



# DISCOVERY SCHOOL

Whanake rā tātou kia pai ai te āpōpō  
We thrive & grow today for a better tomorrow

Week 3, Term 1

NEWSLETTER

19 February 2026

He waka eke noa – we're all in this together  
E so'o le fau i le fau – unity is strength

[Mai te pene a te Tumuaki | From the Principals' Pen](#)

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)

[Welcome to our New Board Member](#)

[Welcome to our new Staff Member](#)

[Our Kids Online - Essential Parent Information Evening for parents of ALL ages](#)

[Policy Review](#)

[Thank You Faultline Coffee](#)

[SueAllmanPeople School Photos - Mon 9th to Fri 13th March.](#)

[Discovery School is Celebrating 50 years this year!](#)

[AIMS Games](#)

[Start of Year Reminders](#)

[Supervision Before School](#)

[Bike Safety](#)

[Vision and Hearing Screening](#)

[2026 Lunch Update](#)

[2026 School Organisation](#)

[Discovery Pacific Voyagers](#)

[Māori Parents Group At Discovery School](#)

[Kelly Club Before and After School Care](#)

[Community Notices](#)

## Mai te pene a te Tumuaki | From the Principals' Pen

Kia ora e te whānau

A very warm welcome to everyone to the 2026 school year and in particular welcome to our new families. We've had a busy start to the year here with camps and overnight experiences getting underway so early. It was disappointing to have a false start on Monday with the camps - who would have thought we'd have these issues in February? I'm super pleased that everything managed to get underway in the end. Camps are a great experience for tamariki and it's been wonderful to see many of them stepping outside their comfort zones to try something new. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to help out at the various camps/sleepovers this week.

You may have noticed we are about to get some property work underway. Rooms 4-7, attached offices and the boardroom are about to be refurbished. Most of the work is happening inside the building, with linings, and the installation of a small kitchenette into the boardroom that can be used by classes. There will be some external work with the remediation of a leak in Room 4.

Last year, we made the decision to move our reporting to parents off Seesaw and onto the Hero platform. This was to ensure communication with you is more streamlined and easier to access. At the same time, we carried out a review of how often we are reporting. We have updated our reporting requirements and will be sending you an update in the coming weeks. Since our review of our processes, the government has announced changes in reporting requirements. Once again, this is quite last minute, with little time for us to digest the requirements, so we are currently working through these to look at any further changes that will need to be made.

What do you do in your house to encourage a love of reading? Devices have a huge impact on society, and as adults we are aware that this impact often affects the amount of time that we spend picking up books and reading them. I have no doubt the same goes for children and as a school, we really encourage you to consider routines that include books and reading. Many of you will already have these routines in place, but good old fashioned bedtime stories, regular visits to the local library, etc, can't be beaten! I also encourage you to engage in lots of

oral language with children - oral language is the basis for progress and achievement in literacy. "Reading and writing float on a sea of talk" (James Britton)

You will notice our 'walk your wheels' signage on the ground near school gates. Our children need to walk their wheels inside the school gates, as well as down the path between the school and kindergarten. For safety reasons they are not allowed to use bikes and scooters in the carpark or on Pullen Lane (road leading to our carpark). Please help us by ensuring you reinforce these expectations.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead - please don't hesitate to get in touch with any of our staff if you have any questions or concerns at any point.

Ngā mihi

*Kaylene*

## Our Kids Online - Essential Parent Information Evening for parents of ALL ages

Last week we sent out information about the upcoming Our Kids Online parent information session. We are partnering with Whitby Collegiate, Adventure and Pāuatahanui Schools to bring this to you. We STRONGLY encourage you to attend.

You can check out the course here: [Parenting in an Online World 101](#).

This talk is for **adults only** and is **not suitable** for children or teens to attend. We request that at least one representative from each family attend, and hope you are able to prioritise this within your busy lives. This topic is too big for us not to pay attention.

Tickets available [here](#).

Digital safety is not a solo mission. As Rob Cope so poignantly put it:

*"We need to tackle this as a community so that all of our kids are safe. When I protected my kids online, I also protected yours, so please, please protect your kids online so that you are also protecting mine".*

## Summer Reading Challenge

If your child completed the Summer Reading Challenge, the absolute last day to return these is tomorrow, Friday 20 February. They need to be returned to the School Office.

## Welcome to our New Board Member

Welcome to our recently co-opted board member Marvin Smith, whose profile is below.

