



Gate Pā School
Pukehinahina

WHĀNAU - SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Thursday 18th September, 2025

Newsletter No.9, 2025



Download the HERO app. and connect to Gate Pā School.



Follow us on Facebook - Gate Pā School - Pukehinahina.



Empowering Tamariki to Value the Past to Create the Future

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Rochelle Jensen

Kia ora e te whānau,

This week we celebrate **Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – Māori Language Week!** It's a special time to strengthen and enjoy te reo Māori together as a school and community. Our tamariki will join in with waiata, karakia and simple classroom activities. We'd love you to take part at home too:

- **Kōrero Māori at home:** Try greetings like *Kia ora* or *Mōrena*.
- **Learn alongside your tamaiti:** Ask them to share a kupu (word) or rerenga kōrero (phrase).
- **Celebrate together:** Encourage your child to share waiata and activities from school.

A huge mihi to our two haka rōpū (groups) who shone on stage at Friday's Rā Whakangahau – your spirit and pride made us all proud. Ngā mihi nui to Whaea Waima and the Kopurererua team for their guidance and to our whānau for your strong support.

This week also saw our Māori whānau come together for a shared dinner – thank you to everyone who joined us. At Gate Pā School, alongside our English-medium classes, we also offer pathways in te reo Māori:

- **Rumaki:** Curriculum taught in Māori for 80–100% of the day.
- **Bilingual:** Curriculum taught in Māori for 30–50% of the day.

If you'd like to explore these options for your tamariki, please contact Whaea Ari: areedy@gatepa.school.nz

School - Wide Progress and Achievement

- Attached is a school-wide summary of progress in Reading and Mathematics for your information. Lots to celebrate here
- Individual Student Progress and Achievement
 - On Friday 10th October (Week 1 of Term 4) you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and next learning steps.
 - Bookings are now open through HERO.
 - As all teachers will be involved in interviews throughout the day, we kindly ask that children remain at home if possible.
 - Supervision will be available for students who are unable to stay at home.

High Five for 95% Attendance

At Gate Pā School we value excellence – including excellent attendance. Students who achieve 95%+ attendance this term will be invited to a celebratory lunch with the Principal on today!

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

Report Attendance ✉ HERO app or 0275785325

www.gatepa.school.nz



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Property Update

In Term 4, all students in **Rooms 9–15** will move into temporary classrooms located on the back field, between our hall and the senior playground. This shift will allow construction work to begin on the top floor of our main block. We are also opening a new junior class in Term 4, with Whaea Nicky Dunn as the teacher. Whaea Nicky is an experienced teacher both in New Zealand and overseas, and we are excited to welcome her. To create space, tamariki currently in Room 8 will move into the classroom opposite. Our Rumaki Tuakana will then occupy the front half of that space, with ranch slider doors providing a clear separation between the two groups. Ngā mihi for your support as we manage both school growth and our building upgrades.

New Staff – Nau mai, haere mai

We're delighted to welcome new staff to our school this term:

- Shelley Handley – Leadership Support & Art Specialist
- Nicki Dunn – Teacher Room 8
- Jaevyn Douglas – Learning Assistant
- Ruebin Reti – Kaiārahi i te reo
- Kimiora Lulu – Learning Assistant
- Janet McDougall – Learning Assistant
- Zach Ferrier – Lunches (Relief)

Look out for their profiles on our Facebook page.

Board of Trustees

A huge thank you to our outgoing Board of Trustees for their supportive and thoughtful stewardship. We also warmly welcome our new members: Amanda Marshall and Tania Cook (continuing), along with Salo Faaaoga, Kim Ruddell and Dayna Apiti.

Enrolments for Term 4 and 2026

We continue to experience strong growth. To help us plan effectively, please let the school know early if you have a new child that will be enrolling. You can do this by visiting the school office or completing an enrolment form online.

Principal Sabbatical & Leadership Structure – Term 4

As shared earlier, I've been awarded a Ministry of Education Principal's Sabbatical for Term 4. My focus will be on effective teaching of writing.

During this time:

- Whaea Ari Reedy will be Acting Principal
- Whaea Kat Gilbert-Tunney will be Deputy Principal
- Shelley Handley will join the leadership team to provide additional support

I'm grateful for this opportunity and confident our school will continue to thrive under the care of our fantastic team.

As we close Term 3, I want to sincerely thank our school whānau for your support. It has been a full and rewarding term, and I am so proud of all that our tamariki and staff have achieved together.

