



# NEWSLETTER



## Tumuaki Pānui

Kia ora e te whānau,

**Thank you.** We were very proud of our Kapa Haka as they opened the Newtown Festival last Sunday. They were fantastic. Thank you to all those who came to support them and the kaiako who prepared them for their performance. The festival is a special time; it was a great time to see other families from our kura and enjoy the sunshine.

**Welcome.** This week we have welcomed Dorothy and Marek who are training to become teachers. It is always a privilege to be part of developing new people into our profession. There is so much to learn about relationships, curriculum, systems and self.

**Speaking up.** Each week we receive information from organisations connected with education to keep us up to date with changes within the sector. This is a challenging and important part of working in a profession. Our role is firstly to read to be informed, to reflect on the impact this may have and then consider the necessary responses either in reply or within the kura. Two examples of this in this newsletter is the proposed change to resource teachers of Literacy and resource teachers of Māori and attendance.

It is often difficult to fully forecast the impact this may have on our students and our community but we try to do so. In this current political climate of change within education, we find we need to read more carefully, reflect more collaboratively and thoughtfully and then weave our way through a variety of responses.

**Road Patrol.** Next week encourage the year six students who are our road patrollers. Road patrol is a privilege that helps to keep our community, especially our young children, safe as we cross the road. It helps our students to show and grow their leadership as seniors. Help us look after them by following their safety instructions.

**Parenting tip.** We are often asked for ideas for the best ways to support your children. Ask them to practise ways of showing inclusion. We know you all want your children to be known as kind and caring. Help them to name their own actions and words and to always choose to be friendly and kind.

Thank you for your support for your tamariki and our community.

Kia pai

Ngā mihi nui,  
Whaea Nicki  
Tumuaki | Principal

WHĀNAUNGATANGA  
CONNECTED

He iwi tahi tātou, he ako tahi tātou  
We belong and we learn together

## Important dates

- 10 March to 4 April - Bee Healthy Dental Van onsite
- 16 March - Weetbix Tryathalon
- 3 April - Cross Country
- 11 April - Last Day of Term 1
- 28 April - First Day of Term 2
- 2 June - Kings Birthday - Public Holiday (School closed)
- 3 June - Staff only Day (School Closed)
- 27 June - Last Day of Term 2

## Welcome to our new students

- Ayaan Uillas
- Aya Alnader
- Viva Colwell
- Brahn Sipahioglu
- Nha Ky Phan
- Tram Anh Pham

## Attendance

It is really important that all children attend school every day unless they are sick. Every day attendance increases learning. **If your child is going to be away please call or email us.**

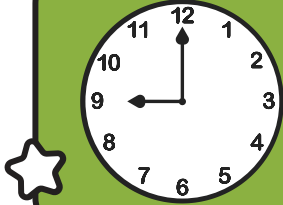


04 389 6667



away@newtown.school.nz

## School Notices



### ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL

We have noticed an increase in late arrivals. Please aim to have your students at school by **8:40am ready in class by 8.55am.**

## NEW ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS



*We enjoy learning with your tamariki!*

*We want all learners to be at school every day. The government has set a goal for 80% of students to be at school 90% of the time. This is being monitored every day by teachers, leadership and then termly by the Ministry of Education. We receive frequent reports on attendance that we must respond to.*

As a school we are required to code all attendance and these attendance codes are designed to support schools to distinguish between presence, justified absence and unjustified absence. To help you understand how we are required to code your child's attendance, we are guided by and limited to the following:

A child is present if they;

- are at kura or at alternative learning
- arrive late to class within school
- go to an appointment and return to school

A student is justifiably absent if they;

- are ill/unwell
- the school principal has approved their absence
- have been formally stood down or suspended

A student is unjustifiably absent if;

- school doesn't know why they are away
- they are taking a holiday during term time
- their absence is explained but not approved by the principal.

*A recent government change.*

We understand that a number of whānau in our community come from other countries around the world or places within New Zealand and at times are called home.

The school has the ability to justify the absence during term time to a maximum of 5 days following notification and approval of the principal prior to the absence. After these 5 days of justified absence, unfortunately the absence will have to be coded as unjustified and considered a holiday during term time.

