

MOKOIA INTERMEDIATE NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 WEEK 1 | 5TH FEBRUARY 2026

WHAEA ALLY'S SHOUT OUT

He Mai Maketū ki Tongariro. He uri whakaheke tēnei nō te waka o Te Arawa, nō ngā hapū me ngā iwi o Tūhourangi Ngāti Wāhiao me Ngāti Tūwharetoa. Ko te Pākira te marae e tū ana ki Whakarewarewa, te manawa o Te Waiariki. Ko Whaea Ally tōku ingoa.



Tēnā kouotou katoa e te whānau,

On Monday, our pōhiri welcomed our new kaiako Matua Mokoia Huata, our new students and whānau, and marked the beginning of my role as Acting Principal for Term 1. It was a special moment that acknowledged new beginnings and reaffirmed the values of whanaungatanga and manaakitanga at the heart of our kura.

We warmly welcome our students and whānau to the 2026 school year at Mokoia Intermediate. Our staff have prepared with care to provide a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where every learner can thrive.

Strong home-school partnerships are central to success, and it was wonderful to see this at our Hello, Let's Grow - Whānau Introduction Day, with many whānau connecting with teachers to share aspirations for the year ahead.

This term, our focus is on Whanaungatanga and Manaakitanga, guided by the teachings of our tūpuna Hinemaru and Rangiuru, which remind us to learn together, care for one another, and keep our connections strong.

We also extend a warm welcome to Matua Mokoia and welcome back Whaea Kimberlee Fields. We thank our students and whānau for your trust and partnership as we look forward to a positive year of learning and growth together. We also thank our staff for the skills, knowledge, and experience they bring to our kura, and for the care and commitment they show our learners and whānau every day.

"Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi."

With your contribution and our contribution, everyone thrives.

We are Limitless. We are Passionate. We are Mokoia.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Whaea Ally



KEY DATES FOR TERM 1 2025

Term 1 Week 1

- Friday 6th February – Waitangi Day

Term 1 Week 3

- Noho Marae Week – Kaituna
- Monday 16th February – Board Hui
- Thursday 19th Friday 20th – Super 11 Cricket

Term 1 Week 4

- Monday 23rd February – School Swimming Sports

Term 1 Week 5

- Noho Marae Week – Waiteti

Term 1 Week 6

- Noho Marae Week – Puarenga
- Friday 13th March – Super 11 Tennis

Mokoia Whānau Calendar

A reminder to all our families that any information regarding upcoming school events is available on our Mokoia Whānau calendar. Please click the link below to view;

[Mokoia Whānau Calendar](#)

Term 1 Week 7

- Tuesday 17th March – Class Photos
- Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th March – Individual Photos
- Friday 20th March – Super 11 Swimming Sports

Term 1 Week 8

- **Monday 23rd March – Teacher Only Day**
- Wednesday 25th March – Sibling Photos

Term 1 Week 9

- Thursday 2nd April – Last Day of the term
- Friday 3rd April – Good Friday



HERO - Behaviour Reports

This year, minor behaviour reports will be reported directly to parents via Hero.

If your child is involved in a minor behaviour incident, the report will be shared directly with you. We have chosen to do this to make sure caregivers are kept in the loop and are able to work together with the school to address any potential behaviour concerns before they escalate. If you receive a behaviour report, you are able to comment and message the teachers involved.

If your child receives 10 incident reports, we will require an in-person hui with whanau. This hui will involve accessing additional support and making a behaviour plan/contract.

Major behaviours will still be dealt with in line with our normal processes. By working together, we will support our students to be their best.

Health & Safety at School

Parents and caregivers please remember that our school is a smoke free environment. This means no smoking or vaping on school grounds, including if you are in a car parked at school.

A reminder for all our school community that our driveway is closed to pedestrian traffic.

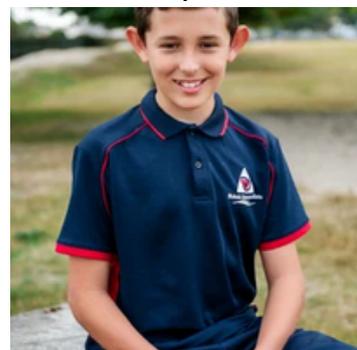
If you or your child are walking into school, please use the footpath on the Owhata School side of the basketball courts. Our driveway is narrow and busy; we want to keep everybody safe.

