



Taitā Central School Newsletter

Ki te kotahi kākaho, ka whati: ki te Kāpuia, e kore e whati.
When we stand alone, we are vulnerable; but together we are unbreakable.

Vision

"Te tu pakari tahi, te whakamana i nga ākongā katoa."
Standing strong together – enhancing the mana of all learners



Ako tahi Tātou, Tipu tahi Tātou
Together we Learn, Together we Grow

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Bula Vinaka, Malo e lelei, Malo ni, Fakatalofa atu, Namaste, Mingalaba, Kumusta, Marhaba, Sawatdee, Xin chào, Choum, Reap, Sour, Assalamu alaikum, Hello, Greetings!

15 December 2025

15 Hakihea 2025

Principal: principal@taitacentral.school.nz

Number 20

Rua Tekau

Website: <https://www.taitacentral.school.nz/home>

Term 4: Week 10

Wāhanga 4: Wiki 10

Office: admin@taitacentral.school.nz

Coming Events:

2026

Tue 3rd Feb – School open morning from 9am – 11am

Wed 4th Feb – First Day back at school

Fri 6th Feb – Waitangi Day – **School Closed**

Fri 20th Feb – SOD Maths PLD – **School Closed**

Tue 24th Feb Meet the parents/whānau 3:15pm - 7:00pm

Wed 25th Feb Meet the parents/whānau 3:15pm - 7:00pm

To Action:

Important Dates to remember...

Wed 4th Feb – First Day back at school

Absence TXT Line: 022 351 2655 - Text child's first & last name, Ako/class, absence reason, sender's name

Kia ora e te whānau

At our End of Year Prizegiving last Thursday I shared our journey for 2025.

Thank you for joining together with us to celebrate and acknowledge the effort and achievement of our ākongā over this year.

This year we worked together to create a new vision for our school.

Te tu pakari tahi, te whakamana i nga ākongā katoa.

Standing strong together - enhancing the mana of all learners.

Every person at Taitā Central School works tirelessly to make sure that together we are achieving our goals and ensuring that we work towards enhancing the mana of all our learners.

This year has been another year of challenge for our tamariki and our staff, it has also been a year of great learning with many new and exciting learning opportunities and experiences. Throughout the year we have had to embody the characteristics of the **karearea** – embrace the power we have within us, be strong and fearless in our endeavours and use all our **POWER values** to.

Persevere - to give things a go and keep trying even when things were hard or felt like they were too difficult.

Learning a new maths concept or learning the letter sounds to be able to decode a word and read it or spell it correctly. To show improvement in our sporting endeavours, and academic achievements.

Be **Outstanding - and strive to always be the best we can be – through our attitude to our learning, our performances and our sporting endeavours**, to be excited to see where we started from and what we have now achieved. The tamariki who set goals for themselves and strive to achieve them. The tamariki who were celebrated at this year's Children's University Graduation and received their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards as well as the tamariki who receive the awards and honours at today's prizegiving.

To show **Whakawhanaungatanga - as we come together as one** to share in our cultural days as we celebrate together at Matariki and Diwali, during the wonderful Kowhai sports days, during HuttFest and the as they opened the

Taka Trust Golf Day.

Show **Empathy and understand how someone else is feeling**, to be able to step in and support them through difficult times, showing care and consideration for them and those around them.

Show **Respect - by treating others how you would like to be treated**, this starts with respecting yourself, respecting your friends and respecting the people who love and care for you, your parents, whānau, teachers and teacher aides. The people who come into our school to work with us and offer us new learning experiences from organisations such as Taitā College, Kelly Sport, Victoria University and Massey University and KPMG and as well as the people we go out to see at places like the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, The New Zealand Ballet, Shona McFarlane Rest home, Te Papa, Zealandia and the Wellington Zoo.

Ako tahi Tātou, Tipu tahi Tātou
Together we Learn, together we Grow

The growth and success of our tamariki and our school is reflected in the connection and strength of our community, Thank you to our parents, caregivers, whānau and aiga for your support of your tamariki and our school.

