



SAVE THE DATES!

2026 Term Dates:

Term 4: Monday 12 October - Monday 14 December

TERM 3:

Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori:

- Monday 14th - Sunday 20th September
- Friday 18th September: Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori Showcase 1.15pm in the Hall.
- This will be followed by a brief showcase of our Year 7/8 programme.

School Ag Day:

- Wednesday 23rd September
- Bucket Potatoes tipped and counted @school

School Reports Home and Last Day of Term 3

- Friday 25th September

TERM 4:

Pōwhiri:

- Monday 12th October 9.15am

Y7/8 Technology:

- Tuesday 13th-Friday 16th October

Flower Show:

- Monday 19th October (note change of date from Week 1 to Week 2, Term 4).

Kapa Haka Festival Hosted by Whatawhata School:

- Thursday 22nd October

Labour Day - No School

- Monday 26th October

School Athletics:

- Thursday 5th November

Interschool Athletics:

- Friday 20th November

Schoolwide Class Transition Day:

- Thursday 3rd December

Year 8 Dinner

- Monday 8 December

Whole School Service Awards

Thursday 10 December 11am

Whole School Prizegiving:

Thursday 10 December (evening)



Panui/ Newsletter: September 2026

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

Kia ora Horotiu whaanau,

The spring blossoms are out, the days are getting longer, and there is a real sense of new growth around our school. It is always a lovely time of year at Horotiu — although the warmer afternoons can make everyone a little more ready for the holidays!

School reports will come home on the final day of term. These provide a clear picture of each child's current achievement, the progress they have made and the next steps that will guide their learning for the remainder of the year.

We are also proud that Horotiu School is a great place for students to continue their journey through Years 7 and 8. Our senior students are known, supported and challenged, while enjoying opportunities to lead, mentor younger tamariki, represent the school, participate in sport, kapa haka, camps and EOTC, and take increasing responsibility for their learning.

Remaining at Horotiu gives students the best of both worlds: greater independence and preparation for secondary school, while still being part of a close-knit environment where they are genuinely known. At Friday's Showcase, our Year 7 and 8 students will share more about the experiences and opportunities available through our intermediate pathway.

Thank you for your continued support throughout another busy and productive term. We hope everyone enjoys a safe and refreshing break.

Ngaa mihi,

Jo

Notices:

Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori Showcase:

On Friday 18th September our students from all across the school will bring their learning to life through performances that celebrate Te Reo Maaori. This will take place from 1.15-2.30pm in our school hall. We hope you are able to come along a little earlier that day and support and celebrate alongside our students.

Year 7/8 Programme and Experience:

At the end of the Te Wiki O Te Reo Maaori Showcase, our senior team will talk briefly about the Year 7/8 Programme we run here at Horotiu School. There's some great work going on and we'd love for everyone to know about it, regardless of your child(ren)'s age. This will give you some insight as to what we offer here for our students before their transition to High School.



Yummy Stickers: Due in by the End of Term please

Just a reminder to keep those Yummy Stickers from bags of apples coming in. Every sticker converts to sports points of which we can purchase more sports gear for our school. Try and help us get in as many as we go by the end of term. Thank you!

Notes from the Office Admin Team: Visiting Us? Don't Forget to Stop by the Office:

We love having our whaanau and visitors at School! If you're visiting us during the school day, arriving late, or picking your child up early, please pop into the school office to sign in and out. Keeping our sign-in log updated helps us ensure everyone is safe and accounted for. Thank you for helping keep our school whaanau safe!

Update Your Contact Details Please

Have you moved house? Got a new phone number? Have circumstances changed? It's a timely reminder to let us know if your contact details need updating. Please email the office@horotiu.school.nz with your new information if this is the case.

Absence Reminder:

There's a lot going on for whaanau at this time of year. Please ensure that you let our Office Admin team know if your child(ren) is going to be away and for what reason. If no reason is given, the computer system automatically notes this as 'T' for Truant. We know this is not the case for many families. Your help in ensuring student absences is coded correctly, is important & appreciated.



