



## Board Update March 2026

Tēnā koe

Welcome to the start of another school year – it's hard to believe we're already well into Term 1. While the usual whānau picnic didn't take place this year, there have been many positive opportunities for families to connect with the school and with one another.

A strong focus on community connection and communication has been evident, including welcoming new families through an open afternoon and the school's mihi whakatau, supported by student leaders and staff. These events have reinforced a strong sense of belonging and school identity for new and returning whānau.

The well-attended Meet the Team and Teacher Evening provided valuable opportunities for parents and caregivers to connect with teachers, understand Term 1 programmes and expectations, and strengthen home–school partnerships. Regular communication through HERO – including weekly newsletters, team updates, learning information, event reminders, and notices – has supported a positive and settled start to the year.

Clear messaging around attendance, routines, and expectations has also been a focus, including the launch of the 2026 Attendance Management Plan. Recognition of student leadership and contribution continues to strengthen positive school culture. Overall, early-term communication has supported strong parent engagement and good attendance at key events.

The Board held its first meeting of the year during Week 4 of the term. We would like to sincerely thank **Christina Young**, our Board Secretary, for her many years of dedicated service to the Board and school community. Christina's commitment and support over more than three years have been greatly valued. As Christina steps away from the role, the Board will be seeking a new Board Secretary and will share further information with the community shortly.

At this meeting, the Board confirmed portfolio responsibilities for 2026 as follows:

- Health and Safety – Helena de Kok
- Policy – Helena de Kok
- Community and Communication – Katie Clemens-Seely
- Finance – Katie Clemens-Seely

- Property – Ross Lucas
- Playspace – Jane Clunies-Ross

The Board also resolved that Richard May remains as Presiding Member, and that Ross Lucas will act as Presiding Member in the event that the elected Presiding Member is unavailable.

### **End-of-Year Student Achievement 2025**

Andrea provided the Board with a comprehensive report on student progress and achievement at the end of 2025. Overall, our children have continued to achieve well, with most learners (around 80–90%) meeting or exceeding curriculum expectations in Reading, Writing, and Maths.

It's important to note that 2025 was another year of significant curriculum change. The updated English and Maths curricula have introduced new expectations and phases, and these changes mean that 2025 data represents a new baseline, particularly as further refinements to the curriculum were mandated late in the year. Despite this complexity, student achievement across the school has remained steady.

#### **Reading**

Reading achievement remains strong across the school. 90% of Year 1–6 students and 88% of Year 7–8 students were meeting or exceeding expectations at the end of 2025. Most learners are working at or above the expected phase, with positive progress evident across the year.

#### **Writing**

Writing achievement continues to sit within the “most learners” range. 85% of Year 1–6 students and 80% of Year 7–8 students were meeting or exceeding expected curriculum levels. Teachers continue to focus on strengthening writing outcomes, particularly for learners who need additional support to meet the rising expectations of the revised curriculum.

#### **Maths**

Maths achievement across Years 1–8 remains positive. 88% of students were meeting or exceeding expectations at the end of 2025. Notably, there was strong progress for students who were previously working towards expectations, with many making accelerated progress during the year.

## **Māori Learners**

We continue to see encouraging progress for our Māori learners across reading, writing, and maths. The majority of Māori students are meeting expected curriculum levels or have made positive shifts towards them. Teachers have placed a strong emphasis on learner dispositions in maths, such as curiosity, questioning, and explaining thinking, and continue to seek whānau voice to strengthen culturally responsive teaching and learning.

## **Looking Ahead**

While achievement remains high overall, the Board and staff are very aware of our priority learners – students who require additional time, support, or targeted programmes to make progress. These learners are closely monitored, supported through tiered plans, and, where needed, assisted by external specialists.

As we move into 2026, the Board expects some fluctuations in data as the school aligns teaching and assessment with the newly mandated curriculum phases. This is not a reflection of teaching quality, but rather a necessary reset as national expectations shift. The Board remains confident in the high-quality teaching taking place across the school and is committed to ensuring every child continues to be supported to make progress.

We would like to thank our staff, students, and whānau for their continued commitment and support. Together, we are building a strong, connected, and successful school community.

Ngā mihi nui

Katie and Andrea on behalf of the Board