



A Word from our Principal



Dear Parents and Whānau,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2026 school year, especially to our new pupils and families, many of whom attended our Pōwhiri today.

The staff are very excited about the learning year ahead and look forward to working with you all.

This newsletter will be posted out fortnightly on Thursdays through Hero. Please make sure you look at it each week as it contains useful information about what is happening at the school. Separate Hero Posts will be used sometimes as a reminder or when we have something important to share with you all.

It was great to see so many families who could meet with their new teachers on Monday. If you were not able to make it to meet with your child's teacher, please feel free to contact them to set up a meeting.

Our Year 6 children are off to camp tomorrow and we know that they will have a great time. We are looking forward to hearing all your stories about what you got up to when you return.

Remember that it is compulsory for the children to wear their school hat every school day in terms one and four.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the office if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a great week everyone.

Ngā mihi maioha, (thank you with appreciation)

Neil Robinson

Principal

Term 1 ends on

Thursday 2nd April at 3:00pm

BARFOOT & THOMPSON
LICENSED REAA 2008

Blockhouse Bay

2026 Teacher Only Days in Term Time

Please note that the following Teacher Only Day dates have been approved so that we can continue to effectively implement the new English and Mathematics Curriculum and new assessment and reporting guidelines:

- **Friday 29th May (Term Two)**
- **Friday 20th November (Term Four)**

We apologise for any inconvenience that these days may cause.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your parent representatives work hard to make sure that our school is the best it can be. They meet twice a term and these meetings are also open to the public. Please ask at the office if you would like to speak to a Board member directly about anything to do with the school or the Board and we will have a Board member contact you.

Chairperson: Nick Dempsey

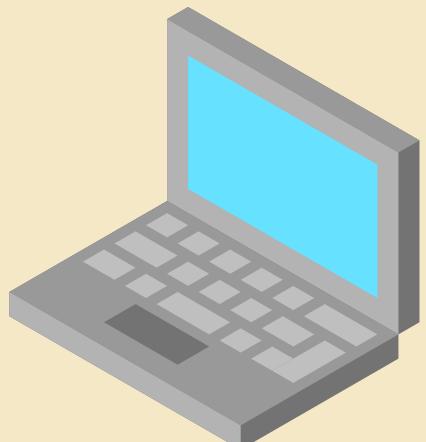
Board Members: Rosie Williams, Sijia Perry, Keyer Patel, Greg Cain, Jane Warne (Staff Representative) and, Neil Robinson.

Chromebooks at School

A reminder to parents that we would like all of the Year 5 and 6's to have their own Chromebook at school. Please note that this is a Chromebook not just any Laptop computer.

Year 3 and 4 children are very welcome to bring Chromebooks (only) if their parents wish them too although we do have these available for use at school. If you have any questions about this, please contact the office and we will organise someone to give you a call.

Please complete a Chromebook Agreement form.



Arrival Times Each Morning

The ideal time for children to arrive at school each day is around 8.30am. This allows them to unpack their bag, do their 'morning jobs' and say hello to their friends and teachers.

We appreciate parents not allowing their children to come to school before 8.15am as the teachers are in meetings or preparing resources. Any time after this is fine. Feel free to contact Bizzy Bodz if you would like them to look after your child before or after school.

Please make sure that your child is here each day before 8.45am so that they can have a settled start to the day.



FINE TO CLIMB



TREE CLIMBING SAFETY

BLOCKHOUSE BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

To keep yourself safe:



Follow the rule of three

Keep at least three points of contact at all times.



Stay low

Keep part of you under the white paint.



Test branches

Make sure the branch is strong enough to hold you.



Stay close to the trunk

Branches are strongest close to the trunk.



Wet? Stay off!

When branches are slippery you have no grip.



Climb down, don't jump

Do not jump off the tree from a really high branch.



Don't rush

Take your time and go as slow as you need to go.

