



# HOROTIU SCHOOL

Te Kura o Horotiu

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[www.horotiu.school.nz](http://www.horotiu.school.nz)

## SAVE THE DATES!

### 2026 Term Dates:

Term 1: Monday 2 Feb - Thursday 2 April  
Term 2: Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July  
Term 3: Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September  
Term 4: Monday 12 October - Monday 14 December

### Assemblies for Term 1: (1:45 - 2:30pm)

Friday 13th February - Pohutukawa hosting  
Friday 27th February - Kawakawa 4  
Friday 13th March - Koromiko Rua  
Friday 2 April - Harakeke  
Friday 24 April - ANZAC Special Assembly  
(Term 2)

### Get Set Go Day - Year 3/4 Sports @ Horotiu

- Thursday 19th February

### School Swimming Sports

- Wednesday 11 March  
(postponement day Thursday 12th)
- Senior Sports at the Ngaruawahia Pools  
8.50am - 2pm
- Junior Swimming Display held in the  
Horotiu School Pool 1pm - 2.30pm

### Interschool Swimming Sports @ St Paul's

#### Collegiate

- Tuesday 24 March (no postponement day)

### Waka Kopapa Regatta - School Race Day

- Friday 20 March TBC

### Horotiu School Gala Meeting:

- Wednesday 17 February  
2.30pm in the school staffroom.

### Horotiu School Gala:

- Sunday 29th March 9am-1pm  
We'd love as many families  
to help out on the day as  
possible please as we  
strive together for success :)

### Teacher Only Days for 2026:

- Friday 29 May
- Friday 7 August



## Panui/ Newsletter: February 2026

### Principal's Message! *A Note from Jo:*

Kia ora e te whaanau,

Welcome back! We hope the summer break brought rest, sunshine, and a few good memories tucked away for later.

It has been wonderful to see tamariki back on site — smiles wide, reunions loud, and a real sense of excitement settling in quickly. Our Meet the Teacher afternoon on Thursday was a great way for whaanau, aakonga, and staff to reconnect, with classrooms buzzing and activities setting the tone for learning together - and don't forget the ice cream truck!

Tamariki have made a strong start and are already forming positive, engaged learning teams within their classes. We officially welcomed Whaea Sarah Collins (who has taken the reins in Harakeke with the Year 3s) and Miss Jaimee Swindells (who has the Year 1s in Koromiko Tahi) at our pōwhiri on the first Monday, along with the cohort of 10 new entrants.

Over the summer break, there has been some huge progress across our school property, and it has been fantastic to see tamariki enjoy these upgraded spaces. This includes major roofing work, refreshed outdoor carpet and deck areas, and the exciting transformation of Tiitoki into a modernised, welcoming learning space. We are also pleased to be back in single-cell classrooms, providing clarity, consistency, and calm learning environments for our aakonga. These improvements support both learning and wellbeing — and they look pretty sharp too.

As always, we remain committed to supporting every child's personal growth, learning journey, and highest possible achievement.

Thank you for the partnership you bring — when school and whaanau work together, good things happen.

Ngaa mihi nui, Jo

## Notices:

### Save the Date Please: Horotiu School’s Annual Gala: Sunday 29th March 9am-1pm

It’s that time of year again when we need to start planning for our major fundraising event of the year, our Annual School Gala. The date for this is set down for Sunday 29th March, 9am-1pm (please note this in your diary and underline it ).

Later in the term we will be calling on all Horotiu School families to join our school staff to help make the day a success. And as the saying goes, more hands make light work and it really is a fun and fantastic day when everything goes to plan.

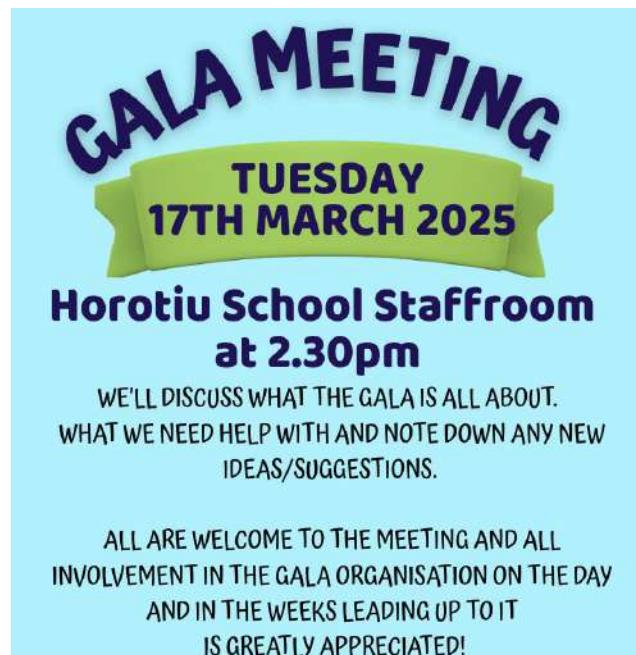
To get us started right now though, we would appreciate anyone keen to be involved with the planning group to **please attend our initial Gala Planning Meeting in the staffroom on Tuesday 17th February at 2.30pm**. We will discuss how the Gala works, what we need help with and note down any new ideas/suggestions. All are welcome to the meeting and all involvement in the Gala organisation on the day and in the weeks leading up to it, is greatly appreciated!

For anyone wishing to help get the word out into the community about our Gala, feel free to drop into the office and collect some Horotiu School Gala posters and/or share the [Horotiu School Gala Facebook](#) page with friends and family.