### MARVIN SMITH

Talofa lava,

I am honoured to be the Pasifika Parent Representative on the school board. I'm a proud Samoan/ Tokelauan, father of three with two children currently at Discovery School and the third joining in 2026. My identity deeply shapes the values I bring to our school aiga; connection, belonging, and a belief that every child should have a place where they feel seen and supported.

Professionally, I work with people from all walks of life. As a General Manager and recruitment leader, I've spent years helping individuals grow, supporting teams to perform at their best, and creating environments where people feel confident, supported, and able to succeed. Those experiences fuel my passion for ensuring our tamariki have the same opportunities to flourish.

Outside of work, you'll usually find me on the sidelines of my kids' sports, sometimes cheering, sometimes coaching; always fully invested. Spending time with my whānau and friends is my happy place.

I'm excited to contribute to the Board and to support Discovery School in continuing to be a place where our kids feel at home and inspired every day.



## Welcome to our new Staff Member

We are excited to have Angela Stanley join our teaching team. Angela has taken the position of Learning Support Coordinator. Her role is to support learners at both ends of the spectrum - those who require extension and those who require additional support. Initially, she will begin by getting to know our kura and work mainly in the Senior and Middle end of the school. Angela's profile is below.



### ANGELA STANLEY

Kia ora ē te whanau

I am excited to join Discovery School in the newly created position of Learning Support Coordinator. I have worked in education for 24 years, as a classroom teacher and a Special Educational Needs Coordinator in the Wellington region. As the parent of a child with specific learning differences, I understand the frustration that students can experience with their learning. I am looking forward to supporting staff and ākonga to help make students' learning work for them.

Outside of working hours, I enjoy horse riding, reading and spending time with family. I have really enjoyed meeting the students of Discovery in these first few weeks and look forward to working with them further. I'm based in the office next to the hall - do pop in and see me if you'd like to connect.

## Policy Review

We use School Docs to house our school policies. This system ensures we are complying with legislation and also allows for parents and staff to have input into board policy review. This term, we are reviewing the policies listed below.

Term 1 policies	Review opens 26 January
• <b>Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances Policy</b>	Board review
• <b>Sun Protection</b>	Board review
• <b>Digital Technology and Online Safety</b>	Board review
• <b>Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices</b>	
• Safety and Welfare for Students on Work Experience (composite/secondary only)	
• <b>Firearms</b> (optional policy)	

School Docs enables parents to log in and give feedback on policies that are then considered when they are up for review. Please log into the system and use the review tab/comment function to send us your feedback. Log in details can be found on our school website:

<https://www.discovery.school.nz/charter/school-docs-policies-and-procedures>

## Thank You Faultline Coffee

We would like to thank Leigh and Glenn from Faultline Coffee who had supplied our whānau with lovely hot beverages last year and at our Meet the Teacher afternoon earlier this year. They have kindly donated over \$160 from the coffee mornings and the Te Moana Nui a Kiwa concert. Thank you for supporting Faultline and we look forward to having them onsite again this year!

Please note that no children will be served a hot drink after the bell and any drinks purchased need to be consumed before class starts.

## SueAllmanPeople School Photos - Mon 9th to Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March.

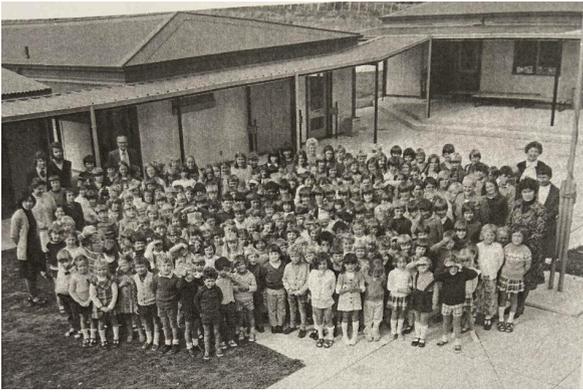
Below is the link to the Sue Allman People Google form to order this year's school photos:

[Discovery School Photo Order Form](#)

**The closing date for orders is 1pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.**

Please note that there will be a \$10 charge for late orders received after this date.

## Discovery School is Celebrating 50 years this year!



Discovery School is celebrating 50 years of schooling this year, we officially opened in 1976. We have a plan for bringing the celebrations to life and want to hear the stories of our last 50 years. The tamariki (children) will very much be part of the planning and organising of these events. We will be asking for past staff, students, families and board members to share their stories by being interviewed by our tamariki.

