

Mangawhai Beach School

NEWSLETTER



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Principal's Soapbox

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you all had a relaxing and refreshing holiday break, especially those of you who spent some quality time with your children. Whether you travelled, rested, or simply enjoyed a slower pace, I trust it was a well-earned pause.

Well—today just happens to be my birthday, so happy birthday to me! 🎉 It's always a unique feeling kicking off a new term on your birthday, but what better way to celebrate than to be back with our amazing school community.

Welcome to Term 2! This term is a short one—just nine weeks—and with a few public holidays and a teacher-only day in the mix, we'll be jumping straight into learning from day one.

A very warm welcome to the new students and whānau who have joined our kura this term—it's wonderful to have you with us. We also extend a big welcome to our new teaching and support staff. We're thrilled to have you on board and hope your time with us is rewarding, inspiring, and full of great connections.

Our school roll now sits at 690, and it's exciting to see our community continuing to grow and thrive.

Let's make it a fantastic term ahead!

Expressions of Interest – 2026 Hinatore Classes

We are exploring the possibility of running three to four Hinatore classes (Māori bilingual) in 2026 and are seeking expressions of interest from whānau. The composition of these classes is still under discussion, and we are also considering including Year 7 and 8 students.

Students in Hinatore will continue learning literacy and mathematics following the NZ Curriculum within a Mātauranga Māori framework. **The curriculum instruction will be delivered 50% in English and 50% in te reo Māori.**

If you choose to enroll your child in one of these classes next year, this would be their main classroom for the entire 2026 school year. At this stage, we are collecting expressions of interest only. [LINK HERE](#)



IMPORTANT DATES:

29th April - FoMBS Meeting 7pm (staffroom) all welcome

30th Apr-Yr7/8 technology

1st May - Swimming Sports Awards Assemblies

5th May - Kapahaka group performing at Golf Club 10am

7th May-Yr7/8 Technology

7th May - Wā Whakatau (welcome to new staff, students/families)

9th May - Junior Gathering 9:30am

12th May - PAT tests start

13th May - PAT tests 2nd round

16th May - Pink Shirt Disco
Jnr (Yr0-4) 5pm-6pm,
Snr (Yr5-8) 6:15pm-7:15pm

19th May - BoT Meeting 6:30pm

19th May - PAT tests continue

30th May - **TEACHER ONLY DAY**

2nd Jun - Kings Birthday (school closed)

Uniform Standards: Can we please start term two with clean and unmarked uniform items. Whakaute (respect) is one of our CREW values and we would like parents and students to respect the uniform which ultimately respects our awesome school. We would prefer not to see tears and permanent marks on shirts and jackets. Please ensure all uniforms are named. Thank you.

DAILY TIMETABLE

8.55am-10:30am (Block 1)
10:30am-11:00am (Interval)
11:00am-12:30pm (Block 2)
12:30pm-1:15pm (Lunch)
1:15pm-2:45pm (Block 3)

2025 Term Dates:

4th Feb - 11th Apr
28th Apr - 27th Jun
14th Jul - 19th Sep
6th Oct - 17th Dec

Why Handwriting Still Matters – And How We Support It at MBS

Handwriting isn't just about neatness—it's a powerful brain-building tool. Research shows that writing by hand activates areas of the brain linked to memory, understanding, and learning. Compared to typing, handwriting helps students better process and retain information, supports reading development, and improves written expression.

At **Mangawhai Beach School**, we take handwriting seriously. It's a key part of our daily learning routine, with **explicit, structured handwriting instruction across all year levels**. Here's how we do it:

- ◆ **Daily Practice** – Every class dedicates 10 minutes each day to focused handwriting.
- ◆ **Modelling** – Teachers clearly model letter formation and support correct pencil grip and posture.
- ◆ **Formation Progression** – We teach letters in groups based on how they're formed, building muscle memory from the start.
- ◆ **Flicks and Cursive** – Flicks are introduced from Year 3, with full **cursive writing** taught from Years 4–8.
- ◆ **The Write Lesson** – From Year 4 up, students follow *The Write Lesson* programme, a video-based resource with over 2,000 lessons, ensuring consistency and quality instruction.
- ◆ **Keyboard Skills** – From Year 5, we also begin developing typing skills alongside handwriting.

Our aim is to help every student develop fluency and confidence in writing—supporting both their academic success and long-term learning. Pen and paper still matter—and at MBS, we're proud to keep them part of our everyday toolkit. 🖋️



A Huge Thank You!

We'd like to extend a big thank you to Landscape Cartel for generously topping up our vege garden soil—and for spreading it all for us, completely free of charge. Your support helps keep our gardens thriving, and we truly appreciate your mahi. We love your work!

A special shout-out also goes to Che from Aotearoa Surf for replanting the large pots at the front of our school with beautiful pōhutukawa trees. They look fantastic and will be a stunning feature for years to come. Ngā mihi nui, Che—cheers for your continued support!

Swimming Sports Awards Assemblies

We will be holding special assemblies throughout the year to celebrate students' successes in school competitions. These will be run in junior, middle and senior teams and advertised on HERO, our school newsletter and Facebook. We warmly invite you to our swimming sports assemblies, where we will present students with their placing certificates and trophies.



Seniors (years 6-8) Thursday May 1st 1.25pm

Middles (years 3-5) Thursday May 1st 2.10pm

As we return to school we would like to remind parents who pick up their children: Do not block neighbours driveways or park on neighbouring grass verges. Watch your speed around school and nearby roads before and after school.

Nga mihi nui

Aaron Kemp/Emma Grieve

Principal/Deputy Principal



🌸 PINK SHIRT DAY DISCO – FRIDAY 16TH MAY 🌸

On Friday the 16th of May, we're celebrating Pink Shirt Day! Students are encouraged to wear anything pink to support kindness and anti-bullying (no hair dye please – wigs and accessories are fine).

🏆 Student leaders will judge best dressed and best class, with winners announced at our next assembly.

🟪 Junior (Years 1–4): 5:00–5:45pm – Koha entry (parents must stay)

🟡 Senior (Years 5–8): 6:00–7:00pm – Koha entry

Come dressed in your pinkest and ready to dance! There will be lollies, glow sticks and other treats for sale.

Our Vision: Engaged and diverse learners connected to our community and values

COMMUNITY NOTICES



OSCAR approved
Ka Pai Butterfly 
BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL, AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES.

Location: At MBS, upstairs in recreation centre.
Availability: Every school day.

*AFTERNOON TEA, HOMEWORK COMPLETED,
THEN ACTIVITIES &/OR FREE PLAY.*

For further information please contact Anita on
021 330 191 or at anita@royalgoverness.com



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