**For all absences please contact the school on [away@newtown.school.nz](mailto:away@newtown.school.nz) or phone 04 389 6667**

KIA NGĀKAU HIHIRI  
CURIOUS Ka miharo, ka tūpono, ka auaha tātou.  
We wonder, take risks and innovate

# Resource Teachers of Literacy and Māori

*Resource teachers of Literacy and Māori*

*Recently, we received an email from Erica Stanford to say that she is looking at removing Resource Teachers of Literacy (RTLit) and Te Ao Māori Resource Teachers of Learning (RTM) from kura all across the country.*



We are fortunate to have had Whaea Hine (resource teacher of Māori) as part of our Newtown whānau and staff for many years. She supports kura who are kaupapa Māori in our part of the city. It is impossible to measure the impact a person in this role can have for many tamariki. Her Impact on the learning of many students across the years is significant. She has guided, inspired and supported our whole kura growth and use of Te Reo Māori. We know, and research shows, that tamariki Māori succeed best in kaupapa Māori kura. RTM provide a key role in supporting tamariki in this success. We do not want this role to be removed.



We also are fortunate to have Resource Teacher of Literacy Jenny Curtis as part of our Newtown whānau and staff. She has worked in our kura for several years. We have a large number of children she has worked with. Jenny is highly trained and able to tailor her expertise to target the learning of many with complex learning challenges. She ignites a passion for literacy and provides a range of strategies for her students. We do not want this role to be removed.

***These roles are one of the last remaining learning support services who work directly with learners. If you would like to support them and enable parent voices to be heard, write directly to [Erica.Stanford@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Erica.Stanford@parliament.govt.nz) before Friday 21st March***

## Staff spotlight

### Welcome to our new TA Brendan



Kia Ora, My name is Brendan - I have recently moved from Hawke's Bay to Wellington. Thank you all for welcoming me to your lovely school!

I worked in a school in Hastings for three years - I enjoyed building relationships with the school community and particularly enjoyed my sports coaching roles.

Please come and say hi if you see me, I love sports, reading and card games. I look forward to meeting you all, and testing to see if I can remember all your names!

Thank you!

Brendon.

**KIA MANAHAU E hia hinganga, katū tonu, ka ako tonu**  
**RESILIENT We keep trying and learn from what we do**

# School Notices

## RAMADAN

Ramadan is observed by our Muslim whānau from many different countries. Ramadan is a special time for Muslims where they fast (don't eat or drink) during daylight hours and spend more time praying and thinking about being kind and helpful to others. It's a time for reflection, community, and giving to those in need.

### EID AL-FITR

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is known as the "festival of breaking the fast". We will celebrate Eid al-Fitr at Newtown School to share our happiness and the success of the fasting month in the last week of term. We are planning a fun celebration. We look forward to the whole community joining us. Watch this space for further details.

## WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB



Finn has been facilitating a wonderful experience for the Wednesday Lunchtime Book Club.

Here the group is working on their very own books!

To join in the fun, meet at the library Wednesday lunchtimes.



## HEALTH NOTICE

We have had cases of head lice (nits) at the school. Please read these tips to prevent and treat head lice.

We can arrange free treatment. Please ask your child's teacher or at the front office.

## HEAD LICE

### Five tips to prevent head lice:

1. Comb and brush your hair everyday with your own comb or brush
2. Avoid sharing hats
3. Wear swimming caps at the pool and avoid sharing towels
4. Wear your long hair tied up
5. Let an adult check your hair and check the whole family weekly



### If you notice your child has head lice:

- Treat with wet combing or Dimethicone 4% lotion
- Notify school so that they can tell parents to check their children

See your Public Health Nurse or school office for resources and advice.

For more information:  
[www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/early-childhood-centres/fact-sheets/head-lice.pdf](http://www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/early-childhood-centres/fact-sheets/head-lice.pdf)

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora

# School Notices



Bee Healthy Dental Van will be onsite 10 March - 4th April checking all children's teeth. You will be notified if your child requires any dental work.