This year, we will be introducing a conceptual curriculum that brings together learning from different curriculum areas around one shared "big idea." This approach helps students make meaningful connections across their learning.

To celebrate our school's 50th anniversary, our learning focus will be:

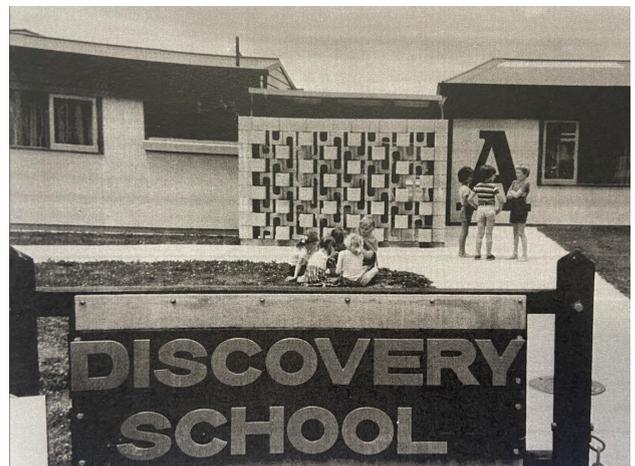
**Whanaungatanga - Relationships to Thrive and Grow. We will explore how strong relationships have been the foundation of our school community over the past 50 years and how they continue to help us learn, thrive & grow.** Through reflecting on our journey, students will celebrate our history while also looking ahead to building a strong and connected future together.

Later in Term 1 and throughout Term 2, students will be learning about the history of our school and the people who have shaped it, both past and present. During this time, we will support students to plan and prepare a range of activities and initiatives leading up to our Student-Led 50th Anniversary Celebration, which will take place in the final week of Term 2.

**The Culminating Event will be a Student-Led Celebration during the last week of Term 2, Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July 2026**

The mahi throughout Term 1 and Term 2 leads to a week-long celebration that formally connects all the relationship threads, managed and executed by a student-led committee.

1. **The Celebration Committee** serves as hosts, manages the welcome, tours, and entertainment logistics - including some dancing with school dances, Kapa Haka, Pacific groups, visit to the hall to see the 50th-Year Heritage Wall. Organise a party, cake and celebration.
2. **Powhiri** to welcome past staff, students and families - have this opportunity for our Ako/Ropu Whakapapa groups to plan and organise this event.
3. **The Unveiling:** Formal unveiling of the **50-Year Heritage Wall**, set up in the hall, presented by each team from their learning.
4. **The Celebration:** A whole-school assembly/open day where students share performances, stories, and artworks based on their inquiries, celebrating the thriving relationships built over 50 years. Past students, staff and community
5. We would love the opportunity for an event for alumni, former staff, student and community members, however we currently don't have the capacity to organise a large-scale social function as our focus is the learning opportunities for our tamariki. If anyone was interested in coordinating such an event, we would be happy to meet with them.



We would love to hear stories and start collecting names of those people who want to be involved so please share these ways to communicate with us at school with those interested:

Email: [jubilee@discovery.school.nz](mailto:jubilee@discovery.school.nz)

Facebook: Please join our **Discovery School 50th Jubilee** Facebook page - you can add photos here, or stories, invite past and present people to join.

## AIMS Games

The Vision of Discovery School is to provide a community where *Whanake rā tātou kia pai ai te āpōpō | We thrive and grow today for a better tomorrow*. Attending the [AIMs Games](#) provides tamariki in Year 7 & 8 with the opportunity to live up to this vision at a national level for their chosen sport.

The AIMS games allow students to be exposed to strong competition at a high level on a large scale environment. They will enjoy a representative experience where they are representing Discovery School and are required to demonstrate the core values of Integrity, Respect, Excellence & Responsibility outside of the school environment.

### Criteria

The board is now considering expressions of interest in attending the AIMS Games. Applicants will be selected based on top performers or teams in their league who would benefit from the extension, the experience and the exposure.

### Expressions of Interest

If you would like more information about AIMS Games, you can view the link above or contact Kaylene directly for the Discovery School AIMS games policy.

All expressions of interest should be sent to Kaylene by **Monday 23 March**, so they can be considered at our March board meeting. They should include the name of the applicant(s), the name and contact details of the key contact person and why they meet the criteria to participate. Expressions of interest will be considered by the board and subject to confirmation of registration by AIMS Games.

It is the expectation that all participants are representing Discovery School, however, all costs are to be met by participants. AIMS Games is only available to year 7 & 8 students.

