

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2026

WEST END TE  
KURA Ō MŌRERE



## TERM 1 WEEK 1

Tena koutou katoa,  
We are thrilled to kick off the new year and welcome back our students! The beginning of the school year is always a joyous occasion for families as new siblings join, fresh teachers are introduced, and classmates are met.

### Important Reminders

- Our school day begins promptly at 8:55 a.m. Students should not arrive on school grounds before 8:15 a.m.
- Upon arrival, we encourage all students to hang up their bags and enjoy some outdoor playtime. In case of wet weather, students may stay in class.

Term 1 and Term 4 are designated as our sunsafe terms. Students should wear suitable clothing for warm days. Please note that oddies are not considered school attire, particularly during summer. This year, every student will receive a school hat, generously sponsored by Sunsmart Taranaki. All students are expected to wear this hat during school breaks, field trips, and outdoor lessons. The hats will remain in classrooms each day, and we are excited to provide this for our students.

Our connected inquiry for this year will be on **Te Wao Nui a Tane** (The forests of Tane). Students will explore various aspects of our forests, including:

- The trees on our school grounds
- The significance of caring for our forests
- Historical changes in our forests
- Comparisons of New Zealand forests with those worldwide

We will also focus on our **Te Taura Whiri**, which represents our core values. Te Taura Whiri translates to "the strong rope." Each of our four values acts as a single thread, and together they form a robust rope.

Important Health Notice

Please remember that our school is nut-free. Kindly refrain from sending any food items containing nuts with your children.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a key factor for a student's learning. When a student attends regularly, they make greater progress with their achievement. They create stronger friendships and build confidence. Attendance is a government priority, and we are proactive in supporting families when attendance is dropping off. On our school website is our Attendance Management Plan. This outlines the steps we will take to improve a student's regular attendance. Below are our responses to attendance.

### 3. Stepped Attendance Response (STAR)

#### Step 1: Good Attendance (Less than 5 days absence per term)

- Monitor attendance as part of normal practice.
- Celebrate and acknowledge good attendance through certificates, class rewards.
- Communicate with whānau about the importance of attendance.

#### Step 2: Worrying Attendance (Up to 10 days absence per term)

- Contact parents to discuss reasons for absence.
- Support students to catch up on missed work.
- Offer in-school resources to help address barriers (e.g., counselling, food).
- Formal notification if concerning patterns emerge.
- Record interventions and monitor attendance closely.

#### Step 3: Concerning Attendance (Up to 15 days absence per term)

- Escalated formal notification to parents.
- Hold face-to-face meetings to discuss reasons for absences.
- Collaboratively develop a plan tailored to the student and whānau situation.
- Engage external agencies as appropriate (e.g., Attendance Service, Oranga Tamariki, Public Health Nurse).
- Review and monitor progress regularly (fortnightly check-ins).

#### Step 4: Serious Concern (15+ days absence per term)

- Formal warning letter and urgent parent meeting.
- Initiate multi-agency response.
- Implement and monitor an Intensive Attendance Plan.
- Consider Ministry-led support or legal action if all interventions are unsuccessful and support is refused.
- Unenrol only if all options have been exhausted and following Ministry guidelines.

## JAPANESE TEACHER

This term, we are pleased to welcome our student teacher from Nihon University in Japan. His name is Shinnosuke, and he will be with us throughout the term. I am confident that everyone will make him feel at home.



# HERO AND FINDING INFORMATION

For more details about our school, please visit our website: [www.westendnp.school.nz](http://www.westendnp.school.nz)

This is where you will find our handbook, term dates and other useful bits of information.

Communication Tool: HERO

HERO is our primary communication platform, accessible via computer, phone, or tablet.

Through HERO, you can receive notices, updates regarding your child's learning, attendance assessment data, and reports.

Please ensure you are familiar with using HERO. If you need assistance, help is readily available at the school office.

## CYBERSAFETY AGREEMENT

We are updating our cybersafety documentation. Every student will receive a Netsafe agreement that details the school's responsibilities as well as the students' responsibilities when utilizing digital technology at school. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with your child's teacher.

## DRINK BOTTLES

Are you interested in a custom drink bottle? These stainless steel drink bottles cost \$20 each. They come in these colours and can also have your child's name etched onto them.

If you would like to order a drink bottle please see the office. Thank you to Matt Weir for your idea.



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## DATES AND EVENTS

2026

Term 1

2 Feb

6 Feb

16-20 Feb

26 Feb

9 March

2 April

Term 2

20 April

Term 1 begins

Waitangi Day (Public holiday)

Scooter and bike skills Y3,4&6)

Hangi Day and working Bee

Taranaki Anniversary

Term 1 Ends

Term 2 begins

## TE TAURA WHIRI

Our school values are called Te Taura Whiri (The strong rope) They are:

**Whanaungatanga**- "We work together like a family"

**Ako**- "We are all teachers and learners"

**Kaitiakitanga**- "We look after our environment"

**Manaakitanga**- "We build each others mana"

All class teachers teach these values and reward students who are showing Te Taura Whiri around the classroom and school. Students receive a Te Taura Whiri Koha (Token) which are counted each fortnight for the whole school assembly. The class with the most receive the class patu to recognise their mana.



## HANGI AND WORKING BEE

Our school community hangi event is on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. We usually aim to eat around 6.00pm. We invite whanau to come and help with a working bee before the kai is served. All school students and their families are invited. More information will be shared closer to the date.