2025 has been another year with huge change, for our school and education in New Zealand as a whole, our Government has removed funding from our Reading Recovery programmes, Resource Teachers of Literacy and Māori, and stopped funding our school Study Centre, the reasons for this are so they can redirect these funds into the Science of Learning Structured Literacy and Structured Maths approaches which support the Refreshed English and the reviewed new Maths Curriculum.

Of greater concern for us has been the removal of the requirement of school Boards of Trustees to 'give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi' from the "*Education and Training Act 2020*"

As a Board of Trustees and a school we will endure, even though this is no longer a legislative requirement, we reaffirm our commitments to Te Tiriti, we understand it is the historical founding document of our nation, it is a pillar for an inclusive education system that truly reflects Aotearoa and we know that it is the most effective way we can support our tamariki to thrive and flourish.

Last year I said this and it is even more important to remember this year - ***Change is constant and I want to reassure you that we've got this!***

We are working on ways to continue providing the educational programmes that we know work for our tamariki and that make a difference in their learning and their lives.

I want you to have confidence in our teachers, they are experienced professionals who work hard to know our tamariki and are skilled in creating engaging, authentic and purposeful learning.

We will continue to focus on **Attendance** – tamariki being at school every day, **Engagement** – in purposeful, authentic, real world learning experiences and **Achievement** – improving the educational outcomes of all our tamariki as we have seen this year with the improvements in our tamariki who are working within or at their curriculum level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Our new 2026 – 2028 Strategic Goals will focus on Whānau Engagement, Cultural Connection and Community Partnership and we will weave together an exciting future for our tamariki, our school and our community.

Whakatauaiki

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When we stand alone, we are vulnerable; but together we are unbreakable.

Nā Kīngi Tāwhiao

I want to acknowledge and thank our Board of Trustees who work hard to make sure that we continue to grow our school and support the growth in knowledge, skills and competencies of our staff.

To our staff, thank you for hanging in there, for always stepping in to support each other and our tamariki and for standing strong together!

To our tamariki and our Year 6 Rangatahi, remember – you carry the Power within you to be whatever you want to be!

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the families, whānau and aiga who have been part of our Taitā Central School community, for some of you this may be your last child attending Taitā Central School. Like the harakeke, you are whānau, you are part of us, and you are woven into the fabric of our school – connected to us and you will always be part of our legacy.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff I wish you all the very best for 2025 and beyond.

We also farewelled some long-standing staff members of Taitā Central School as well as Miss Hiotakis who was with us for this year.



Chris Knox – ngā mihi nui tō mahi - thank you for your work in supporting our ākonga and staff over the twenty years with us.

For most of your time, you were our school Reading Recovery Teacher and worked to support our tamariki to become successful readers, in the last couple of years you have been our Early Literacy Support Teacher – a change of name but still delivering the same success in supporting our tamariki to become

successful readers! Your contribution to our school and our staff has been invaluable and we thank you for the knowledge, skill and experience you so freely shared with our teachers.



Thank you to Cren & Faith who presented Mrs Knox with a gift, flowers & card.



Elizabeth Grant – ngā mihi nui tō mahi - thank you for your work as a Classroom Release Teacher supporting our ākonga and staff over the many years you have worked at Taitā Central School. I have been fortunate to work alongside you at two of the schools you have worked in during your extensive career. I have valued the friendship,

support and our many discussions regarding the state of education in New Zealand and the knowledge and experience you have shared with me and your teaching colleagues.

Elizabeth, we all wish you well as you navigate this next stage in your life and hope you have many new adventures with your family, children and grandchildren.



Thank you to Londoni, Eva & Kina who presented Mrs Grant with a gift, flowers and card.



Stella Hiotakis – Today we are also farewelling Miss Hiotakis, **unfortunately she is unable to be here with us today however I still want to say** thank you for your work in supporting our ākonga, staff and school this year. During your one year at Taitā Central School you have engaged with our community, staff and our ākonga. You have contributed to the culture of our school. Thank you for being part of our whānau and sharing in the education and care of our tamariki. On behalf of our school and community we wish you all the best as you start this

new stage of your journey.

Thank you to Amara & Iakopo who presented the flowers and card to Mrs Colman on behalf of Miss Hiotakis.