Around the Rooms:



Harakeke 1 - New Entrants: Our Newest Classroom and Learners

Harakeke 1 are becoming confident with their letter formation and sounds. They are practising everywhere! They practise with chalk on the footpath, up in the air, on each other's backs and in their books. Sounding out letters is helping them build words and write fantastic stories. They have been busy rehearsing waiata for the Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori Showcase and cannot wait to perform for everyone! Their bean and pea seeds they planted for Ag Day are shooting up so high already. We cannot believe how tall some have grown.



Tiitoki

Tiitoki have been doing lots of Mathematics talking about odd and even numbers. We enjoyed doing some art work on Daffodil day. We also had a class disco because we got our 50 Dojo points for hard work and good behaviour. In PhysEd we have been doing gymnastics.



Koromiko Tahī

What a busy Term Koromiko Tahī have had! We have been working hard on learning our Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori Showcase performance. To celebrate Daffodil Day we made our very own Daffodil art and created a sunset background. Tamariki are so proud of their mahi.

For PE we have been focusing on gymnastics, balancing, pencil rolls, forward rolls and jumps. It has been wonderful to see the progress over the term!



Around the Rooms:

Koromiko Rua - Year 2



In Koromiko Rua, we have had an active few weeks preparing for our upcoming Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori performance by practicing our waiata and to build up our stage confidence. In class, students are strengthening their descriptive writing skills, moving into character descriptions. Meanwhile, in PE, we have successfully wrapped up our gymnastics unit focused on balance and core strength and are now moving straight into skipping to build coordination and endurance.



Harakeke - Year 3



Welcome to September! Harakeke 3 has been diving into the fascinating world of bugs and beetles, discovering just how vital they are to our ecosystem. We even learned a new word: *entomophagists* (en-toe-mof-fa-jists)—people who eat insects as part of their daily diet! While some brave students tried dried crickets last term, none of us are ready to become full-time entomophagists just yet. However, we did design our own creative "Bug Menus," featuring delicacies like Worm Noodle Soup, Bugbix Slice, and Cricket Crumble. Did you know that while New Zealand has fewer than 10 edible insect species, some countries have over 300?

In art, we are currently creating magnified garden scenes focusing on detailed insects. You can also admire our beautiful handmade daffodils displayed in Harakeke 3's front window, bringing a bright touch of spring to our room. Meanwhile, in maths, we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes, using nets to construct 3D models.

In Te Reo Maaori we have been continuing our learning around New Zealand manu and can't wait to share the song *E Rima Ngaa Manu* at the showcase next week.



Around the Rooms:



Kawakawa 4 - Year 4

Kia ora e te whaanau,

Lots of different learning happening in Kawakawa 4! We have been primarily focusing on our upcoming Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori Showcase performance, where tamariki are learning a new waiata-aa-ringa (action song), poi and haka. They are nervous but excited to share their hard mahi with you all! As a reminder for our performance day, please ensure boys wear a black t-shirt and black shorts, and girls wear a black t-shirt paired with either a below the knee skirt or black tights.

In between rehearsals, we have also been diving into Civics and Society; learning about how democracy and elections work, and even held our very own classroom election!



Kawakawa 5 - Year 5



In Kawakawa 5, we have been learning about rules and laws—exploring what they have in common and how they differ. We shared this learning with the rest of the school at a recent assembly by turning our knowledge into an interactive game show so that students, staff, and whānau could all participate and learn alongside us.

We continue to work hard and celebrate our successes as we make progress across all areas of the curriculum. Students have recently completed a range of assessments, giving them a wonderful opportunity to see their own growth firsthand. Alongside this, we enjoyed learning about Daffodil Day and creating art to display around the room.

Our focus now shifts to the upcoming Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori Showcase. The students voted to perform a play/skit, and a small group of students has stepped up to take on the roles of director, narrator, and art director, with my support as their teacher. They have selected their own cast and assigned roles, and I look forward to seeing it all come together. They are such a talented and creative group!



Around the Rooms:

Pohutukawa - Year 6



Seedling World Cup: A Mathematical Side Quest!



What started as an Ag Day plant competition has officially turned into a hands-on math adventure! With our current focus on decimals and place value, daily seedling checks have become a lively measurement lab where students are putting their skills into action:

- **Measuring Decimals:** Tracking stem growth using rulers to compare precise lengths like **3.4 cm** and **3.8 cm**.
- **Addition in Action:** Adding two- and three-digit numbers to calculate total accumulated stem lengths for their team stadium totals.
- **Data Tracking:** Recording growth stats and calculating daily differences to see whose plant is surging ahead.

