

28 April 2025



Te Kōhure Newsletter, Term 2 2025

Kia ora parents and caregivers

Welcome to Term 2. We hope that the holidays were a chance to recharge, to spend time with whānau, and that you have remained healthy and happy over this period. Well done to Year 7's who successfully transitioned to the senior school, and to Year 8's for helping them. We had a busy term with camp, swimming sports, korfbal, Flips & Tumbles, and more. Thank you also to the parents who offered support with these events.

The inquiry topic this term is Creativity with a focus on fabric and fibre.

ShowQuest/Wearable Arts - Thursday 12 June

A major focus for most of the team is ShowQuest. Our theme centres around the three E Tu Tangata strands. Students will be dancing, singing, doing poi and haka, others will be creating props, and some will be working on sound and lighting. ShowQuest will be held in the Town Hall on the evening of Thursday 12 June. We also have four entries in the Toi Wearable Arts, which runs in collaboration with WOW (World of Wearable Arts in Wellington). Garments will be on show the night of ShowQuest and afterwards displayed in the office. Toi provides an avenue for our students to plan, construct and bring their creative visions to life.



Cross-country

The Year 4-8 cross-country will be held at Crosbie Park on Friday 16 May. Training will commence at the beginning of term. The North-West Zone cross-country event is on Wednesday 4 June.

Basic Facts Passport

Later this term we will introduce a Basic Facts Passport to support maths learning. Initially this will be done in class; after a few weeks, this passport will be sent home with the expectation that parents help their child learn Basic Facts. This knowledge is the foundation of all the maths in Te Kōhure. With Basic Facts knowledge, students understand new concepts faster, and they spend less time working through more difficult problems. Without Basic Facts knowledge, students find it harder to grasp new ideas and take longer to work through problems, leading to frustration, inaccuracy and slower progress. This Basic Facts Passport is designed for students and parents to see what they can already do. Any gaps are obvious targets to work towards, at school and at home.

High School Open Days

At this time of year, many high schools host open days, offering Year 8 students and families a chance to tour various schools. We recommend that parents search high school websites for the dates of these events. Also, check enrolment and zoning requirements. Don't leave it too late - in the past, we have had children not enrolled for high school at the end of term 4, which has caused students additional stress during an already anxious time.

Re: Report Data for High School Applications

Year 8 applications to high school often require a student's previous year's school report. Since Te Parito Kōwhai Russley School switched to *real time reporting*, teachers no longer produce a document listing academic achievements. Instead, a supporting post is annually uploaded to your child's *Educa stories* to show your child's achievement level at year end. These posts are uploaded by the teacher in the last two weeks of school.

To download this one-page summary:

1. Go online to your child's EDUCA profile and click **stories**.
2. Scroll down to **End of Year Achievement**
3. This one-page summary of your child's achievement can be downloaded, attached and/or printed for the enrolment application.



If further information is required, you can do the same for any of the learning stories to support your application.



Parent Interviews

Mid-year conferences with students, their parents and teachers will take place on Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 June. Booking details will be provided nearer the time.

Winter Sport will take place in term 3. Students will have trials at the end of term 2.

Technology

Technology resumes at Hornby High School on Wednesdays. Well done, students and whānau who remember to organise materials for technology classes and to take their requirements to Hornby. If you haven't already, please pay your child's annual technology fee of \$116 which covers the additional materials that students use at Hornby.

Year 8 Formal

We are expecting this year-end event to cost approx. \$40 per person. We will advise you of final costs in term 4. Some whānau choose to set up automatic payments with their bank to deposit regular weekly or fortnightly payments to cover school costs throughout the year. Please contact Sarah in the office if you wish to discuss options.

Home Learning / Excellence Awards

Homework consists of spelling, reading, and occasional mathematics and is to be completed weekly. We encourage reading for at least 20 minutes per weeknight. We continue to use the optional school home learning programme which acknowledges and encourages students to have ownership of, and contribute to, their own learning. They will be rewarded by achieving points that enable them to earn an **Excellence Badge**. Students who signed up for science badges need to continue working on the respective challenges that have been set and regularly checking in with their teacher for sign-off of each completed task. A significant number of students are participating in this.

Devices

Students are encouraged to bring Chromebooks to school. Please ensure your device is fully charged before coming to school and remember to take it home at the end of the day.



Social Media

In this age group, some students begin to use social media more often and more independently. We encourage parents to **regularly** monitor and engage with their child if they have access to social media to protect them from possible harm. Many parents install monitoring apps for their child's social media. This is a great idea! Netsafe and other organisations endorse parents monitoring their children's usage on devices and teachers support this as well. We also support no devices or televisions in bedrooms; leave such things on the kitchen bench overnight.

Hats, Drink Bottles and Uniform

Students should bring a named water bottle to school each day - water only, please. Pre-teens and teenagers go through a lot of energy during the day so please ensure they have more than enough food; they can take leftovers home. Please ensure your child's **uniform is named**. Students do not require sun hats in terms two and three. We have high expectations that the Year 7/8 students will follow the uniform code and set a good example to younger students. Te Kōhure is doing an excellent job so far. If parents are unsure, check uniform requirements at <https://www.russley.school.nz/uniform.html>.

Don't hesitate if you have any questions or require further information. You can contact your child's teacher by phoning the school office or emailing them. If you need to contact your child during school hours, please phone the office.

Ngā mihi

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