

# Whenuapai School

Airport Road, Auckland  
New Zealand



## Newsletter – 19 November 2024

Kia ora whānau,

As we continue our look towards 2025, we are excited to share our four key annual goals for the year. These goals have been developed as a subset of our broader strategic plan, ensuring we align with both the current needs of our kura and the wider direction of education. Our goals remain deeply rooted in our core values: Kaitiakitanga (Environment), Ako (Learning), Kotahitanga (Others), and Mana (Self).

- **Kaitiakitanga:** We will continue to nurture a safe and supportive learning environment for our whānau (family), ourselves, our whenua (land), and te taiao (world).
- **Ako:** We will grow our responsive teaching practices and strengthen educational pathways, empowering all students to succeed.
- **Kotahitanga:** We are committed to fostering a culture where tamariki (children) and our wider school community feel heard, valued, and connected.
- **Mana:** We will continue to prioritise lifelong learning, ensuring everyone in our community is supported to grow and thrive.

While we are still in the early stages of developing our detailed annual plan, we are already identifying several key areas of focus for the coming year:

- **Safe Classroom Spaces:** Ensuring both physical and emotional safety for our students and staff.
- **New Government Initiatives:** Implementing new guidelines for Mathematics, Literacy, Attendance, Assessment, and Reporting.
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthening relationships with our community, including *Friends of Whenuapai (FOW)*, celebrating learning, and ensuring transparency.
- **Unity Across Campuses:** Promoting consistency and unity as we grow.
- **The Whenuapai Way:** Maintaining our unique school culture as we expand our community and staff.
- **Staff Development:** Continuing to invest in the growth and development of our teaching team.

We look forward to sharing more information early in the new year. In the meantime, if you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas, please feel free to approach a member of the 2025 Senior Leadership Team or our Team Leaders (as listed in previous newsletters).

We are in the final stages of making one more teacher appointment and will share the full school organisation for 2025 once this is complete. We are hopeful that we will have the successful candidate in place within the next two weeks, in time for our Week 8 newsletter. Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Throughout this year, we have kept you updated on the new Government initiatives, particularly in the areas of Structured Literacy and Mathematics. We are pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Education has now released the updated curriculum for Mathematics and English. After reviewing the documents, we are happy to report that the new curriculum levels and learning expectations align with our initial predictions.

**Key Update:** Over the course of this year, we have worked diligently to accelerate our students' learning in preparation for these changes, ensuring they meet the new curriculum levels and expectations. By starting this process early, we have allowed two years to fully transition rather than trying to implement all the changes in just one year (2025). We are thrilled with the progress we've made, and we congratulate our students, staff, and whānau for their hard work and dedication.

The progress reports you've received for your child in 2024 have been based on the new curriculum levels and expectations for 2025.

In other news, work on the development of our home campus property is starting to ramp up. Work is currently scheduled for the Christmas holidays. Unfortunately, this means the school grounds will need to be closed during the holiday period. We will confirm what is happening and the exact dates once the programme of works has been completed.

Have a fantastic week.

Ngā mihi

Adam



### Dates for your diary ....

<b>Thursday – 21 November</b> Year 7&8 NW Athletics Day HPSS Orientation Day	<b>Monday – 16 December</b> 9.30am-Kākāpō (Y5&6) Prizegiving 1.45pm – Yr0-4 Sports Prizegiving 3.10pm – Yr5-8 Sports Prizegiving
<b>Wednesday – 27 November</b> Yr 8 – Massey Meet the Teacher Visit	<b>Tuesday – 17 December</b> 9.15am - Kea (Yr 0/1) Prizegiving 10.00am – Kea (Yr 2) Prizegiving 2.00pm - PWW (Yr 3/4) Prizegiving Kea and Pīwakawka – Science Fair
<b>Friday – 29 November</b> Decorate your bike or scooter day	<b>2025</b>
<b>Tuesday – 3 December 2024</b> NW Year 5&6 Tag/Touch	
<b>Wednesday -4 December</b> Rainbows Day C.A.R.E Day	
<b>Mon 9 to Wed 11 – December</b> Science Fair	<b>Friday – 20 December</b> Last day of Term 4 12.40pm finish
<b>Wednesday – 11 December</b> 6.00pm - Board Meeting	
<b>Thursday – 12 December</b> Meet the Teacher Day Year 8 Erin Pools Visit	<b>Monday – 3 February</b> Meet the Teacher Day
<b>Friday – 13 December</b> Mistletoe Mania	<b>Tuesday – 4 February</b> First Day of School for 2025



## MISTLETOE MANIA

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 4PM-7PM

We're excited to announce Mistletoe Mania is back! Join us on Friday, 13th December at the Junior Campus.