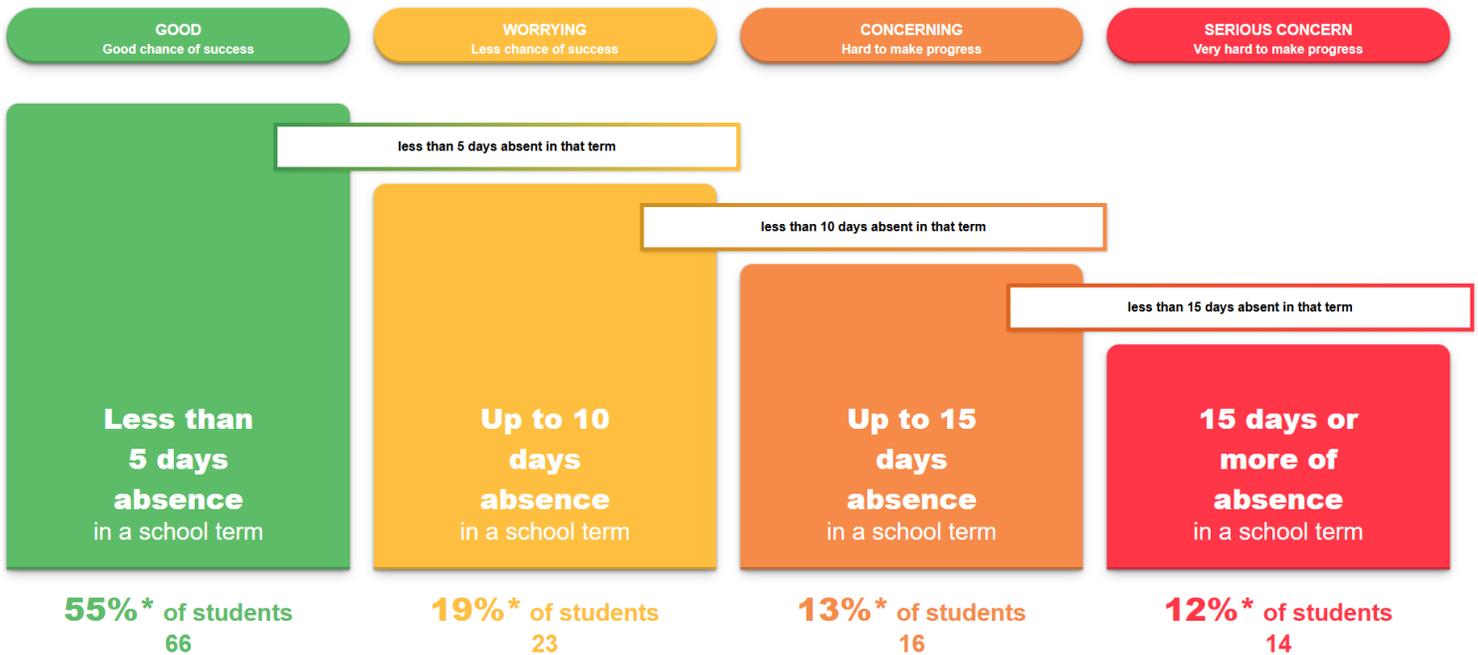
Attendance, Engagement, Achievement

This first graphic shows our Term 4 2025 school attendance rates and the number of students with Good attendance, Worrying attendance, Concerning attendance and Serious Concern regarding attendance.

Stepped Attendance Response - STAR

Responding to all absences

The Government's target is for **80% of students to attend regularly**, that is to attend school more than **90% of the time**.