## Safety at the School Gates:

With everyone keen to get back to school, our car park can be a very busy and well-used place. With the paramount safety of our students at the heart, we ask that you follow these guidelines and help to keep all students, staff and whaanau safe at the gate.

Our priority is to ensure that students and whaanau are safe, and everyone in striving together for success is responsible for this.



## What We've Been Up To:

### Fire Drill Practice

We recently ran a fire drill which went to plan with everyone doing a great job of making their way to our Emergency Meeting Area in a sensible and timely manner. Well done one and all!

### Meet the Teacher/Whaanau Picnic Day - A Huge Success!

Our Meet the Teacher/Whaanau Picnic Day that took place on Thursday 5th February was a great day for all involved. It was great to be able to catch up with family in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. The weather played the game, bring the summer feel and we are grateful to Journey Kids for providing Mr Whippy icecreams for students and adults alike and to Captain Castles, for providing the bouncy castles once again. How lucky our kids are to be supported by such a community.



### Coming Up:

### Year 3/4 ‘Get Set Go Day’: Thursday 19th February

Our House Captains and senior leaders are currently planning to host the upcoming Interschool ‘Get Set Go Day for Year 3/4 students. We will be welcoming students from Whatawhata, Waitetuna, Raglan Area School, Rotokauri and Te Uku Schools for from 9.45-1.15pm.



During this time the Year 3/4 teams will engage in a rotation of activities designed to get them mix and mingling with students from other schools through fun, physical games and activities. This is the first of the interschool events for the year and is particularly important as our Year 3/4 students really start to participate in regular sporting and cultural events.

This will also be one of the first events that our senior school leaders have the responsibility for planning and hosting this year. As part of the day, Maanuka will be running a fundraiser - look out for information about ordering your child’s lunch on that day. This is schoolwide, not only those involved in the Year 3/4 event.

We know our students will enjoy the day and really shine as they host their interschool peers. Whaanau are welcome to come along and support on the day.

### Year 7 and Year 8 Immunisations

The Year 7 and 8 immunisations for Diphteria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough (Boostrix) and HPV (Human Papillomavirus) will be undertaken during Term 1.

Consent forms will be sent home with every Year 7 and 8 student for their relevant immunisation. There is a provision on the form for your non-consent should you wish for that. Every form must be completed and returned to the school, regardless of whether your child has consent for the immunisation or doesn’t.

As part of this programme, DVD video screening will be shown to our Year 7 & 8 students. If you do not want your child to view the DVDs, please let Whaea Antonia know so your child can be excused. - Kind regards, Barbara Phillips-Walters (Public Health Nurse).

## Attendance Update: Important - Please Read

We are excited to see the increase in regular attendance of our students here at school. We are currently exceeding the Ministry of Education's attendance goal and of course, want to also have children here as often as possible. Keep up the good work parents, regular attendance makes such a difference for your children's learning and social development.

As noted by the Ministry of Education, there's a clear connection between going to school regularly and doing well in the classroom. Higher levels of educational achievement can mean better health, higher incomes, better job stability, and more participation in communities. This all makes society stronger and more connected.

Students aged 6 to 16 years old (and enrolled 5-year-olds) are required to attend school every day. It's everyone's responsibility to make sure children attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

It's important for schools and kura, parents and whānau | families, iwi, hapū, communities, and government agencies to work together to support and make sure students are attending school regularly. Regular attendance means the student is present for more than 90% of the term.

From Term 1 2026 all state and state-integrated schools in New Zealand are required to implement an Attendance Management Plan. These plans aim to improve student attendance by providing clear pathways to identify and address student absences.

As part of this, student data is automatically colour-coded in our system according to thresholds based on Ministry-set attendance criteria across each school term. These thresholds are (days absent in a term):

Green: Up to 4.5 days

Yellow: 5 to 9.5 days

Orange: 10 to 14.5 days

Red: 15+ days

All yellow, orange and red thresholds require a stepped follow-up response and/or intervention by our school (ie home school conversations, written communication, attendance plan and/or referral, etc) which is monitored by the Ministry of Education. Communication between home and school is paramount as we look to minimise and eliminate barriers for students in attending school. Please ensure student absences are reported to the office and that school absences are necessary.



We love working alongside your children and appreciate the effort you put in to getting them here to school regularly!

# HOROTIU SCHOOL GALA

**SUNDAY  
29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026  
9AM - 1 PM**

- QUICK FIRE RAFFLES •
- RIDES • SILENT AUCTIONS •
- MYSTERY ENVELOPES • GAMES •
- KAPA HAKA •
- SAUSAGE SIZZLE & KAI •
- STALLS • BOUNCY CASTLES •
- CHAIROPLANE  
& MORE! •

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

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**Contacts:** For bookings and last minute bookings: [bookings@journeykids.co.nz](mailto:bookings@journeykids.co.nz)

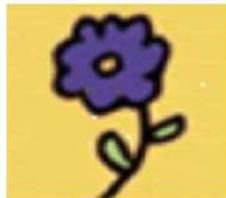
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For general Enquiries: [admin@journeykids.co.nz](mailto:admin@journeykids.co.nz)



## Looking for a Playcentre?



Did you know on the Horotiu School site we also have Horotiu Playcentre? They provide early childhood education sessions where the caregivers are the first educators with the playcentre philosophy of child initiated play. Watch your child develop and gain great life skills and friendship, through positive guidance. We also provide free adult education, whanau cooperative and above all fun.

Birth - School Age

Multiple Sessions throughout the week

9.00 am - 12 noon

3 FREE Visits, under 2's FREE  
Spaces Available Now!

For more information

Horotiu Playcentre Facebook Page  
Email: [horotiu@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:horotiu@playcentre.org.nz)



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