## Start of Year Reminders

### Phones & Electronic Messaging Devices

Students who choose to bring their phones to school will be required to hand it to their teacher at the beginning of the day. All teachers will then lock them securely away for the day and return them at the end of the school day. It is best if possible, for phones to be left at home.

Please note that while the new procedures keep cellphones safer from theft or misuse, it is still the case that children bring cell phones to school at their own risk. Phones are not needed for messaging from parents to students during the day - if parents need to get a message to their children during the school day, a message can be left at the office (prior to 2.45pm).

If children have their phone at school and do not hand it in, the consequence will be for the phone to be held in my office until their parents/caregivers can come in and collect it.

### Sunhats/pōtae

Being sun smart at Discovery School is very important. All children need to wear a sunhat everyday in term 1 and term 4. We encourage each child to keep a named sunhat either in their school bag or tote tray so that they can be outside during school hours safely. We advise parents to apply sunscreen to their children before school, and then ask your child to reapply it at lunchtime as the weather can be hot at this time of the year.

### Nut Free

We have some children with allergies to nuts and nut products. For these children their allergies are life threatening, therefore we ask that **all** nut products are left out of school lunches. Please pay attention to this when purchasing items for school lunches and when filling your child's lunchbox. Your consideration of this is greatly appreciated.

### Punctuality

We understand that mornings can be very busy for all families and getting to school can be, at times, a major undertaking. The beginning of the day is an important time aimed at helping students settle in, therefore it is important to ensure your child arrives at school between 8.30 am and 8:55 am each day. By arriving in plenty of time, children have the opportunity to connect with their peers and teacher and to get themselves organised for the day ahead. When students arrive late, they take longer to settle into the classroom and disrupt the learning that is taking place. Can you please ensure your child has everything they need for the day in their bag? While we do understand that from time to time, things get forgotten, we have a large number of students at school and it is not possible for the office staff to deliver items to the classrooms if they have been forgotten.

## Parking, Drop off and Pick up

Please ensure you are obeying all parking signs and regulations when you drop off and collect your children from school. This includes around the Kindergarten and in our school carpark - please don't stop on yellow lines. A reminder that on both Spinnaker Drive and The Companionway, there are parking restrictions, particularly around pick up and drop off times. All parents and caregivers are legally obliged to follow the rules around parking, which are in place to keep everyone safe.

## Supervision Before School

We provide supervision for tamariki in classrooms from 8.30am. If your children are on site prior to 8.30am, they should be enrolled with Kelly Club. We do not have teachers on duty before school as they are in classrooms, however some tamariki choose to use the field and other outdoor areas. There are always teachers nearby in rooms (and some with a view of the field), but parents should be aware that supervision is in classrooms and you can talk to your child(ren) about staying in class before school if you have any concerns about supervision. There is also an option to arrive at school just before the first bell at 8.55am, however we suggest 8.45am is a better time as it allows tamariki to settle into the classroom. It is also worth noting that prior to 8.55am, the gates are open to allow tamariki access to the school grounds so they can come to school independently. The gates are closed after the first bell. While staff who aren't in classrooms try to be around the front gate, it's not always possible. From time to time, we have children who get anxious about drop off and struggle to say goodbye to their parents and plans are put in place to ensure they are happy and safe. If your child is in this situation, please talk to your child's teacher, or a member of our Leadership Team, so we can make a plan to support them at drop off times.

## Bike Safety

It has been reported that we have some students not riding bike helmets when biking to school along the walkways. Please remind your children that they must wear their helmets when riding their bikes. While scootering with a helmet may not be a legal requirement, it is also recommended.

## Vision and Hearing Screening

Please contact the school office if you want an opt out form.



### Vision and Hearing Screening Information for Schools

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora

Most tamariki have their hearing and vision screened at a B4 School Check. Those who have not had this opportunity, or require a follow-up, will be screened during their first year at school.

Vision and Hearing Technicians (VHT) can identify children requiring screening or follow-up on the MOE ENROL database and will arrange school visits during the year.

All Year 7 students enrolled at your school will have a vision test during the year.

#### Vision Screening

Vision screening is designed to detect amblyopia (lazy eye) that can lead to permanent vision loss in one eye. It is important to identify this condition early to enable visual perception to be optimised and corrected. A distance check may also pick up some other eye conditions, but not specifically for close-up vision.