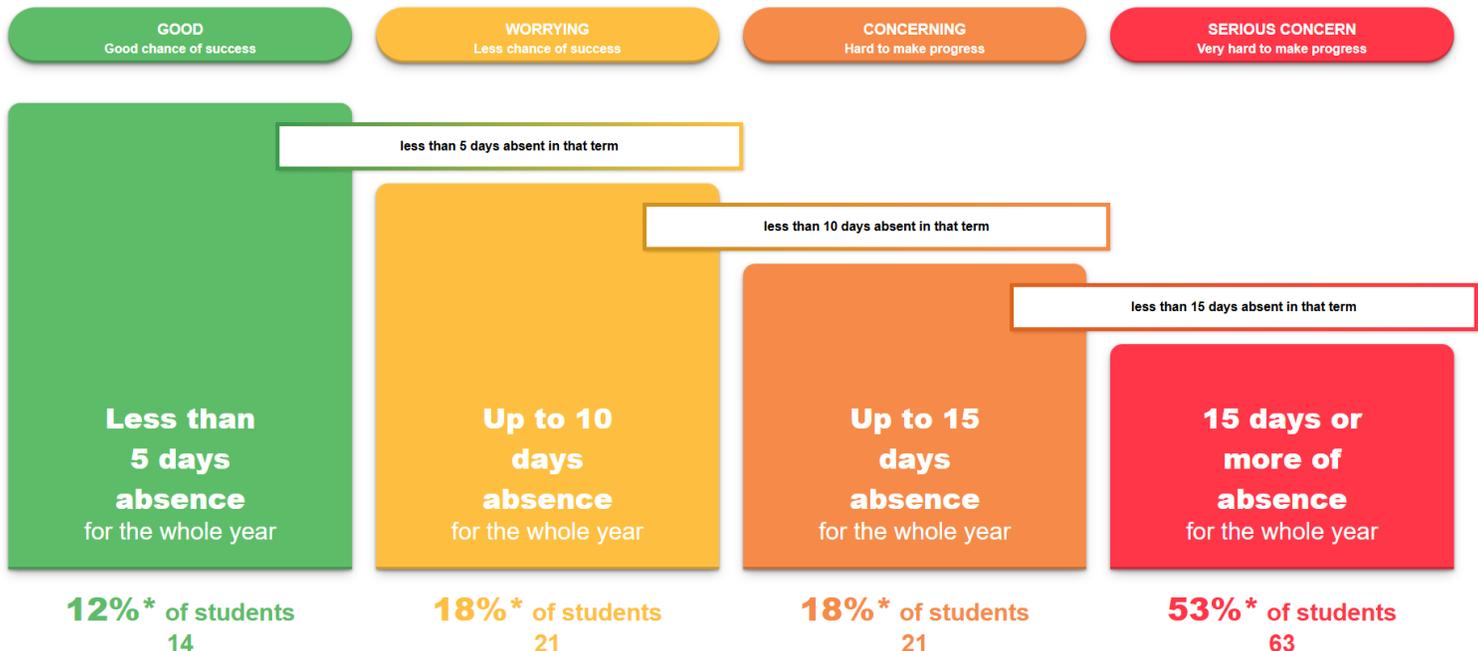


This second graphic gives us a picture of school attendance for all 4 terms of 2025. The number of ākonga/students who have had 15 days or more absence during the year is nearly half of our school – this is of great concern for us and this extent of absence will have had a massive impact on your child's learning.

Stepped Attendance Response - STAR

Responding to all absences

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SCHOOL NEWS

	P	Perseverance / <i>Whakapau Kaha / Onosa'i</i> - give it a go and keep trying, even when it gets hard.
	O	Outstanding / <i>Kei runga noa atu! / Matua silisili ona lelei</i> - always being the best that you can be.
	W	Whakawhanaungatanga / <i>Te toa takitini / So'otaga</i> - we come together as one.
	E	Empathy / <i>Aroha - Ngākau aroha / Lagona Alofa</i> - trying to understand how others feel.
	R	Respect / <i>Kiritau - Whakamana -Whakaute / Fa'aaloalo</i> - treating others how you would like to be treated.

POWER Values - Our value focus for Week 7 & 8 across the school was **Empathy / Aroha – Ngākau aroha / Lagona Alofa – trying to understand how others feel** –Week 9 & 10 across the school has been **Respect / Kiritau / Whakamana – Whakaute / Fa'aaloalo - treating others as we would like to be treated.**

The New Zealand Falcon (Karearea) is our mascot for our values.

Term 4 Week 6 – Thank you to Pohutukawa Block and our hosts Matua Dylan, Nesta and Carlos and visuals Warren, Emperor and Fa'amago.