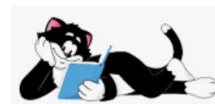
We're looking for volunteers to help run the nacho, sausage sizzle, burger, sushi, and baked goods stalls. If you can cook sausages or hand out burgers, *we need you!*

Choose from 3 time slots: **3:00–4:30pm**, **4:30–6:00pm**, or **6:00–8:00pm** (or until sold out), so you'll still have plenty of time to enjoy the evening with your family.

Join in with a friend and we can put you on the same stall. If you are available to help, please add your name on the below link.

Thanks for your support!

[Mistletoe Mania Helpers - Please Click Here](#)



## Library News

**Scholastics Book Club**  
**Issue 8 out now!**

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER ONLINE](#)



[CLICK HERE TOP VIEW CATALOGUE](#)



**Hilton Brown**  
**SWIMMING**  
 Lessons for life

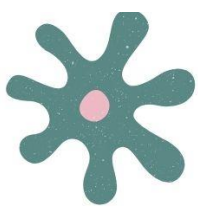
Hilton Brown Hobsonville  
<https://swim.school.nz/>  
 5 Rawiri Place, Hobsonville. Ph: 09 666 0240  
[hobsonville@hiltonbrownswimming.co.nz](mailto:hobsonville@hiltonbrownswimming.co.nz)



Thanks to one of our amazing parents (Jess), the secondhand uniform room

will be open for sales every week:

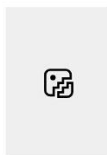
- **When:** Wednesday Afternoons
- **Where:** Room 21
- **Time:** 3.00-3:30pm



# Kākāpō Team



The Kākāpō team have enjoyed getting experimental this term as we dive into our Chemistry Inquiry Unit. We were very fortunate to have Nano Girl to kick off our inquiry and get us excited and inspired about Chemistry!



This term we are learning about chemistry. We have done lots of experiments such as Candy Crystals, Coke and Mentos, and Density Jars. One of our favourites was learning how to make ice-cream. We are looking forward to showcasing our science fair towards the end of the term.

By Sanaya (Room Ono)



## Year 5 and 6 Whenuapai Athletics Sports 2024

On Wednesday, 6 November 2024, we held our annual Year 5 & 6 Athletics Day. The weather was fine, with temperatures steadily rising throughout the day. Over 120 students, dressed in their vibrant house colours of blue, red, yellow, and green, kicked off the event with a spirited march down to the field.

The day began with the challenging 1500-meter race, where a large group of students tested their endurance in this long-distance event. Following this, students rotated through a variety of field and track events.

Many students showcased their versatility by competing in multiple events, enthusiastically running, jumping, and throwing throughout the day. For some, it was an opportunity to try a new event, achieving personal bests and overcoming challenges. The competition for top honours in each age category was intense, with students striving to improve their performances across all disciplines.

The results highlighted a wide range of talents: some students excelled in field events like throwing and jumping, while others dominated the track. The day concluded with thrilling relays, where our six classes competed head-to-head. Class Tahi emerged as the fastest, claiming the overall victory.

The success of the event was due in no small part to the incredible support from our amazing staff members, the Year 7 & 8 Netball Team, and Jane Knobloch, who managed event coordination, recording, and timing.

The 2024 Whenuapai Athletics Day was a resounding success, and the school extends its gratitude to everyone who contributed to the event's smooth running. Most importantly, a huge congratulations to all the students for their outstanding effort and sportsmanship!



### Year 5 and 6 Athletics Sports Champions for 2024

Year 5 – Boys	Year 5 - Girls	Year 6 – Boys	Year 6 - Girls
Hudson Palmer	Aurora Joustra	Niko Govorko	Xanthe Peterson

## Uniform Shop

We are happy to announce, Argyle Schoolwear are opening a Retail Shop from 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2024, where you can purchase our school uniform.

You will still be able to purchase your uniform online through their Argyle Online website, but you now have the option to purchase in store, offering you a full retail experience.

Argyle's Retail Shop is located at Unit 4 / 91 Central Park Drive in Henderson.

It is advisable that you book an appointment – please go to our school page on Argyle Online and click 'book a fitting'. Limited parking is available in front of the store.



[Click Here to Book](#)

Uniform Retail Store Opening 5th December 2024





WHENUAPAI SCHOOL

4/91 Central Park Drive, Henderson, Auckland

Book a fitting online through your school page at [www.argyleonline.co.nz](http://www.argyleonline.co.nz)  
Card payments only; no cash. WINZ quotes available.

# Year 5/6 NW Cricket Zone Day

On Tuesday, 12th November, several Year 5/6 students from Whenuapai School took a bus to the Kumeu Cricket Club to compete in the Year 5/6 Norwest Cricket Zone Day. The sun was shining, and our students were filled with excitement as they prepared for the games.