Dates for Term 4 are listed overleaf — there's plenty happening, so be sure to note them down.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Rochelle Jensen - Tumuaki / Principal

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

Report Attendance HERO app or 0275785325

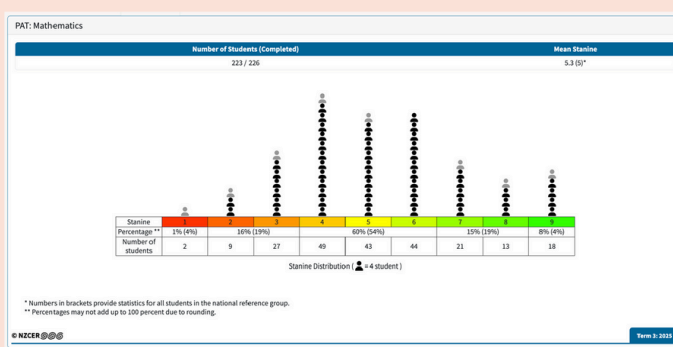
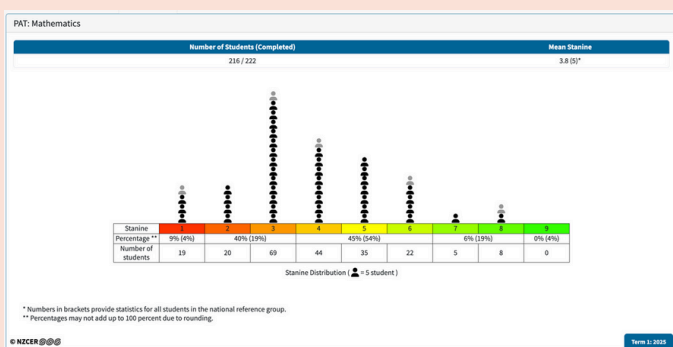
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Maths Progress

September 2025

We are really pleased to share the fantastic progress our students have made in Maths this year. PAT Mathematics results are reported using stanines, which measure achievement on a scale from 1 to 9. Stanines show where your child is achieving in relation to the national norm.

- Students in stanines 1-3 are working below expectation
- Students in stanines 4-6 are meeting expectation
- Students in stanines 7-9 are exceeding expectation



At the start of the year (Term 1), our school's average stanine was 3.8, slightly below the national average of 5. By Term 3, this had risen to 5.3, which shows strong growth across the school.

Even more encouraging:

- The percentage of students in the lower stanines (1-3) reduced from 49% in Term 1 to just 17% in Term 3.
- The percentage of students in the higher stanines (7-9) grew from 6% in Term 1 to 23% in Term 3.
- The majority of our students (60%) are now achieving in the average stanine range (4-6).

✨ That means **83% of our students are at or above the expected standard in Maths!**

This is a fantastic result (with still a term to go) and reflects the hard work of our ākonga, kaiako, and whānau.

What has made a difference to our Maths progress?

Our progress in Maths hasn't happened by chance. A number of key factors have helped our students succeed:

- Onededicated hour of Maths each day in every class.
- *Maths No Problem*, our new Maths programme, introduced across Years 1-6.
- A clear scope and sequence ensuring all students can build success step by step.
- Ongoing professional development for teachers, focused on the updated Maths curriculum.
- Assessment information used to targeted learning and respond quickly to student needs.
- 'Together we Learn' sessions to help whānau understand our new Maths programme and how to best support their child at home.
- Whānau support at home, encouraging problem solving, positive Maths attitudes, and homework that includes basic facts practice or Splash Learn (Years 4-6).
- Maths intervention groups (Tier 2) for students just below the expected level who need a boost to meet the standard.

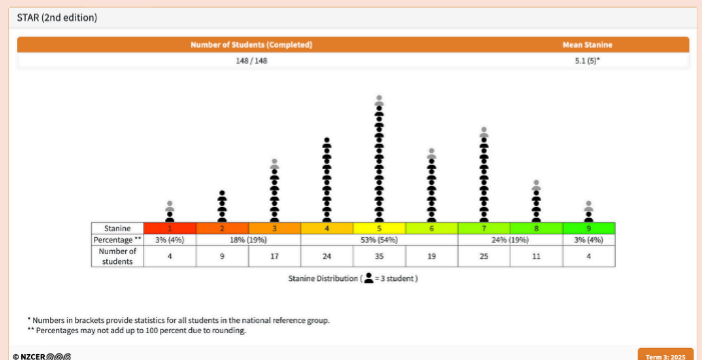
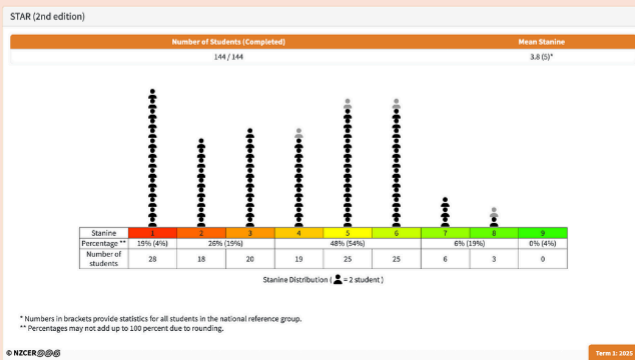
Together, these approaches have created a strong foundation for our students' success in Maths, and we look forward to building on this momentum.

