportunities for collecting rich data that paper technologies cannot. Potentially students' recorded conversations will form a narrative of their own learning and provide parents and teachers with powerful information about where a learner is at. Furthermore, students can post evidence of how they have achieved their goals, ultimately empowering them to take responsibility for their own learning – an essential pathway towards becoming lifelong learners. This will encourage students to self-assess and reflect on their learning. Research shows that this is an incredibly powerful learning tool.

Finally, by having all the achievement data in one area, you can now track your child's progress over their entire time at our school, all at your fingertips!

### **WHAT ABOUT IF MY CHILD TRANSFERS TO ANOTHER SCHOOL AND A WRITTEN REPORT IS REQUESTED?**

Increasingly, receiving schools directly approach leaving schools for data and information. Linc-ed/ HERO allows us the capability to share your child's achievement and assessment data directly with the school your child is going to, providing accurate and useful data about the capabilities of your child. This results in less testing and assessments required by the incoming school as the data (e.g. reading-panui and writing-tuhituhi levels) is already reported.

### **Mahi Kainga**

Not compulsory but we expect all children to do homework each night from Monday to Thursday. This includes your five-year-old. Make homework time age appropriate. Five year olds can manage 10 minutes while older children can work for up to half an hour. Homework will usually consist of reading and a small activity in their homework exercise book. This might be reading a poem or completing a simple practice worksheet. Please

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establish a routine for doing homework and returning book bags and books to school each day. These books are used in the daily class programme so it is important that they come back to school each day and they are looked after and valued when at home. Please supervise your children during homework time.

### **Panui Pukapuka –Reading**

Read with your child at home every day. This gives them another opportunity to practise books they have already been introduced to at school. We call this ‘reading for mileage’, the more they read the better they will become. Home reading should be easy for them and therefore enjoyable. Children enjoy reading the same books many times, even if you may have had enough!

Please take the time to read with and to your child, so that your child will get maximum benefits from the time they spend reading with you at home

### **Crisis Management**

In the event of a serious emergency or a crisis *REST ASSURED*, we will take good care of your children. The school is a Civil Defence Post and each and every teacher is responsible for their class and the Principal is responsible for everyone. Our main communications will be through our Skool Loop App, School Website, Facebook page, school phone (07)362 4879, and the local radio station. If we need to evacuate the school, we will move the children across the top field, down the Morehu drive way and then out across to Taheke via the road. If this route proves inaccessible, then the route will be up over the hill to Paruaharanui. We will hold all children until YOU (parent/caregiver) or the person you have delegated as the emergency contact when you enrolled collects them.

**NO ONE ELSE WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE YOUR CHILD.**

### **Evacuation Drills**

It is a legal requirement that we practice emergency drills once per term. These will also include our staff and tamariki from Kohanga Reo ki Ohau.

### **Children ready to learn will:**

- *Have had plenty of sleep. (Set a bedtime and be strong for the child)*
- *Have had some breakfast.*

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- *Have brought a nutritious and filling morning tea. Lunch is provided*
  - *Come to school happy because you are settled.*
  - *Know that you accept them as they are.*
  - *Know that you want them to listen to their teacher.*
  - *Know that you love them. Send them off with a hug, a smile and a gentle word.*

*Then we can do wonders with them...*

### **Guidance for parents in assisting their children during the first years at school.**

1. Be interested in the work children bring home.
2. Always share daily activities with your children; this includes sharing T.V. programmes, baking, gardening, ball games, walking the dog.
3. Give your child time to explain about pictures or work they bring home and have a very special place for them for a few days.
4. Warn your child about loitering on the way home or going to play without asking you first. Warn them about "stranger danger".
5. Fill in the health card and see he/she has received booster injections at the correct time.
6. Select the safest way to the bus pick up point and show the child where and how to cross roads. Give practice with safety rules before he/she does this on his/her own. Make sure they know where to go after school.
7. Please do not discuss teachers in front of children, or use teachers as a threat.
8. Read and tell stories and ask child questions about the story and discuss it. Explain objects and pictures and background details in the book.
9. Supply picture books to look at and be interested in and have a few simple rules for reading e.g. not eating greasy food when handling books, turning pages carefully, no tearing of pages or scribbling on them.
10. Teach the child to recognise their home address and phone number if possible, and how to write and read his/her name (not in capitals).
11. Teach them how to wash their hands for 20 seconds, how to sneeze or cough into their elbow, how to blow their noses using tissues.
12. Be unemotional when leaving your child at school - do not creep away whilst the child is not looking. Say you will be back soon. Be firm.
13. Listen to speech and correct it if necessary.
14. Teach colours, red, green, blue, white, black, yellow, brown, orange.
15. Teach the child to put away things and to take off and put on outer clothing, shoes, etc.
16. Teach them how to use and flush the toilet and when and why to wash hands - (soap and water).



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17. Teach them how to peel an orange, etc.
  18. Mark all clothes and shoes and sew tape hangers on polar fleeces and coats. Teach the child to recognise their own clothing.
  19. Give practice in performing duties and following instructions. Giving jobs e.g. setting tables, bringing in groceries.
  20. Teach manners and insist on them.
  21. Teach how to dress and undress e.g. zips, buttons, coats, shoes
  22. Make their play lunch with them. Include some healthy foods e.g. fruit, cheese, dates, nuts, raisins, carrot etc preferably not biscuits or potato chips.
  23. Discuss when and how to use a toothbrush.
  24. Encourage alphabet knowledge and counting on to ten.
  25. Has your child had experience with crayons, drawing, colouring in, tracing, using paints, cutting with scissors and pasting, listening to stories, nursery rhymes, etc?
  26. Buy a school bag. How well prepared is he/she?

### **Motto**

**Kia pono ki to mahi kia  
whai hua ai**

### **Mission Statement**

**The children at Whangamarino School will stand tall and be caring and honest in all aspects of their life so they may strive to do their personal best.**