All the students who participated did an outstanding job! One of our boys' teams had an exceptional performance, winning four out of five of their matches. They played back-to-back games in the scorching sun, showing incredible stamina, focus, and determination. It was a fun-filled, action-packed day, with everyone giving their best and enjoying the tournament.

A special shoutout to our amazing parent helpers. Michelle, Monique & Nishant — without your support, this event would not have been possible. We also want to acknowledge the fantastic sportsmanship shown by our students. Whether winning or losing, they embodied our school values, demonstrating respect, teamwork, and good sportsmanship by cheering on their teammates and showing grace throughout the day.

It was a memorable experience for everyone involved, and we're already pumped for the next innings!





Today our tamariki enjoyed seeing two speedway cars up close. They were able to ask questions and even hop inside for a photo. The juniors were quite excited and many liked the pink one the most. Thanks for sharing them with our tamariki.



# SPEEDWAY



## Waste Free Lunchboxes



Whenuapai School is an EnviroSchool and we ask that students come to school with waste free lunches (**Nood Food**) to show Kaitiakitanga/Respect to our school environment.



A waste free lunch means only packing items that can be composted or recycled. That means, **no plastic wrap, no foil, no zip lock bags and no packaged foods**. We have compost bins for food scraps which we feed to our worm farm which then fertilises our vegetable māra/gardens and fruit trees. Through this process we are teaching the students to be responsible for the waste they create and how they can make a difference to our planet. **If students bring waste to school, we ask them to please take this home.** Thank you for supporting our school value of Kaitiakitanga/Respect for the Environment.



Active transport makes you fit and it's safe because there's bike lanes.

biking is good for health, wellbeing and strength.

By Fletcher Repko

## USE ACTIVE TRANSPORT



*Using active transport will not only make your muscles stronger, but can decrease the amount of carbon emissions being released into the air. This way, we can prevent climate change and save our planet.*

By Hiyansa

## School Notices:



**School Docs**  
Policies and Procedures

For our Policies and Procedures please visit SchoolDocs at: [www.schooldocs.co.nz/](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz/)

User – whenuapai Password – airport

Copyright: Except where stated, the content on this site is the copyright of SchoolDocs Ltd. It may not be reproduced without written permission from SchoolDocs.

### 2024 Parent Handbook

There is a Parent Handbook available on our school website with lots of useful information.

You can check it out by clicking on the following link:

[Click Here](#)



*Classic Cuts*



63 Brigham Creek Road

**MUSIQHUB**  
PLAY SMART

### Music Lessons at Whenuapai School

Visit: <https://musiqhub.co.nz/>

For more information, contact:

Gloria Arboleda Martinez  
0274 422 654

[Gloria.arboleda@musiqhub.co.nz](mailto:Gloria.arboleda@musiqhub.co.nz)



For DRUMS email: [paul.barry@musiqhub.co.nz](mailto:paul.barry@musiqhub.co.nz)

## NumberWorks 'nWords

Your children are amazing already. We just help them prove it.

numberworksnwords.com/nz  
NorthWest Ph 416 3123

**NumberWorks 'nWords** TUITION CONFIDENCE RESULTS



[Click here for a free assessment & trial lesson.](#)

Email: [northwest@numberworks.com](mailto:northwest@numberworks.com)

Jan/ Feb 2025 will be the next opportunity to order:

# HOUSE T-SHIRTS

KIDS ICE TEE - YELLOW



BLUE



KIDS ICE TEE - GREEN



\$25 EACH

Below is the size chart.

KIDS MODERN FIT	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
GARMENT 1/2 CHEST (CM)	34	36	38	40	42	44	47	50

Adult Small, Medium, Large and XL available for purchase too.

Our awesome House T-shirts will be available for purchase on [myKINDO.co.nz](http://myKINDO.co.nz) late Jan/Feb 2025.

All proceeds go towards our Whenuapai School AIMS sports teams!

A huge shout out to Anthony & Nicole at Brandistry and our Amazing House Captains for designing such cool T-shirts for our students to wear at School House events :)

## skids - Before and After School Care

Accredited OSCAR Provider. Work & Income OSCAR Subsidy available!

Onsite: 021 174 8473  
(Only checked during opening hours)  
[www.skids.co.nz/whenuapai](http://www.skids.co.nz/whenuapai)

BOOK NOW at: [www.skids.co.nz/book](http://www.skids.co.nz/book)

search for Whenuapai





At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: It can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar; The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

Instagram @wake.up.wednesday

Twitter @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 12.04.2023 Last reviewed: 30.10.2024