

Tawhai School News

Week 9 Term 4!



Monday 1 December 2025

Kia ora e te whānau

We are thrilled to continue our spotlight on celebrating the amazing values demonstrated by our students with the Values T-Shirt Ceremony, held last week.

It was a fantastic occasion to recognise our deserving recipients! We were delighted to welcome the whānau of the lucky children who attended, to share in this special moment of recognition.

The event was made even more memorable by a lovely performance from our talented school choir!

A huge thank you to all our whānau, staff, and students for your support in making this celebration such a successful and heartwarming event. Your enthusiasm helps us reinforce the positive character traits we value so much here at Tawhai School!

Saying Goodbye & Hello!

As the year draws to a close, we have some staff updates to share with our Tawhai community. While we are sad to say farewell to three wonderful members of our team, we are also excited to welcome new talent to our school.

Farewell and Thank You!

We extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to three members of the Tawhai team who are embarking on new adventures:

- Reuben Neely: Reuben is heading across the ditch to Australia to gain new teaching experiences. We wish him all the very best for this exciting chapter!
- Anna O'Dea: Anna first joined us over 18 months ago for some relieving work and quickly became an integral part of our team! Anna is taking time next year to pursue the goals that brought her to NZ, but we hope to welcome her back for daily relieving work in the future.
- Shona Buchanan: Shona has been an outstanding Teacher Aide, dedicated to supporting our students' learning. We thank her for her commitment to Tawhai School and wish her well in her next steps.

Welcome to Our New Teachers!

We are in the very fortunate position of welcoming three experienced and passionate teachers to the Tawhai staff for the new school year. They bring a fantastic range of skills and knowledge:

- Jillian Adams: Jillian joins us from Trentham School.
- Lucy Fox: Lucy is currently teaching at Fraser Crescent School.
- Rachel Hosnell: Rachel comes to us from Amesbury School.

I know you will join us in wishing our departing staff all the best, and offering a very warm Tawhai welcome to Jillian, Lucy, and Rachel!

Library Book Hunt!

We're approaching the end of the school year, and our Library is keen to get all of its wonderful books back on the shelves before we pack up!

Could you please have a good look around your homes, under beds, behind couches, and in those dark backpack corners for any forgotten or hiding Tawhai School Library books. We still have quite a few outstanding books, and we need your help to make sure every book makes it home to the Library for the holidays!

Please encourage your tamariki to return any books they find as soon as possible so they can be ready for the new school year.

We want to take a special moment to acknowledge and thank Deb Barnden and Karen Jones for all their dedication and fantastic work in the library this year.

Coloured Sand update

Thank you for your understanding as we have navigated the temporary closure of Room 1. We are pleased to be able to tell you that the samples sent away for testing have come back negative this morning – this is the best outcome possible and Room 1 will resume in their normal space as soon as they can today. Thanks again for your support while we went through the process.

We are incredibly proud of how our tamariki and staff managed the changes resulting from the closure last week. Learning remained engaging despite the temporary change in locations.

Christmas Activities

You are warmly invited to join us for our festive open afternoon on Friday, 12th December, starting at 2:15 PM.

Pop into the classrooms to view your child's Christmas crafts, and then join us afterwards for a short Christmas Carol sing along to end the day.

We hope to see you there to share some holiday cheer.

New Turf Project

This has been delayed due to the weather and we are hoping the work will begin on our new turf project next week.

Stokes Valley Christmas Parade

We are excited to let you know that Tawhai School will be once again participating in the local Christmas Parade.

This year, we are extending a special invitation to the children from our dedicated Kapa Haka Performance Group to proudly represent our school on our float.

Our theme for the parade is a wonderful Kiwiana Christmas.

This is a great opportunity for our children to be seen, heard, and celebrated by our local community, showcasing their talent and school pride.

Members of the Kapa Haka group will be receiving specific communications shortly with more details. Please keep an eye out for this information!

We can't wait to see our students shine and share their passion with everyone.

MySchool school stationery 2026

Stationery can be purchased from MySchool by clicking on the link below. 10% of the sales goes back to Tawhai School. Please refer to the attachment.



School Docs

We welcome you to participate in the policy reviews for this term.

Pop on the link and follow the review instructions [School docs](#)

Username : tawhai

Password: empowering

What's coming up?

Term 4 Ahead

→ Week 9

- ◆ **Tuesday-Thursday** - Tawhai Cup
- ◆ **Saturday 6 December** - Stokes Valley Christmas Parade - see details above

→ Week 10

- ◆ **Tuesday 9 December** - School board hui 6pm
- ◆ **Wednesday 10 December** - Parent Helper Morning tea
- ◆ **Friday 12 December** - **Open afternoon and carols**

→ Week 11

- ◆ **Monday 15 December** - Year 6 Leavers' Dinner
- ◆ **Tuesday 16 December** - Final Assembly (Year 4/5 awards pm)
- ◆ **Wednesday 17 December** - **SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM**

Ngā mihi nui,

The Tawhai School Team

From the Hutt City Council

This year sees the return of some much-loved promotions that haven't run since before COVID-19, plus some great ways to make the most of the season.

The First 30 Days of Summer promotion runs until Sunday 14 December and features a different daily special each day:

- Mondays: 3.30–5.30pm - Adults half price
- Tuesdays: 3.30–5.30pm - Free hydro slide (Wainuiomata only) and free aqua Run (Eastbourne & McKenzie)
- Wednesdays: 3.30–5.30pm - Kids half price
- Thursdays - 30% off summer swimwear
- Fridays: 3.30pm till 5.30pm - Free child entry with a can of food donation
- Weekends - Splash Zone fun across all pools

The Big Summer Splash kicks off on 26 December and runs through to 8 February.

Swimmers who visit any Council pool five times will get their next visit free and go into the draw to win a prize pack.

Neighbourhoods & Communities Director Andrea Blackshaw says the pool openings are a signal that summer is on its way.

"When our summer pools open, you can feel the city come alive. Families, friends, and neighbours come together to enjoy the sunshine, cool off, and make memories. It's what summer in Lower Hutt is all about."

She says the pools are a great way for people of all ages to stay active, socialise, and enjoy their local community spaces.

All three pools will operate under their usual summer hours. Updates on weather and events will be shared on the Hutt City Pools & Fitness website and on our Facebook page.

Be present. They'll remember it forever.

The 10-10-10 Rule:

• 10 minutes when they wake • 10 minutes when you reunite • 10 minutes before bed



**Little moments today become lifelong memories –
bringing calm and connection.**

**UHub is Open
Mondays:
9:30am - 4pm**
The Learning Centre,
Upper Hutt City
Library

 www.uhub.org.nz

