



Gate Pā School
Pukehinahina

WHĀNAU – SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Friday 12th November, 2025

Newsletter No.11, 2025



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Empowering Tamariki to Become Rangatira Who Value the Past to Create the Future

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

ARI REEDY

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

As we come to the end of another wonderful year at Gate Pā School, Pukehinahina – it is a great opportunity to reflect on what has been a full, busy, and rewarding year. There has been so much happening across our kura, and together we have achieved many incredible things along the way.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our whānau and taura for your support during my time as Acting Tumuaki. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to lead our kura in Whaea Rochelle's absence, and I am grateful for the aroha and trust shown throughout the term. We now look forward to welcoming Whaea Rochelle back in Term 1 as she returns from her sabbatical.

Athletics

This term we enjoyed two fantastic days of Athletics—our Senior Athletics Day and our Junior Showcase. Our tamariki absolutely thrived on the sports field, demonstrating skill, determination, and sportsmanship. It was a joy to see so much talent on display across both days.

A massive well done to our senior tamariki who went on to represent Gate Pā School at the West Cluster event and the Western Bay of Plenty Championships. You represented us with pride.

Prizegiving

On Tuesday, we held our end-of-year Prizegiving, a special celebration of our tamariki and their incredible achievements. Congratulations to all students who received class awards, end-of-term prizes, or were recognised for academic, cultural, sporting, or leadership success.

It was wonderful to see so many whānau present to support this kaupapa—your presence means so much to our learners.

Property Update

There have been some delays to the work currently underway in our main building, which means that we will continue into Term 1, 2026 in the modcom classrooms currently located on the school field.

This will affect Rooms 10–15, which will remain in the modcoms for the duration of Term 1. Our hope is to have the building project completed and ready for use by the start of Term 2.

School Starts: 8.55am -- School Ends: 2.55pm

Report Attendance ✉ HERO app or 0275785325

www.gatepa.school.nz



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Farewells

This week we also farewelled our amazing Year 6 cohort. They have been a strong, vibrant group of leaders within our kura, and we know they will continue to aim high and carry our Gate Pā values proudly into their Year 7 journey and beyond. We wish them all the very best.

We also say farewell to several valued staff members:

Matua Flynn, Whaea Nadia, Whaea Christina, Whaea Lesley, and Whaea Shelley.

Thank you all for the dedication, mahi, and aroha you have given to our kura. You have each made a lasting impact, and you will be greatly missed. We wish you well as you move into your next chapter.

Looking Towards 2026

New Kaiako

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to our Gate Pā whānau in 2026:

- Matua Tama – Whare Reo Tuakana
- Matua Amo – Whare Reo Teina
- Whaea Ayla – Room 14

We are excited for the strengths and passion they will bring to our kura.

Whānau Partnership Day – Tuesday 3 February

We will begin the year with an opportunity for whānau to meet their child's teacher. Bookings will be available through HERO, and we encourage all families to book a time. Our kaiako are looking forward to meeting you and starting the year together.

School Pōwhiri – Wednesday 4 February

We will welcome all new whānau and children to Gate Pā School with a school pōwhiri in the School Hall at 9:15am. If your child is new to our kura, please meet in the front courtyard prior to the start time.

Annual Goals – Success and Progress

This year our kura has made amazing progress toward our annual goals. Our staff and tamariki have worked extremely hard, and each term we have shared how these goals have been achieved.

Today, I am proud to present our progress toward our Culture goal. Please see the following page for a detailed summary of how this has developed across 2025. I am incredibly proud of the collective effort and the strong cultural identity we continue to build and strengthen at Gate Pā School.

Final Message

To all our whānau—ngā mihi nui for an exceptional year at Gate Pā School. We have seen significant positive shifts in our achievement data, attendance, and behaviour across the kura. These improvements are worth celebrating and are only possible because we work together with a shared vision for the success of all tamariki.

As we close the year, we acknowledge those whose time at Gate Pā has come to an end—kia pai te haere. We wish you well on your next journey. For those returning in 2026, we look forward to seeing you again and continuing to strive for excellence together.

Meri Kirihimete e te whānau – Wishing you all a safe, happy, and beautiful summer holiday. See you in 2026.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Ari Reedy

Acting Principal/ Tumuaki

Strengthening our focus on Culture

December
2025

Our Annual Plan focuses on three key areas: **Competence**, **Character** and **Culture**. Here's what we've been doing so far to strengthen **CULTURE**.

Communicate and support whānau with attendance

Every day Attendance matters!
We work hard to support our whānau to meet our attendance expectations which are aligned with the Ministry of Education's STAR attendance goals. Our dedicated Attendance team meet weekly to put in place practical supports, strategies and school wide rewards to positively impact attendance at GPS. These include class and team challenges, treats, and rewards. Reminders and celebrations are shared with tamariki and whānau daily and weekly through FB.



Te Reo Māori lessons in all classes

We have implemented Te Reo Māori lessons across all of our mainstream classes. The development of learning progressions has meant our kaiako are supported, while engaging in weekly lessons themselves so that they are learning and alongside their ākonga.



Rumaki kaiako capability

Rumaki Kaiako have engaged with Rangaranga Reo for their Ākomonga. This rich Professional Development opportunity has meant our Kaiako and Kaiāwhina have been able to implement an effective structured literacy approach to better meet the needs of their learners.



Involvement for Migrant families

We have focused on strengthening current practices to create opportunities for migrant families to celebrate their culture, language, and heritage. This has led to a range of meaningful cultural events, including an ESOL whānau hui, Diwali and Festival of Light celebrations, an ESOL whānau breakfast, a Southeast Asian whānau dinner, and a Pasifika and Filipino whānau dinner.

Support for ESOL learners

All ESOL learners have a targeted support programme, including one-to-one and small-group sessions. The introduction of structured literacy and personalised learning plans has had a positive impact. Conversational skills and comprehension have been strengthened through twice-weekly sessions for learners and their whānau, held before school in an informal setting.



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2026 TERM DATES

School Office Opens: Tuesday 27th January
Whānau Partnership Day: Tuesday 3rd February

Term 1 (9 weeks)

Wednesday 4th February - Thursday 2nd April
School Starts Wednesday 4th February
Waitangi Day - Friday 6th February

Term 2 (11 weeks)

Monday 20th April - Friday 3rd July
Anzac Day - Monday 27th April
Staff Only Day - 29th May
Kings Birthday - Monday 1st June

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September
Staff Only Day - 24th August

Term 4 (10 weeks)

Monday 12th October - Tuesday 15th December
Labour Day - Monday 26th October