



Muritai Beacon

'Be The **Best** We can be'

Rāmere 7 o Hui-tanguru,

Kia ora koutou, Guten tag, Bula, Nǐ hǎo, Mingalaba, Namaste, Greetings, Sàwàtdee, Hallo, As-salām 'alaykum, Mìn-ga-la-ba, nín hǎo, Néih hóu, Konnichiwa, Chôm rab suôr, Tālofa, Hola!, Kumusta, Vaṇakkam, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana and Welcome to Muritai School in 2025!

We have had a fantastic start to the school year, and it has been wonderful to see our students settling into their classes and routines. A special welcome to our new students and their families—we are delighted to have you as part of our Muritai community.

Today's school picnic at Days Bay has been a highlight of the short week! It was great to see our students enjoying the sunshine, playing together, and making the most of our beautiful environment. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who joined us—we appreciate your support in making this a fun and successful day.

If you've visited school, you'll see quite a bit of property work has happened over the summer break, including some on-going work.

- **Junior Block Building Work** – Construction is underway to enhance learning spaces for our younger students. The north entrance on Oroua Street is currently out of action for us as it is being used by contractors. Thank you for your patience while this work continues.
- **Main Block Corridors** – Our corridors have had a fresh coat of paint, giving them a bright and welcoming feel.
- **Garden Beautification** - We are working to improve our garden areas, creating a more inviting and green environment for our students. Kev, our Caretaker, is putting the finishing touches on our Fairy Garden by Room 7.



Our teachers have some exciting learning opportunities planned for our tamariki this year and can't wait to get underway with their teaching programmes.

At the beginning of the year we always dedicate time supporting our students to transition to their new class - this is fondly referred to as 'Get Set, Go!'. There is often a huge amount of learning involved, particularly for students moving teams. As a class, they will spend time establishing the class routines and expectations, setting them up for success for the year ahead.

We have a great team of teachers and support staff at Muritai this year. We are so fortunate to have such a talented, experienced bunch!

Muritai School Structure 2025

Senior Management Team

Principal: Stu Devenport

Deputy Principal & SENCO: Ginny Treadwell **Associate Principal:** Jamie Power **Associate Principal:** Jon Mackie
Team Leader: Lisa Allen **Team Leader:** Felicity Lovell **Team Leader:** Nadia Henderson

Korora Team (Y1&2)

Nicolette Fisher
Felicity Lovell
Nadia Henderson
Penny Orbell
Sally Ingram
Gabrielle Heath



Tūi Team (Y3&4)

Jamie Power
Elena Forlong
Kate McLean
Carly Bargiacchi
Jess Davidson



Kereru Team (Y5&6)

Lisa Allen
Kristi Field
Phil Rodley
Carmen McDonald
Hilary Bevin



Kāhu (Y 7&8)

Jon Mackie
Kea Maritz
Sarah Bleier
Eve Owen



Office: Carole Lowe & Jo Bentley
Library: Sue Fieldes
Caretaker: Kevin McRobbie
Sports Coordinator: Jo & Carole

Learning Support: Sheril Palmer
Teacher Aides: Romy Anderson, Hilary Beadle, Narelle Ferrier, Karen Tattersall, Jeanne Dear, Carolyn Littlefair, Dan Hewson

Upcoming Events

- **Learning Partnership Meetings – Tuesday 11 and Thursday 13 February**

These meetings are an excellent opportunity for you as parents to meet the teacher and to share some thoughts and goals you may have about your child with their classroom teacher for 2025. Please note that school will finish at the normal time of 2.55pm. You can book a time with your child's teacher via the Caregiver App on the 'Interviews' button.

- **Cyber Security Parent Evening with Rob Cope – 20th February**

Join us for an informative session on keeping your child safe online. This is an important topic, and we encourage a parent from each family to attend. So far 70 tickets have been sold! To grab your tickets click here:






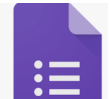
<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/parent-cyber-safety-evening-with-rob-cope-tickets-1221617714469?aff=oddtcreator>

We have Harold and the Life Education van visiting Muritai next week. This is always a great resource for our teachers and students to support our learning from the Health Curriculum.

Our Term 1 Swimming programme also commences next week. Keep a lookout on the Caregiver App for more information about when your child will be swimming. Togs and towel will be essential!

As many of you know, life at Muritai is always busy with loads of exciting things happening on a weekly basis. It is essential to keep on top of communications using our app and our school calendar so you are aware of what is happening when!