It turns out cheering on tiny sprouts is the ultimate way to make decimals and addition click!



Maanuka - Year 7 & 8

Maanuka tamariki have been learning Ultimate Frisbee with Tony from Waikato Ultimate. Ultimate is unique because the sport is self-officiated, governed by the 'Spirit of the Game'—a principle written directly into the rules. Players are responsible for adhering to and overseeing the rules themselves, a tradition of sportsmanship that places the responsibility for fair play entirely on the players rather than external referees. Selected students who have demonstrated a keen interest in the sport and shown great 'spirit' while playing will attend an Ultimate Frisbee tournament in Term 4.

In the classroom, we are moving from adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions to working with decimal numbers. Students will learn to recognise and convert fractions to decimals and vice versa, as well as calculate with decimals across all four operations. We have also integrated our Te Reo Maaori programme with Digitech. Tamariki are enjoying creating animated videos using voiceovers and speech bubbles in both Te Reo Maaori and English. Be sure to come to the Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori Showcase on Friday to check out some of their cool creations! Some of our talented tamariki also helped some younger tamariki learn the ins and outs of using Scratch to make animations. Ka mau te wehi!



Gold for Cruz!

We recently heard exciting news that Cruz, one of our Year 5 students, won gold at the 2026 "Xiang Shang" Kung-Fu Wushu New Zealand National Championship

A year ago, Cruz set himself a goal — to become a National Champion in Sanda (Chinese Kickboxing). He achieved Gold at Regionals in Wellington, then set his sights on Nationals. With dedication, resilience and training 5 days a week, he made that goal a reality.

Along the way, Cruz has also supported and trained the younger youth and newcomers at his dojo, becoming a little role model to his SBK whānau. A goal set, a year of hard work and now a National Champion. Congratulations Cruz on this great achievement. We are very proud of you!



Maths At Home

We are really excited to see how well our students in general are progressing in class with their maths. A lot of hard work has been put in by the teachers and students alike. If you are wanting to work on Maths at home with your child/ren there are a few things you could do:

- 1: Everyday Maths: cooking, budgeting, counting money and measuring.
- 2: Online Maths Practice for your child's year level via the Ministry of Education website.
Here is the link: [Maths Practice](#)
3. Request a MNP workbook by emailing m.parker@horotiu.school.nz.

Due to the NZ Maths Curriculum changes, a new edition of Maths No Problem workbooks will be printed for 2027. This means we have some 2026 workbooks that we can't use next year. If you would like a workbook to use at home please let Megan know. These will be a year below where your child is at so it is more achievable to work through at home and to reduce repetition for the students. This is a first in first served basis.

Friends of Horotiu - Fundraising Group Hui - Tuesday 22nd September - 2:30pm

Calling all parents, whānau & community members! We're looking for a small group of enthusiastic parents, whānau and community members who would like to help coordinate and run fundraising activities for our school in 2027 and beyond. What's involved? Helping organise and support fundraising events and activities that benefit our tamariki and our school community. You don't have to do it alone! Board member Victoria Apiata will help get things moving and support the group along the way. [Click here to sign up to be a part of this.](#)

FIRST MEETING INFO: Tuesday 22nd September at 2.30pm in the School Staffroom

This first meeting is simply an opportunity to come along, hear more, share ideas and see what interest there is.

If you've ever thought, "I'd love to help, but I'm not sure where to start" — this could be for you! Come along and be part of Friends of Horotiu! Together, we can make a difference for our school and our tamariki.

Enrolments for 2027 Year:

It's that time of year when we are planning ahead for next year's classes. If you have a younger sibling expected to start that we don't already know about or your whānau are moving out of the area and/or your child(ren) is not returning to Horotiu School in 2027, please let us know. This will help in planning for staffing and placement options for the coming year.



JOURNEY KIDS

28TH SEPTEMBER - 2ND OCTOBER 2026

WEEK 1



MONDAY

\$59.99

Crystal Growing and Kite Making

Join our fascinating world of crystals and kites! We'll construct and fly our own kites to take home, and grow our own crystals from scratch. Watch with wonder as they transform before your eyes!