**NOMINATE NEWTOWN SCHOOL**  
to win \$10k  
for sports equipment at  
The Big Little Sponsorship

***Nominations close this Sunday 16th March.***

The more nominations the more chance we have of winning!

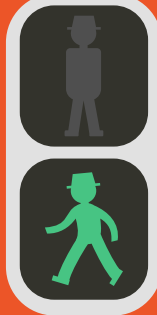
## Lost Property

Are you missing any of the following items?  
snapper card  
wallet  
watch

Come see us at the front office  
All found clothing is kept between the sliding doors at our school entrance

## Bike Fix Ups: Can you help?

Pop into the office and leave your name or email [taniaa@newtown.school.nz](mailto:taniaa@newtown.school.nz)



**ROAD PATROL  
IS BACK**



**SCHOOL**

Road patrol starts back next week.

Please look out for our students in orange vests.

Help them to keep everyone safe by following their instructions.



**KIA MANAAKI  
RESPECTFUL**

Ka whakamana tātou i ngā rongo o te katoa.  
We value the thoughts and feelings of each other.

# Around our kura

## KAPAHAKA

*“Rere ana ngā reo rōreka a Hineruhi, wiriwiri ana i ngā nekehanga a Tanerore, te ihi, te wehi, te wana o te whakangahau kapa haka a Hine Rēhia”*

Since the start of the year Te Kapa o Ngā Puna Waiora has shown the value Kia Whakapau Kaha. With this they started off the year by showing their full commitment to coming to all practices that were set to prepare them for 2 events.

Like every other year our tamariki know that the Newtown Festival is the performance they are most excited about. Just before this they were invited to perform at the Newtown Flats Health Gala the week before. We are always proud of our tamariki when they perform.

**Please read some of our tamariki reflections our tamariki gave:**



**NEWTOWN FLATS HEALTH GALA**

### Noticings from our performances

“Dad noticed I didn’t need to look at the teacher for the actions”

“Seeing people I know who were smiling kept me going”

“My family said AMAZING, GOOD JOB,”

“I like when we perform because it makes me happy and I feel so proud”

“I did good”

### Noticings we need to improve on

“Me tū pakari au i te mutunga i ia waiata”

“Pūkana practice”

“Parakatihi ngā kupu me ngā waiata  
“Practice songs and words at home”

“I feel like actions need to be stronger”

“I think we need more boys, because we have more girls than boys, but the boys we had did really good”

“I need to focus more”



**NEWTOWN FESTIVAL**

**KIA WHAKAPAU KAHA** Ka whakapua i ō tātou kaha i ā tātou mahi katoa.  
**EFFORT** We give our best in everything we do.

# Garden Goodness

## Look out for Monarch Butterflies

We've had a number hatch this past week thanks to a healthy and well nibbled swan plant.



## Waitangi Gardeners

Each week a group of students heads off site to help care for a garden at a local residents property. With summer fruit in abundance they're able to pick an apple and each straight from the tree as a reward to their hard work!



Help out in our cooking and garden sessions



Parent/caregiver help is always appreciated!

Mondays and Thursdays.

Email [taniaa@newtown.school.nz](mailto:taniaa@newtown.school.nz)



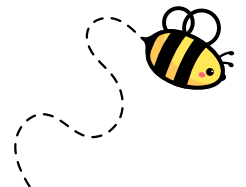
## Excess Fruit?

We are learning how we can reduce food waste and make the most of the abundant fruit trees around our neighbourhood. If you have enough to share around, please consider donating it to us and we'll learn how to preserve (as well as sample all on offer).



Our bees are thriving, producing lots of honey and pollinating around the neighbourhood. We are leaving that honey for the bees to keep fed and healthy over winter this year.

We are beginning to take students from Ngāti Kotahitanga to look in the hive next week. They'll be dressed in bee suits - we can't wait to see their joy! We will be managing this learning and will extend it to other older students who are keen as we shape things.



# Sports News



## WEETBIX TRYATHLON

This Sunday 16th March

Kilbirnie Park, Kilbirnie

This year we have 30 students taking part in the Weetbix Tryathlon!  
Good luck to you all - have fun!