If you are visiting the school to see your child or their teacher, please remember to call in to the office and sign in. You will be issued a name tag so staff and students can identify you, and you will be logged so we can make sure you are accounted for in the case of an emergency.

When picking up students in the afternoon, please pull up to the front of the pick-up bays. This allows space behind you for other cars to pull in.

Special Shout Out

During the Christmas holidays, one of our students was publicly recognised for his exemplary behaviour and good deeds in the community. We would like to acknowledge Tyrone Yannikakis (K3) for being a great role model and displaying the Mokoia Way values. Ka rawe Tyrone.





Meet our Staff

Kāinga o Waengaehē

Whaea Ally Gibbons (Tumuaki - Principal)

Matua Dean (Tuarua Tumuaki - Deputy Principal)

Whaea Kathryn McMurdo (Tuarua Tumuaki - Deputy Principal)

Whaea Sue Rasdall (Office Manager)

Mrs Janet Du Fall (Executive Officer)

Mr Gareth Upston - Health and Physical Education Specialist Teacher

Mrs Heather Lind - Resource Manager/Librarian

Caretaker/Groundsman Mr Bert Hollis

Kāinga o Kaituna

K1 Matua Richie Year 8 supported by Whaea Cheyla Samuels

K2 **Whaea Tiare Davis Year 8 (Rangatira o Rumaki)** supported by Matua Hori Hapi

K3 **Whaea Jessica Gibbs Year 8 (Rangatira)** supported by Mrs Antonia Wright

K4 Matua Mokoia Huata supported by Whaea Donnella Mattock

K5 Whaea Casey Smith-Pope Year 7 supported by Whaea Anna Ranginui

K6 Whaea Hotu Monaghan Year 7

Kāinga o Puarenga

P1 Mr Gareth Upston and Matua Jireh MacFarlane-Roach supported by Whaea Alison Collins

P2 Whaea Deana Turner Year 7

P3 Mrs Toni Bockock Year 7 supported by Whaea Moana Hunter

P4 Mr Glen Law (Rangatira) Year 8 supported by Whaea Brooke Robins

Kāinga o Waiteti

W1 Whaea Kimberlee Fields Year 8 supported by Matua Renata Clarke

W2 Whaea Isabel Katene Year 8 supported by Whaea Christian Te Whare

W3 Whaea Annie Hutchison Year 7 supported by Whaea Ellen Leach

W4 Mrs Tineke O' Callaghan Year 7 (Rangatira) supported by Whaea Karyn Thaine

Kāinga o Utuhina - Technology/Art/Science/Food/Music

Whaea Lisa Te Whare (Rangatira) - Multi Media, Digital Technology and Science

Whaea Delina Dibben Food Technology

Whaea Fiona Wilcock - Nga Toi (Art)

Mr Jeremy Donnell - Hard Materials

Matua Jerome Namana - Music

Dental Clinic

Mrs Wendy Mitchell - Dental Therapist

Ms Sara Gardiner - Dental Assistant

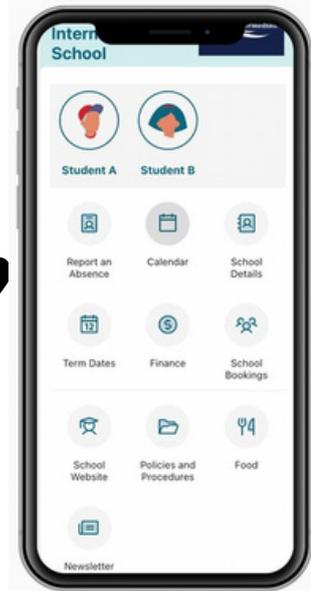
ABSENTEES

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, you have three ways to contact the school and let us know;

Phone directly into the school office - 07 345 9071

Send a text message to the school on 027 528 8910

Send a notification through the Hero app



DIGITAL DEVICES

- **What device?** - We do not specify any one device. I pads allow students to be creative with photo and film. Chrome books are more cost effective and as we only use online tools, will be all they need. Laptops have more grunt and storage capacity in a hard drive; each student has an online drive in our education domain. We do not install a mobile device management protocol or apps onto your child's device at this point. While we strongly recommend BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), we are aware that not all families can afford their own device, so we have a small supply that can be borrowed from the school library for one school block at a time.
- We cater for everything **as long as it has a screen over 20 cm and does not use data**. We concentrate on using digital applications that can be accessed on laptops, chrome books or tablets, iOS or Android.
- Your children will bring home a **Digital Device Responsible Use Agreement** which they have gone through with their teachers. **Please make sure you read the document and sign it**. Only then will your child be able to use their own or any school digital device.