Below are the key tools for you as parents/caregivers at home:

- **The Muritai Beacon:** This newsletter will be distributed fortnightly on a Friday afternoon. As we are an Enviro-School we distribute this via the parent app. We are happy to include community messages in the newsletter. We would appreciate it if all messages could be shared with the school office by the Wednesday afternoon before the Beacon is distributed. 
- **Weekly Heads-up:** On Friday afternoons every week you'll receive a short email bullet pointing important 'need to know' from across the school. This is a great way to keep up to date with the next week's activities.
- **The @School App - Parent App.** We have been using this app for two years now to share all our key information with you at home. This includes our communications (teacher messages, newsletters, notices) distributing student reports on your child and celebrating the learning via the blog function. There are also useful links to the school facebook page and calendar. You will be lost without this tool so it's essential to have it up and running. **We also recommend allowing notifications on this app so you get alerted when new information is available.** 
- **Email:** This is usually only used when we are connecting with you 1:1 rather than on mass with the class, syndicate or school. 
- **School Website & Calendar:** On the 'Noticeboard' tab of our website: <https://www.muritai.school.nz/calendar> there is a Community Calendar, which we will be continuing to utilise in 2025. All important dates for families will be included on this calendar, so it is useful to visit this regularly to keep up to date with the latest events. Events are also shown at the end of the newsletter. 
- **Facebook:** Have you 'liked' our School Facebook page? We utilise this page for reminders, but more importantly, to celebrate the wonderful things that happen at Muritai School. Just search Muritai School on Facebook to find our page. 
- **Google Forms:** We will continue to use Google Forms for permission and newsletters that require responses from parents. If you ever need assistance with completing these, please contact the office. 

Teacher Only Day: April 11th - Last Day of Term 1

In 2025, schools across the country are starting to implement two new curriculums - Literacy and Numeracy. This is a huge undertaking for teachers which requires time to understand new learning progressions, resources and assessments. The Ministry of Education has allocated 2 teacher only days for schools to support this initiative. Our cluster of schools in Lower Hutt have been awarded free professional development by the Ministry with the first PD day scheduled for **the last day of Term 1 - April 11th**. This means the last day of the term for students will be **Thursday April 10th**. Please make alternative arrangements for your child on Friday 11 April.

Finally, the beginning of the school year can be an adjustment for many students. To help them settle in, we encourage **early bedtimes** to ensure they are well-rested and ready for learning. **Plenty of water and food in school bags** to keep energy levels up throughout the day. Also Term 1 is one of

our 'Sunhat' terms so please ensure your child has a wide-brimmed hat to wear at school while learning and playing outside.

Ngā mihi nui,
Stu Devenport

SCHOLASTIC LUCKY BOOK CLUB

Issue One of the Scholastic Lucky Book Club, for 2025, is now available. Orders will be closing at Noon on Friday **the 21st February**. Your order can be done on the following website <https://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz/Parent/Login.aspx>.

The whole school order is processed on the closing date.

We greatly appreciate your support as the school is able to gain rewards through purchases you make which enables us to add books to our school collection.

Important Dates	
Date	Event
10-26 Feb	Life Education Bus visiting
11 Feb	Learning Partnerships 3pm-6pm
13 Feb	Learning Partnerships 3pm-6pm
14 Feb	Whole school assembly led by Kororā
20 Feb	Rob Cope Cyber Safety Evening at 7pm-9pm
26 Feb	BOT meeting 6.30-9pm
28 Feb	Whole school assembly led by Kererū
3 Mar	Road Patrol Refresher 9.30-11.30
12 Mar	Mihi Whakatau
14 Mar	Year 4-8 Swimming Sports
17-18 Mar	Sue Allman Photos - whole school
26-28 Mar	Kererū Camp Makahika
2 Apr	BOT meeting 6.30-9pm
10 Apr	Last day of term for students
11 Apr	Teacher Only Day and our last day of Term 1

2025 Term Dates

Term 1 Tuesday 4 February – Friday 11 April

Term 2 Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June

Term 3 Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September

Term 4 Monday 6 October – Wednesday 17 December

COMMUNITY NOTICES - Please Note - the following notices have been requested to be published and are not necessarily endorsed by us as a school. In the spirit of community we include these digitally for you to peruse.



Guitar Lessons at Muritai School

Do you want to learn to play guitar?

I am now accepting enrolments for Term 1 for pupils in years 3 to 8. The lessons are taken by Charles Hazlewood on Monday or Friday during school time. The tuition is held in small groups according to ability and age. It is educational, and normally a lot of fun!

The school has guitars to use at lesson time, but you will need a guitar to play at home.

I am a very experienced music teacher currently teaching at several schools in Lower Hutt. The cost is \$14 per 30 minute lesson, payable per term. Usually there would be 8 lessons, so the term fees would be \$112.

Please call Charles on 04-934-2759 or 029-9392759 or

charleshazlewood1@gmail.com

FUN French for children!

Boost your child's brainpower!

**FUN French language class for primary ages
lessons after School in Eastbourne
on Tuesdays starting T1 2025**

Lessons in the village
After school pick up available



For more information
message me, Stefi on 021 178 2099 or email me stefi@lcclubs.co.nz

BLUE CLOUD DANCE

KIDS CONTEMPORARY CLASSES

FRIDAY AFTERNOON @ The Muritai Yacht Club

3.15-4.15pm: 9-12 years

4.15-5.15pm: 6-8 years



Term 1 starts **14 Feb 2025**

For more information go to

www.blueclouddance.nz