TUESDAY

\$59.99

Country HO-DOWN and Candyfloss

Line dancing, egg and spoon and three-legged races, marble competitions and more! Saddle up for a day of country western fun, with a candyfloss machine to boot!



WEDNESDAY

\$59.99

Masterchef: Sweet baking & Apron Decorating

Calling all budding chefs! We'll bake delicious treats, decorate aprons to take home, and even shake our own butter! A day not to be missed.

THURSDAY

\$59.99

Retro and Karaoke Day

Travel back in time to the 80's/90's, for jump elastics, shrinky dinks and karaoke singstar style. Then we'll enjoy rainbow sherbert and fruit jellies for dessert! Sure to inspire nostalgia among parents!



IN DAY OR

FRIDAY

\$59.99

OOSHIES and Pacifica Day

Join the OOSHIES CRAZE for a day! OOSHIES trading, modelling with clay, and colouring in competitions. All this plus a Pacifica day, where we will make our own flax skirts and walk on "cold coals".



OUT DAY

\$99.99

Hamilton Zoo

Come along to visit all of the wonderful animals at Hamilton Zoo, from rhinos to cheetahs! Which land mammal has the largest eye? Learn this and many more fun animal facts!

5TH - 9TH OCTOBER 2026

WEEK 2



MONDAY

\$59.99

Pokemon Day and Magical Storytelling

An essential day for those with an imagination! A diverse range of pokemon activities (think baking, art and more), plus a visit from a Magical Storyteller. Come on the journey to a fantastical world.



TUESDAY

\$59.99

Pirates and Piñatas

A treasure hunt, walking the plank, pirate ship building and pinata making! Aye me hearties, it'll be a day of fun. Prizes for the best dressed swashbucklers and scallywags.



OR

OUT DAY

\$129.99

Mini Golf with Rabbits plus Exploding Geysers!

Board the bus and be transported to a mystical land, with mini golf, lights, bubbles and fluffy rabbits! Then travel on to a Geothermal Tour, with geysers and boiling mud. A day of adventure if there ever was one.

WEDNESDAY

\$59.99

Toy trade and Unicorn or Alien Slime Day

Dust off any toys your kids haven't played with for a while, and send them along to be traded for something novel! We'll set up toy stalls so the kids can "shop" for something new. Then never-fail unicorn and alien glitter slime for a sensory science challenge!



THURSDAY

\$59.99

Native Birds and Ninja Games

Twit-twoo, have you ever noticed the incredible feathered friends outside your window?! Today we will explore the fascinating world of birds, creating our own bird feeders and watercolour painting the birds we observe. We will also become ninjas, making ninja masks and completing master challenges!



FRIDAY

\$59.99

Artic Day and Bongo Play

Come in from the cold, for a polar bear hot chocolate and igloo building! We will also make our own bongo drums, learning all about sound generation through experimentation. A day to delight the senses!



To book please head to www.journeykids.co.nz & click **BOOK NOW** and select HOROTIU SCHOOL before booking. We are WINZ registered and OSCAR SUBSIDY supported. Children must bring their own lunch and snacks.

Programme Run time: 7:30am - 5:30pm

Programme location: HOROTIU School

Phone Number: 0273033493



JOURNEY KIDS

Journey Kids: Premium Before & After School Care for your children

Journey Kids has one goal - extraordinary care! Our team are made up of former teachers, professionals in the childcare industry and most importantly, parents. We assist schools with our extensive curriculum knowledge and childcare experience culminating to deliver the most diverse service offerings to the children in our care.

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Contacts: For bookings and last minute bookings: bookings@journeykids.co.nz

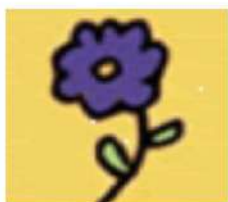
For OSCAR subsidy applications and queries: OSCAR@journeykids.co.nz

For account and invoice queries: accounts@journeykids.co.nz

For general Enquiries: 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 you 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



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Phone: 0212020269

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We look forward to seeing you soon!

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