Congratulations to our Ako Award Winners:

Ako 1: Panapa & Simaima

Ako 3: Iriana, Ellie & Jeconiah

Ako 4: Marley, Laukau & Casey-Jean

Ako 7: Manawa, Mehi, Molly & Bryce

Ako Waru: Fa'amago & Indy

Ako Iwa: Kristina, Faaeteete, Cory, Genzyah-Reign, Noah & Nesta

Akomanga Māori: Chaze (A3) & Nia-Grace (A9)

Congratulations to our Principal Award Winners:

Week 3

Ako 1: Zion for showing outstanding excellence in writing. You have been trying really hard at writing time to write a sentence and for drawing beautiful pictures to match.

Ako 3: Brynn for being a focused and confident learner in Ako 3. You give everything a try and persevere with lots of effort. It has been wonderful to see your progress.

Ako 7: Cren for an amazing effort at swimming. You have tried so hard to listen to instructions, and to put them into action. Well done for showing perseverance and determination-you have made wonderful progress.

Ako Iwa: Miss Kelly for holding it down in whānau Pōhutukawa while Matua Dylan was globetrotting in the USA. We appreciate you stepping up and taking the lead. Ehara taku toa, he takitahi, he toa takitini.

Week 4

Ako 4: Tutahi for trying really hard with your school work. Keep up the great mahi.

Ako Waru: Eliana for looking out for Kowhai kids during break times especially on the new swings. They love hanging out with you and you're a great positive role model for them.

Special Nomination: Esha (A8) for always being willing everyday to help Mani with the school lunches and then with the dishes and wiping the tables down after Pohutukawa have eaten. You do this all before you go to play, Mani appreciates all your help and hard mahi Esha.

Week 5

Ako 1: Tusi for showing outstanding excellence in writing. You have been using your letter card at writing time and are also trying to sound out tricky words.

Ako 3: Kina for your continued kindness to others and your effort in class. You are a great role model for others. Thank you for all you do to make Kowhai a nice learning space.

Ako 7: Phoenix For showing whakawhanaungatanga towards others at floorball. Stepping up into your mana and doing the right thing. You can show your leadership Phoenix and when you do you are unstoppable Ka mau te wehi!

Ako Iwa: Katnisse for your incredible listening, improvement and dedication during your swimming lessons at the pool. You took the learning from the instructors and applied it to make yourself better! Ka mau te wehi

Week 6

Ako 4: Freja for an amazing effort at swimming. You can now put your head under the water and float on your tummy. Great job!

Ako Waru: Evatyn for awesome effort in swimming the last couple of weeks. You listened carefully and made great improvements. You were amazing!! Keep up to hard mahi, we all know you can do it.

Congratulations to our POWER in the Playground Winners:

Carlos (A7) Naayagi (A7) Suntroyden (A3) Indy (A8) Faith (A9) Phoenix (A7) Molly (A7) Jericho (A7) Jahziah (A8) Sitina (A8)

Congratulations to our 95-99% Attendance for Term 3:

Kowhai - Freja, Tia, Koval, Caleb, Brynn, Eva, Sujith & Jeconiah

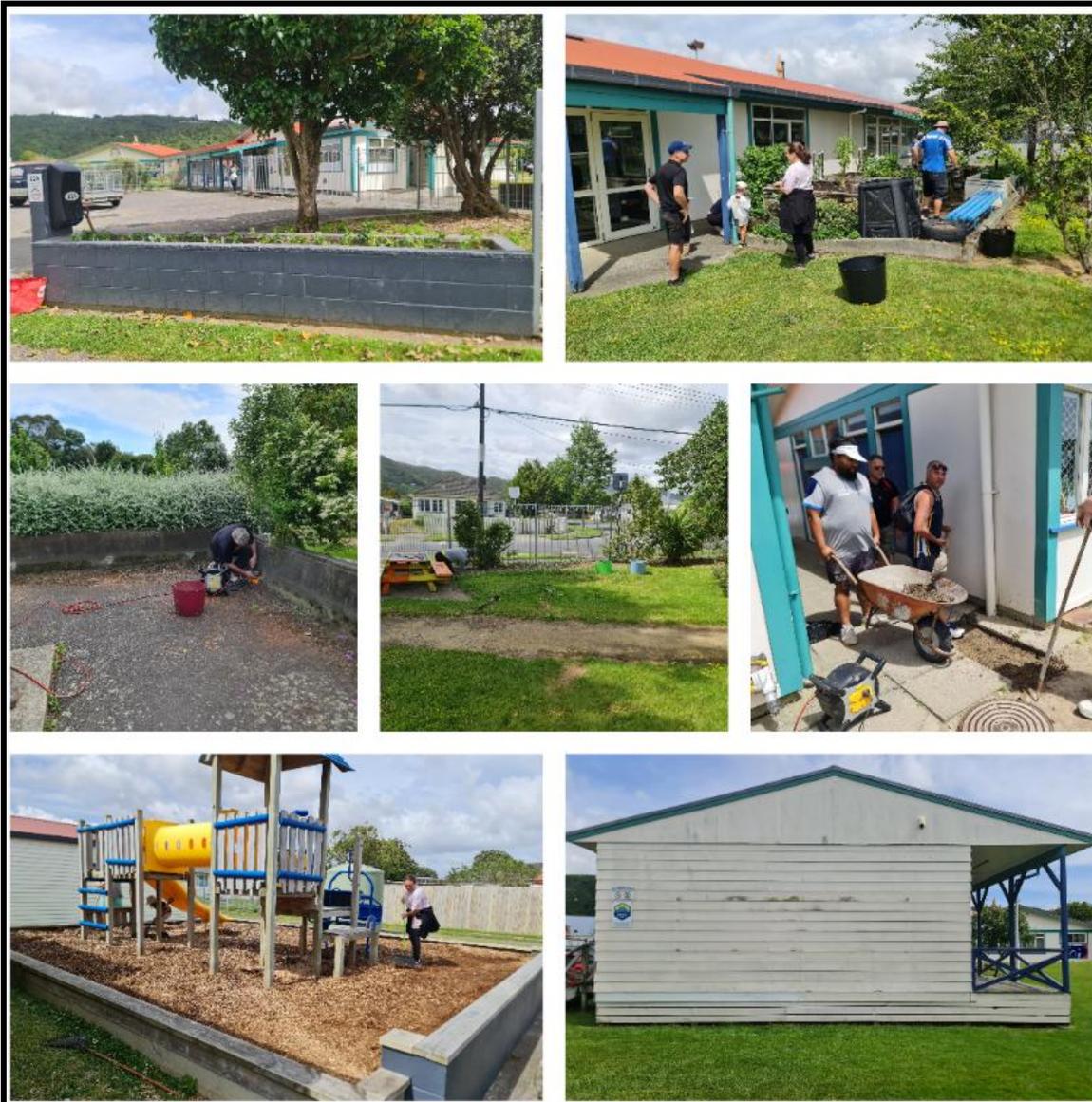


Taitā Central School Working Bee

On Sunday 30th November a group from St Matthews Church Taitā came to school to carry out a Working Bee and provide a service to our community. A heartfelt thank you to; Sarah and Malcolm, Zach and Charlotte, Lauren, Rob and Brynn, Caro & Steve, Craig, Rob, Esperance, Matt, Claire, Emily & Josh – and Andrē who kept an eye on their children, Caleb & Mimsy, Nadia & Zoe, Harper, Roman and Spencer, Rosemary, Kaden & Jordan.

The team helped us by racking the bark under our school playgrounds, weeding and replanting the garden in the block wall at the front of the school, trimming the trees and shrubs along the front fence and the fence by the carpark, removing the old broken blue seats around the flag pole, weeding our school garden and removing the old mural, so our new mural could be placed on the front of the whareroa.

I would also like to acknowledge our caretaker Stan and parent Levi who were also working here for the day trimming trees and putting the branches through the wood chipper.



A huge shoutout to Kennards Hire for the offer of hire of equipment for school Working Bees , this offer is for free equipment hire.

Kennards offer a free hire service to KidsCan partner Schools and early Childcare Centres with on premises working bees, fundraisers and school activities. This offer can also be used if you have an equipment breakdown to help while your school equipment is being fixed or replaced. This is such an amazing service and incredible support for which is such an amazing offer and awesome support for schools like ours.

I got in touch with Matt the Kennards Hire branch manager at the Lower Hutt site and booked a plate compactor to repair the potholes in our school carpark and the wood chipper to mulch up the branches and small shrubs that were trimmed or cut down around our fence line and in the bush area at the back of the school.