Come down to Kilbirnie Park and support our athletes anytime from 9am to 12:30pm. Look out for the Newtown School marquee!

## CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING Thursday 3rd April

**Juniors** (Years 0-3: Ahi Kā, Tūī, Pōhutakawa and Pīwakawaka) will run around kura from 9am to 10am.

**Seniors** (Years 4+: Huarewa, Harakeke and Waitangi) will go to McAlister Park at 10am and run the track there.

If whānau can help support their tamariki on the day, please let their home class teachers know or email Mitchell and Rhys at [sports@newtown.school.nz](mailto:sports@newtown.school.nz).



## Exhibition Wall



'My world , my people' by Moira Schneider

Tue 18th March - Tue 1st of April

The Newtown School exhibition wall

Newtown school celebrate a new showing on the exhibition wall by Moira Schneider from Whānau Waitangi. For the next 2 weeks the Newtown School whānau can view a stunning series of artworks that take a look through the eyes of one of our hardest working artists and one of the recipients of last years' sponsored School Art Award. The exploration of self and identity through the eyes of an 11 year old, by Moira Schneider.

"Come and have a look and support her mahi. Yet another great exhibition I recommend you check it out on 'The Exhibition Wall' at Newtown School" says art wall curator Paul Forrest.

**KIA WHAKAPAU KAHA** Ka whakapua i ō tātou kaha i ā tātou mahi katoa.  
**EFFORT** We give our best in everything we do.



# Community Notices

**skylight**

Skylight Trust

## Matika 2025

Free Eight-Session Bereavement Programme for Tamariki. Based in Wellington

Runs after school, starting the second week of each term

Matika is a unique opportunity for tamariki, aged 6-11.

During eight sessions, they will connect with others who share a similar experience, explore the emotions of grief, learn coping strategies, and find ways to maintain a connection with their loved ones.

Register your interest: [programmes@skylight.org.nz](mailto:programmes@skylight.org.nz)

**Skylight Trust**

## Counselling for young people

Counselling offers a space for young people to explore any concerns and get support from a trained mental health professional during uncertain times.

Skylight Trust is an organisation based in the Wellington region offering short-term counselling services for tamariki and rangatahi (aged 5-18 years), and their whānau. Our kaupapa aims to support those who have experienced or are experiencing grief, loss, bereavement, or trauma.

**Our Services**

We deliver a range of therapy modalities:

- Talk therapy
- Music therapy
- Creative Arts therapy

**Our Locations**

- Wellington
- Porirua
- Petone
- Lower Hutt
- Kāpiti

Counselling can improve young people's mental health and wellbeing. We offer young people a non-judgemental and supportive environment to express themselves.

**Contact Us**

☎ 0800 299 100  
🌐 [www.skylight.org.nz](http://www.skylight.org.nz)

**skylight**

PUKEAHU | NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL PARK

**Free Event**

## Pukeahu Play Festival 2025

Saturday, 22 March, 12pm–4pm  
Pukeahu National War Memorial Park

Nau mai tamariki and whānau! Let's celebrate Wellington's cultural diversity through the power of play, in the heart of Pōneke.

**Pārekareka** play your way  
**Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council**  
**Manatū Taonga** Ministry for Culture & Heritage

## NEWTOWN WHĀNAU PICNIC

Come and share in a gorgeous menu of locally grown & handmade dishes! Including dumplings, pizza's with passata made by the tamariki of Newtown and other local schools, plus fresh dips, breads, salads & tasty desserts!

BYO plate, cutlery, and cups - though we will have some on hand for those who are unable to bring their own.

**JOIN THE GUEST LIST**

3 pm till 6 pm  
**April 6th 2025**  
At Newtown School Hall

Visit [www.seedstofeeds.nz/events](http://www.seedstofeeds.nz/events) for more information

**SEEDS TO FEEDS**  
**GARDEN TO TABLE**  
**kaibosh FOOD RESCUE**

**NEIGHBOURS AOTEAROA**  
**Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council**  
**common sense**

**WHĀNAUNGATANGA CONNECTED** He iwi tahi tātou, he ako tahi tātou  
We belong and we learn together