Note - All student mobile phones MUST BE handed in to the office each morning!

Stationery

If you are still in the process of getting your child's stationery, packs are available from Bay Office Products Depot.





DIGITAL TOOLS - FOR STUDENT USE AND WHĀNAU COMMUNICATION

At Mokoia Intermediate our communication and reporting system is **Hero**, an online sharing platform with complementary smart app. Hero allows us to customise an online environment that enables teachers, students, and families to view and share content anytime, anywhere on any device. The software is secure, easy to use and brings together all school-related information in one place. By downloading the app you will be able to see your child's profile of achievements and posts. You will also be able to report an absence, have links to our school website, pita pit ordering and our newsletter. With Hero, you have the ability to:

- read and comment on posts relating to your child's learning
 - view information on your child's progress and goals,
 - read and comment on school notices sent to the class or groups your child is part of
 - respond to school notices such as surveys and trip permission requests
 - view school term dates
 - view a school calendar of events
 - notify the school if your child is absent or late
 - navigate to other school-related webpages
 - customise your account by adding a profile image
 - select how you wish to receive notifications
- Learning posts combined with curriculum information and goal-setting will form an online report designed to build year-on-year so that over time you will have access to written posts, images, video, work samples, and helpful resources all in one place.

Over the coming year, staff and students will be posting rich content to our Hero software.

At Mokoia Intermediate, we use a lot of digital tools, including online assessments. **Every student has a Google Drive where their work is stored.** We have an education domain which has more stringent parameters than a private Google account. Your child has an email address and password controlled by Whaea Kathryn, who also monitors all digital use.

Facebook - For up-to-date posts please look for the group **Mokoia Intermediate 2026**, and ask to join. This is a private group, access to which is controlled by the senior leadership team. No students currently at school are given access as Facebook is restricted to users 13 and over. We ask that you only post photos of students on the school group page. It is good practice to not post photos of other people's children. We also ask you to direct questions and concerns directly to the school and not post them here. This is a positive forum, and negative or inappropriate material will be declined or deleted.



Attendance - Every Day Matters

Regular school attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success. When students attend school consistently, they build learning routines, develop friendships, and make steady academic progress. Even small amounts of missed learning can add up over time and make it harder for students to keep up.

The Ministry of Education expects all schools to actively support regular attendance, and from this year we are implementing the Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) framework. This is a national approach that helps schools, families, and support agencies work together early when attendance begins to drop. Attendance is monitored closely and grouped into the following ranges:

- **Regular attendance:** 90% or higher

Students are attending well and engaging consistently in learning.

- **Irregular attendance:** 80-89%

This level of absence can start to affect learning. The school will make contact to check in and offer support.

- **Moderate absence:** 70-79%

At this stage, learning is significantly impacted. A more structured response is put in place, often involving meetings, plans, and additional support.

- **Chronic absence:** below 70%

Students missing this amount of school are at serious risk of falling behind. The school will work closely with families and may involve external agencies to support improved attendance.

What this means for families

The stepped approach is support-focused. Our goal is to:

- identify attendance concerns early
- understand barriers to attendance
- work in partnership with whānau to support students back into regular learning

We know that there are many genuine reasons why students may struggle to attend school, and we are committed to working alongside families to find solutions.

Our Plan

Our school's plan for how we are going to target attendance is on our school [website](#). Please take some time to read through it. The plan outlines the proactive steps the school will take to deal with the issue of truancy. If your child is experiencing challenges that affect attendance, please contact the school as early as possible. Strong communication between home and school makes a real difference.

You can help by:

- Contacting the school if your child is away and explain why. The explanation won't always justify the absence, but it helps to keep the school informed.
- Schedule non-vital appointments, e.g., haircuts, outside of school hours.
- Ask the school for help if you are struggling to get your child to school. Teamwork is key.

Currently, the school accepts the following as justified reasons for absence: sickness, specialist appointments, bereavement/tangi, external exams, and participation in representative sport.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping every student attend, engage, and succeed at school.