LOWER HUTT

**Address 69 Waione Street,
LOWER HUTT Wellington 5012**

Trading Hours

**Monday 6:30AM - 5:00PM Tuesday 6:30AM -
5:00PM Wednesday 6:30AM - 5:00PM Thursday 6:30AM -
5:00PM Friday 6:30AM - 5:00PM Saturday 7:00AM - 4:00PM
Sunday Closed**

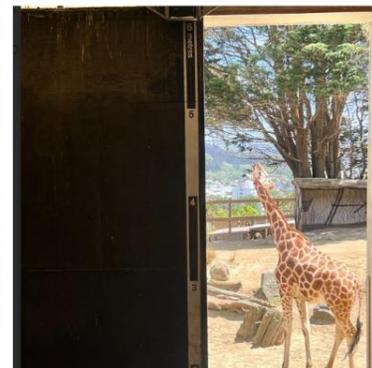
Phone [\(04\) 576 5300](tel:045765300) Email lowerhutt@kennardshire.co.nz

On the Saturday my husband Ross and I came down to school to repair the pot holes in the school carpark and remove a hazard for staff and our community who are using this space everyday.



Week 9 of this term EOTC Week

What fabulous weather we had to start and end this week. On Monday Pōhutukawa Block went to Wellington Zoo for the day and Kowhai Block enjoyed an outside day at school with the bikes, play trailer, ropes and parachute and finished off with a treasure hunt around the school grounds.



On Tuesday the whole school went to Wainuiomata Pool for the day. Thank you to our KPMG volunteers who cooked our sausages for lunch – Brittany, Kent, Shay and Steph.



On Wednesday Kowhai had a Craft Day and a mucky afternoon of finger painting, water painting and bubble painting. Pōhutukawa had a outdoor day of Ki-o-rahi and a visit to Avalon Park planned, but this was interrupted by the weather and so they had a movie day instead.

On Thursday Kowhai Block's planned trip to Wellington was cancelled due to the poor weather conditions, so they had another fun day at school playing Christmas games and making Christmas art and decorations. Pōhutukawa had a sports day involving small team challenges and games with the Kelly Sport.

On Friday we had our Athletics Fun Day at school which involved a lot of water ! A big THANK YOU to the team of volunteers from KPMG who came to support us for our Athletics Fun Day on the Friday – Hermione, Josh, Charlotte, Alisa and Cooper.



Te Reo Māori Phrase of the Week.

To increase the use of Te Reo Māori at Taitā Central School we are continuing our Te Reo Māori phrase of the week. All our Kaiako/teachers and Kaiawhina/Support staff are trying to make sure we use this phrase throughout the week. You may hear your tamariki using these phrases at home.

The phrase we have been using in Weeks 9 & 10 is...Nā wai tēnei? / Who does this belong to?

Community News

School Stationery Program

Many New Zealand schools and families cannot afford basic stationery for their children to learn at school, which is essential in preparing them for their future. **We have been fortunate to receive a grant of \$1000.00 towards the cost of school stationery for our ākonga for the 2026 school year through the Rapid Relief Fund.**

Once again Taita Central School with the help of this grant will be covering the cost of stationery.



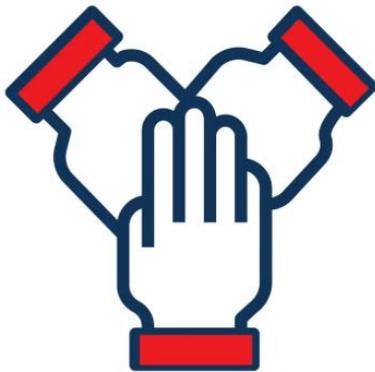
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hand.

Our Mission



To serve people with care & compassion in their time of need.

Our Vision



For the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church to express Christian principles of care and compassion, by way of benevolent relief to people in need

Our Values



Global Team | Community Care | Compassion | Consistency

<https://rrtglobal.org/nz/operations-appeals/school-stationery-program/>

Speed Limit Reversal around Schools

These changes are to comply with the Land Transport Rule that central government introduced in October 2024.

What to expect over summer

Taitā Central School is part of the first group that will get updated speed limit signage installed by our contractor Fulton Hogan in January 2026.

