

Board Update June 2026

Tēnā Koe

We are pleased to share a summary of key updates and progress following our most recent Board meeting.

Playspace Update

The playspace project has been successfully completed on time and under budget, leaving some funds available. The Board has agreed to apply the remaining funding to the replacement of the Tiger Turf. While the turf remains safe for student use for now, it has reached the end of its lifespan and requires replacement to ensure it stays that way.

We would like to say a big thank you to our school community for your support in making this project possible — it's greatly appreciated and has made a real difference for our students.

Student Attendance Update

Attendance at Northland School remains strong, with 93% of students attending regularly, consistent with Term 1. Justified absences have slightly decreased, while unjustified absences have increased, largely reflecting term-time holidays.

Encouragingly, almost 81% of students are attending at least 90% of the time, up just over 2% from Term 1. There has also been a small reduction in lateness to class, indicating positive engagement with school routines.

Attendance for Māori students remains strong, comparing favourably with the overall school profile. The school continues to support a small number of students with lower attendance, with improvements seen following return from planned absences.

Maintaining regular attendance remains a key priority, given its link to student achievement. Families are encouraged to avoid term-time travel where possible, although it is positive that those who are travelling are informing the school in advance.

Mid Year Annual Plan

As we reach the midpoint of the year, we are pleased to share that our school is safely on track with our annual learning goals, working through any challenges with great resilience from staff and students alike.

With Numicon funding concluding, we have invested in new Oxford mathematics resources for Years 1–6 starting in 2027. This ensures a consistent learning journey for your children all the way from Year 1 to Year 8. Our popular Numicon equipment isn't going anywhere, though—we will continue to use it across the school for hands-on, practical maths learning.

Mid-Year Assessments & Reports

Our teachers have been busy analysing student data from Week 7 to paint an accurate picture of your child's progress. We are moving to a new report template via HERO and aligning our assessments with the Ministry of Education's new rubrics. This shift gives us excellent clarity, allowing us to focus heavily on making sure every child is on track to hit their year-end goals.

Staff Development

Behind the scenes, our teachers have been engaging in moderation sessions to ensure consistency in grading across the school. Staff meetings have focused on the new curriculum, Te Reo, Tikanga, and Restorative Practice, ensuring our school culture remains strong, supportive, and forward-thinking.

Farewell to Grant Henderson

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to Grant Henderson as he takes up an exciting new role as Assistant Principal (Māori Student and Whānau Engagement) at Onslow College. While we're sad to see him leave, we are incredibly grateful for the contribution he has made during his time at Northland School.

Grant has played an important role in strengthening connections with Māori whānau, shaping how we recognise and celebrate Matariki, and embedding restorative practices within our positive behaviour for learning approach. He has also brought great energy to school life through his passions for sport and creative pursuits, while maintaining a strong focus on improving student attendance outcomes.

We thank Grant sincerely for his dedication, care and commitment to our school community, and wish him all the very best for this next chapter.

With Thanks from the Board

The Board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our teachers and staff for their hard mahi this year. We especially acknowledge the extra time, care and energy our teachers have put in to navigate the changes this term, particularly with the new reporting requirements — your dedication to our students is truly valued.

We wish our whole school community a safe and relaxing term break. We hope you enjoy some well-deserved time to reconnect with friends and whānau, recharge, and return refreshed for the start of Term 3 — we look forward to seeing you then.

Katie, Helena, and Andrea on behalf of the Board