Reading Progress

September 2025

We are really pleased to share the progress our students have made in Reading this year. One of the measures we use is STAR testing. (Supplementary Test in Achievement in Reading.) This test includes word recognition, sentence comprehension, paragraph comprehension and vocabulary range. STAR results are also reported using stanines, which measure achievement on a scale from 1 to 9. Stanines show where your child is achieving in relation to the national norm.

- Students in stanines 1-3 are working below expectation
- Students in stanines 4-6 are meeting expectation
- Students in stanines 7-9 are exceeding expectation



At the start of the year (Term 1), our school's average stanine was 3.8, slightly below the national average of 5. By Term 3, this had risen to 5.1, which shows strong growth across the school.

Even more encouraging:

- The number of students in the lower stanines (1-3) reduced from 66 in Term 1 to just 30 in Term 3.
- The number of students in the higher stanines (7-9) grew from 9 in Term 1 to 40 in Term 3.
- The majority of our students, 78, are now achieving in the average stanine range (4-6).

✨ That means **80% of our students are at or above the expected standard in Reading!**

This is a fantastic result (with still a term to go) and reflects the hard work of our ākonga, kaiako, and whānau.

What has made a difference to our Reading progress?

Our progress in Reading hasn't happened by chance. A number of key factors have helped our students succeed:

- One dedicated hour of Reading and Writing each day in every class.
- The Better Start Literacy Approach is the structured literacy programme we use in Yr 0 - 6 (English-medium). This is a research based, New Zealand designed, proven programme.
- A clear scope and sequence ensuring all students can build success step by step.
- A Learning Assistant trained in BSLA in each class, providing additional teaching for each Phase One class.
- Assessment information used to targeted learning and respond quickly to student needs.
- 'Together we Learn' sessions to help whānau understand our BSLA programme and how to best support their child at home.
- Whānau support at home, reading with your child and hearing them practice their class reader each night.
- Reading intervention groups (Tier 2) for students just below the expected level who need a boost to meet the standard with a trained Literacy Specialist.

Together, these approaches have created a strong foundation for our students' success in Reading, and we look forward to building on this momentum.

IMPORTANT DATES



TERM 4 2025

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER – TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

MONDAY
6TH OCTOBER

***School Starts
8.55am***

*Whakatau to welcome new
whānau and staff at 9.15am*

WEDNESDAY
8TH OCTOBER

***YR 6 TIS
Transition Visit***

FRIDAY
10TH OCTOBER

***Learning
Conferences***

WEEK 2
13–17 OCTOBER

***Kids Can Ride
YR 5 & 6 Only***

MONDAY
20TH OCTOBER

School Photos

TUESDAY
21ST OCTOBER

***Board of Trustees
Meeting***
5.30pm - Staffroom

MONDAY
27TH OCTOBER

***Labour Day
School Closed***

FRIDAY
7TH NOVEMBER

***Gumboot
Friday***

WEEK 6 & 7
10TH NOV – 21ST NOV

***Life Education
Trust Van Onsite***

TUESDAY
11TH NOVEMBER

***Senior School
Athletics***

FRIDAY
14TH NOVEMBER

***Junior School
Athletics***

TUESDAY
18TH NOVEMBER

***West Cluster
Athletics***

*Please note: Dates and times subject to change.
More information will be sent home closer to each event.
Some events may be added as the term progresses.*

IMPORTANT DATES



TERM 4 2025

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER – TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

FRIDAY
21ST NOVEMBER

*200 Nights
Reading
Baywave Trip*

THURSDAY
27TH NOVEMBER

*Traffic
Wardens
Orange Day*

THURSDAY
4TH DECEMBER

*Filipino
Christmas
Celebration*

DECEMBER
DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

*YR 6
Graduation*

TUESDAY
9TH DECEMBER

*End of Year
Prizegiving*

TUESDAY
16TH DECEMBER

*Last Day of
School for 2025*

*Please note: Dates and times subject to change.
More information will be sent home closer to each event.
Some events may be added as the term progresses.*