Fine to Climb

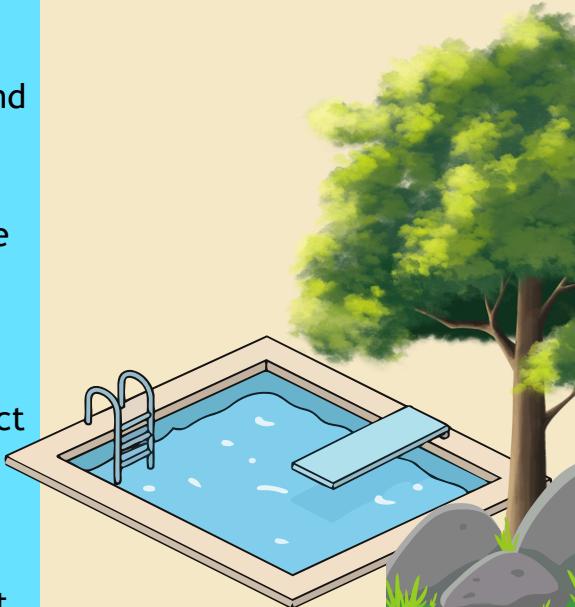
Visitors to the school may have noticed these signs around the grounds. Following a safety review of our trees, we have made it clear to the children which trees they are allowed to climb - no sign, no climb! There is also some advice about how to safely climb trees and the teachers will be talking to the children about this information as well.

Use of the School Pool

We feel that it is essential for all children living in New Zealand to be confident and competent around water. Because of this, Aquatic Education will take place in all classrooms this term. All classes will be taking part in lessons in class that helps give children the knowledge that will help keep them safe.

The Year 3-6 children will begin their in-pool lessons soon. If you have not filled in a permission form for this, please contact the office or your class teacher.

A reminder that the school pool is open for use by the community for the next three Saturday afternoons - 14th, 21st and 28th February. There is no cost for swimmers and parents and siblings are very welcome to join the children in the pool.



Parent Use of the Donovan Street Carpark



Golden Apple have confirmed that they intend to open around August this year and that the Blockhouse Bay community will be very welcome to use the carpark when this happens.

They have also said that our school parents can use the carpark before then on week days. **However**, there are a number of issues around this that would need to be addressed before this would be the case.

1. The carpark would not be open in the mornings
2. To prevent vandalism, the carpark would need to be opened at 2.30pm and closed at 3.30pm each day
3. The school does not have a spare staff member to do this as we have other responsibilities at this time.

Therefore, if we are going to open the Donovan Street carpark for after school pick ups, we would need to have a commitment from one or more parents to:

- Open the carpark gate at 2.30pm and remain at the entrance until 3.30pm. (your child would need to meet you there)
- Remind every parent that comes in, of the need to leave the carpark by 3.30pm (we would provide signage to help with this)
- Let other members of the public know that they could not park in there- School Parking Only

We are now looking to see if we can get enough people who would commit to doing this job. If you are interested, please email office@blockhousebay.school.nz and tell us which days you would be interested in taking on this role. If we do have enough volunteers, we will open the carpark after school each day.

Attendance

Our aim is for children to come to school 90% of the time. That is up to 4 absences in term one.

Our school goal is to have 75% of our students attending regularly (90% or more). There are strong links with a student's performance at school and their attendance.

The Ministry of Education have asked us to let everyone know that holidays during term time are classified as unjustified absences.

If your child is away for any reason, please let us know via the Hero app or call the office.



MUSIC LESSONS
at Blockhouse Bay Primary

Does your child want to learn to play music?

Would you like in-school lessons with a professional music tutor who has many years of teaching experience? You can enrol your child in guitar or ukulele lessons at Blockhouse Bay Primary.

We deliver a fun, varied and structured curriculum. Students are taught during school hours and learn songs in styles ranging from traditional to contemporary.