- Variable speed limits will be in place outside school gates and entrances for 150m in each direction from the school gate or access point.
- Speeds will be reduced to 30km/h during peak school travel times (before and after school), and 50km/h at all other times.
- Signage will look similar to the image below, with the times confirmed by your school earlier this year.



Find out more these changes, including a map showing where the variable speeds will be in place around your school, at hutt.city/schoolspeeds

You can expect the variable speed limit to be in place and active outside your school before term 1 starts in 2026.

Building the heart of Taitā - Pā Harakeke, outdoor classroom space, and outdoor learning area

Check out the plan and design proposals on our school website <https://www.taitacentral.school.nz/pa-harakeke-project/>



**TAITĀ CENTRAL
SCHOOL**

Home

About
Us

Our
People

News &
Events

Our
Learning

Contact
Us

Pa Harakeke
Project



Taitā Central School Pā Harakeke Project.

Building the heart of Taitā

Pā Harakeke, outdoor classroom space, and outdoor learning area

Landscape Architecture - LAND 321 / 2025 – Te Herenga Waka / Victoria University of Wellington

An inclusive landscape-based partnership

Click on this link to provide feedback on the design you like best or the best things to include in our Pā Harakeke - 93490.aidaform.com/building-the-heart-of-tait

Taitā Central School and the School of Architecture of Victoria University of Wellington have worked together to propose a joint project that delivers a Pā harakeke and outdoor teaching and learning areas. The concept of the project is to utilise the expertise of University staff and students within the School of Architecture to run a participatory project with the school community that embraces:

- Generation of concept designs with the School community.
- Selection of the favourite design/s by the community.
- Development of a consensus designs down to construction documentation.
- Implementation of the consensus design by the School with assistance from the University.

- Assessment of the impact of the implemented designs by the University.

Taitā Central School is committed to revitalising Te Reo me Tikanga Māori, including Mātauranga Māori, culture, values, traditions, and worldview into classroom programmes. In 2024, we introduced an Akomanga Māori class for Māori ākonga/students to learn more about their whakapapa, culture, traditions, Pūrakau/traditional stories, waiata/songs and mahi toi/art. In 2025 our ākonga/students in Pohutukawa Block many of whom participate in our Akomanga Māori class have been engaging with Victoria University students to lead this Pā Harakeke project.

Design principles

- *Enhance the School's outdoor space through a well-documented framework for small and feasible interventions that will be implemented over time, depending on the available resources.*
- *The design shall be for the tamariki/children, parents/whānau, staff, and the wider Taitā community.*
- *Increase culturally significant learning in an authentic context, reviving Māori Rongoa (medicinal), Tikanga (traditions, values), Kawa (protocol), and art (weaving) within the local community.*
- *Include environmental education and sustainability within the School's teaching and learning programmes.*
- *Empower the School's Values and Guiding Principles that were developed in consultation with ākonga/students, staff and parent community. Specifically: a) have fun when learning; b) be critical thinkers, ask questions, and reflect on learning; c) take risks when learning, make mistakes, and learn from them; d) be passionate, excited learners; e) be courageous, and never give up despite difficulties.*
- *Build positive community connections and strengthen the relationship between the School and the wider community.*
- *Incorporate the whole School community in the participatory design process, including relevant stakeholder groups; ākonga/students, teachers, teacher aides, parents, caregivers, whānau and aiga, Iwi and community members.*
- *Be informed by, and sensitive to local iwi traditions, stories, and aspirations. The School is committed to building close working relationships with Mana Whenua Ngāti Toa Rangātira and Te Āti Awa, and consultation with their representatives will be an important part of the design process.*

Whakatauki

“He iti hau marangai e tū te pāhokahoka”

“Just like a rainbow after a storm, success follows tough times”,

“Meri Kirihimete” and “ngā mihi o te wā”

Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings

Kia pai ngā hararei – have a great holiday!

Ngā mihi maioha - warm greetings

Whaea Shell / Michelle Picard and Taitā Central School Staff

Tel: 5677214

Taitā Central School – Te Kura O Nga Hau E Wha

Ako tahi Tātou, Tipu tahi Tātou – Together we Learn, Together we Grow