If parents or teachers are concerned about a child's vision, we recommend parents/caregivers are advised and an appointment is made for a full visual assessment at an Optometrist/Ophthalmologist.

#### Hearing Screening

Hearing screening is undertaken to detect hearing loss in children.

If there are concerns about a child's hearing, teachers should first discuss this directly with the parent/caregiver as there may be a history of specialist care. It would not be appropriate to test these children.

**Requests for an additional hearing test requires consent from the parent/caregiver. Please inform the VHT of your request prior to their school visit to enable a form to be provided.**

#### Opt-out slips

Schools will be given a supply of opt out slips to be given to parents/caregivers. Please contact your VHT if you need more.

Parents/caregivers who do not want their child's hearing or vision tested should tick the non-consent area on back of the slip and return it to the school office.

**Please ensure all returned opt out slips are given to the VHT.**

## 2026 Lunch Update

EZlunch has taken over from Lunchonline.

If you would like to open a **new account** for 2026 scan the QR code below.

- Same suppliers
- Same delicious food
- Same delivery times and days



**ezlunch.**

# Fresh lunches.

# Easy ordering.

## Delivered to school

- Ezlunch makes school lunches simple and stress-free.
- Enjoy tasty meals fresh each day while supporting local cafes and caterers.
- Order anytime, anywhere - no more morning lunchbox scrambles!

**ORDER NOW**



Order at [mykindo.co.nz](https://mykindo.co.nz)

Get it on Google Play

Download on the App Store

**Have questions?** Visit [support.mykindo.co.nz](https://support.mykindo.co.nz) or [hello@mykindo.co.nz](mailto:hello@mykindo.co.nz) or 0508 454 636. Monday to Friday 8am - 4pm.



## 2026 School Organisation

This table shows the classrooms and levels teachers are working in this year. The blue classes are in the Junior Team, green in the Middle Team, and pink classes are in the Senior Team.

Year 1 roll growth	Rebecca Griffin	Room 7 (located in Room 15 temporarily)
Year 1	Jess Shariff	Room 4 (located in Room 15 temporarily)
Year 1	Amy Richards	Room 5 (located in Room 3 temporarily)
Year 2	Sarah Maudsley	Room 2
Year 2	Liz Chalmers	Room 1
Year 2/3	Kirsti Bourke	Room 8
Year 3	John Manville	Room 9
Year 2/3	Kelly Eteveneaux	Room 10
Year 4/5	Andrew Knight	Room 11
Year 4/5	Marie Carkeek	Room 12
Year 4/5	Rhiann Wallace	Room 13
Year 4/5	Vicki Howarth	Room 14
Year 5/6	Rae Black	Room 21
Year 5/6	Ailish Akavi	Room 22
Year 5/6	Nat Dale	Room 23
Year 7/8	Shaun Bishop	Room 20
Year 7/8	Sarah Jenner	Room 18
Year 7/8	Nic Kibblewhite	Room 16
Year 7/8	Stacey Mew	Room 17

## Discovery Pacific Voyagers

Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Taloha Ni, Nisa bula vinaka and warm Pacific greetings everyone. This group was established in September 2013 with the vision of including some of our Pasifika cultures, languages, songs and contexts into the learning environments at Discovery School.

We are a group of parents/grandparents who want to work with the school's staff and leadership/management to support them to understand, strengthen and maintain the identities, languages and cultures of the Pasifika students and families of Discovery school. We welcome everyone who has an interest in supporting our Pasifika children and families at Discovery school. There are many opportunities for you to be involved and information about these opportunities will be on the school website and in the school newsletters. Meitaki maata, Fa'afetai tele lava

Join the Facebook page [Discovery Pacific Voyagers](#)

## Māori Parents Group At Discovery School

Discovery School's Whānau Group is made up of whānau Māori within the school community who like to meet termly to celebrate Te Aō Māori and learn more about it. The Whānau Group is a space for our whānau Māori to develop their understanding of our culture and identity through celebrations, Māori traditions and practices, share kai and encourage whānau to meet and form relationships. We acknowledge the importance of identity in our taira (students) and how it contributes towards our tamariki enjoying and achieving educational success. We meet once a term and welcome the involvement of all Māori students and their whānau.

Join the Facebook page [Whānau group facebook page](#)



## Kelly Club Before and After School Care

Click on this link for more information about our before and after school care. [Kelly Club Before and After School Care](#)

## Community Notices

For information on activities in our community click on this link, these will be updated as we receive information regarding events in the community. [Community Notices](#).