For information on guitar and ukulele lessons, contact **Augustus Mackenzie**
Email: augustus.mackenzie@musiqhub.co.nz
Phone: 0210 400 070

MUSIQ HUB



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WHAU LOCAL BOARD presents

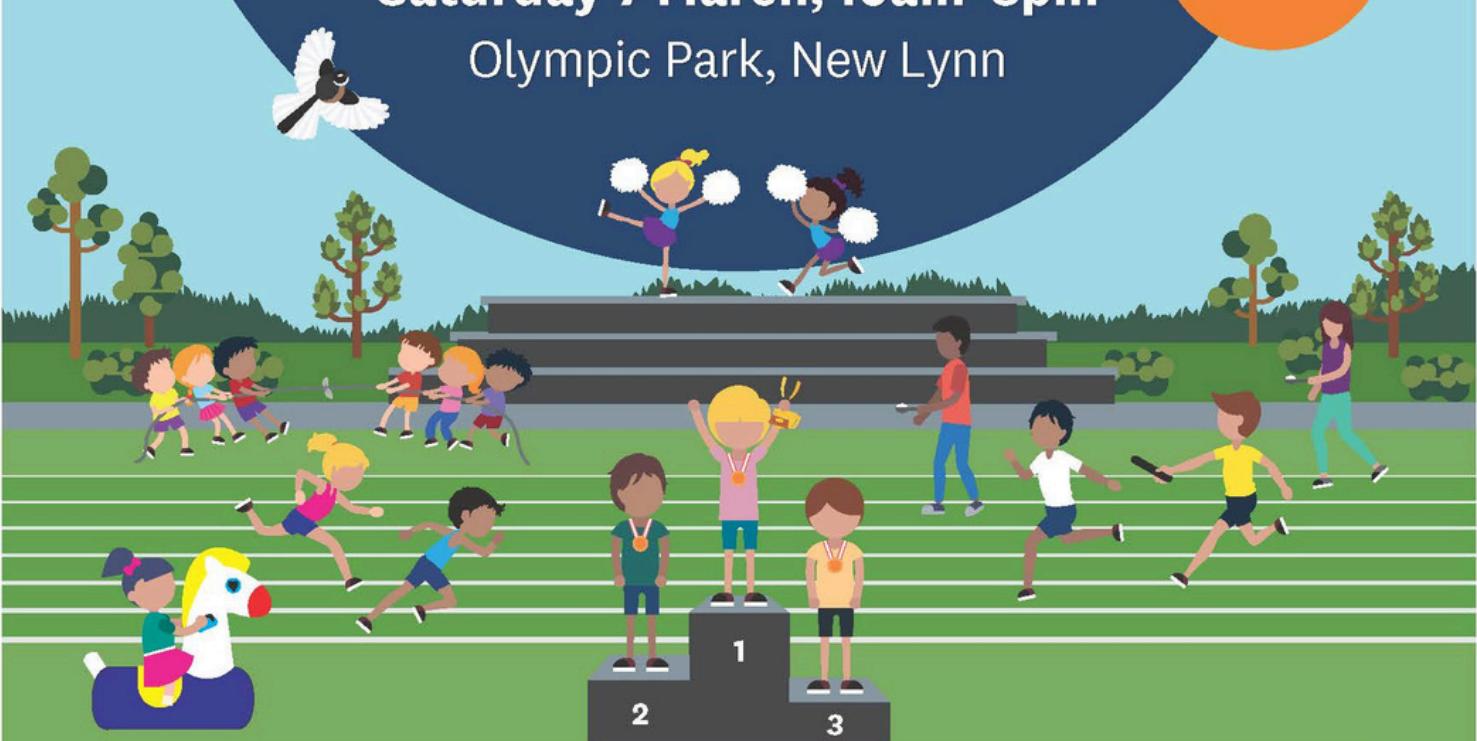
WHAU-LYMPICS

The Ultimate Community
Sports Day

Saturday 7 March, 10am-3pm

Olympic Park, New Lynn

FREE



Calling all gyms, sports teams and legends

Think your team has what it takes?

Whau-lympics is a high-energy community sports day packed with fun, teamwork and physically challenging events designed to test strength, agility, endurance and team work.

What to expect

- Physical challenges
- Fun, inclusive energy
- Prizes and glory for the top teams

Who should enter

- Gyms & fitness studios
- Sports teams & clubs
- Social teams, work crews and community groups
- Families or groups of friends

Register your team here:



Tāmaki Turuki. Altogether Auckland.

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