



DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

Week 8, Term 1

NEWSLETTER

27 March 2026

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

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

Kia ora e te whānau

I can't believe Term 1 is nearly over! We've achieved a lot this term and the school is always a hub of activity as we support our tamariki to thrive and grow.

Just a reminder to look out for the **reporting** posts on Hero next week, as well as the sharing posts in your child's Hero Learning Journal. If you need help remembering how to access this information, please refer to the information sent out on the 6th of March. You can use the search function in the communication feed to find the information if you need it. We can also help if you need assistance.

Save the date for our Literacy Parent Evening, which we will be holding on the **20th of May**. This will run from 6.45-7.45pm (tea and coffee from 6.30pm). We will provide an overview of curriculum requirements, as well as information about how reading and writing is taught in each team. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

I'd like to share some important updates regarding how we track and support student attendance, following new requirements from the Ministry of Education that took effect this year. We know that every day at school counts. Regular attendance (attending more than 90% of the time) is one of the biggest predictors of student wellbeing and academic success. When students are here, they feel more connected to their friends and more confident in their learning. All New Zealand schools are now required to implement a **Stepped Attendance Response (STAR)**. This means we now record not just absences, but also the actions we take to support families when attendance patterns change.

You may hear from us if your child's attendance reaches certain thresholds (e.g., 5 or 10 days of absence in a term). Please understand that:

- These contacts are designed as a check in to keep everyone "in the loop" so that small patterns don't become larger issues later on.
- We are here to help. If there are barriers making it hard to get to school—whether health, anxiety, or logistics—we want to work with you to find solutions.
- Recording these "responses" is now a mandatory part of our weekly reporting to the Ministry.

While we understand that family experiences are valuable, the Ministry of Education guidelines are clear: **holidays during term time are classified as "unjustified" absences.** Missing even a week of school can create gaps in learning that are difficult to bridge, particularly in cumulative subjects like Maths and Literacy. We strongly encourage you to plan family trips during the 12 weeks of official school holidays provided each year to ensure your child doesn't miss out on vital classroom time.

If you're struggling with school attendance, reach out to your child's teacher or the office early so we can support you. Thank you for your ongoing support in making our school a place where every student can show up and achieve our vision.

Ngā mihi

Kaylene

Carpark

Just a reminder that if you are coming into our carpark, it is not a drop off area - you need to use available parks or park on the street. When people stop to drop their children off, it causes a back log of traffic. We've had large numbers of children walking or biking to school, which is the best option.

IT Equipment - Can you help?

Over time, we have accumulated quite a bit of old IT equipment that is no longer in use. This includes printers, digital cameras, and other items. We wondered if there is anyone in our community who could come and have a look and advise us as to what could be valuable to sell, what isn't worth much, but might be of value to others, and what should be disposed of. If this sounds like something you can help with, please contact Stacey Mew - smew@discovery.school.nz

Building Work

As you know, we have building work underway that includes the refurbishment of Rooms 4-7 and the adjoining office spaces. The remediation of the Library conservatory areas is also now underway. A reminder that **our school site is closed this weekend** for asbestos removal (as advised earlier this week).

Over the holiday period, there will be a lot of activity on site. The netball courts are close to the work and are closed. There will be vehicles moving in and around the area, so it is best to avoid school this term break. You are welcome to use the field and the basketball court will also still be accessible. The best access points would be the gate along the Whitby walkway or off The Companionway.

Hero School Statements

We will be emailing out statements to all families in the next couple of days. We are unable to separate payments and donations on our statements, so you will see both items included. With regards to donations, we rely upon the generous support of our community. We are aware that it is a tough financial climate for our parents, but if you are in a position to support us with your donation (and we certainly hope you can), your donations are greatly appreciated (even if it is a part payment). For every donation over \$5, you can claim back 33.33% from the IRD. If you would like your Year 5/6 camp credit put against School donations please email office@discovery.school.nz and we will process it for you.

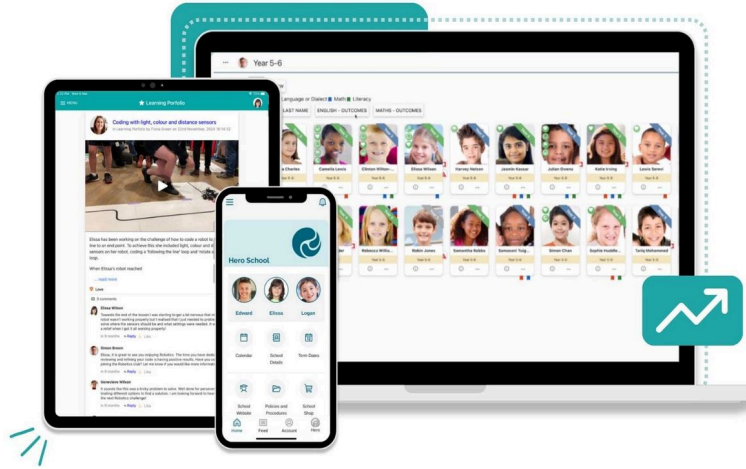
[Hero website info - Click Here](#)

If you need to update any contact information please email contactupdates@discovery.school.nz

Hero Communication Feed

We use Hero for most of our school communication. When you get something on the communication feed, please be aware that we are able to select who receives notices. Therefore, items on your communication feed will be relevant to you and your child(ren). You can set up notifications so that you get app notifications or email notifications when new messages go up.

Hero Portal For Receipts



Steps to Download Receipts in Hero:

1. Log in: Access Hero via a web browser using your personal email.
2. Navigate to Finance: Select the FINANCE menu to view your child's statement.
3. View Payments: Click VIEW ALL PAYMENTS.
4. Generate Tax Receipt: Click VIEW DONATION RECEIPTS and then click the Tax Receipt button for the desired year.
5. Full Statement: Alternatively, click the Full Receipt button to download a summary of all payments, including fees

Important Notes:

- Desktop Required: Receipts cannot be printed or downloaded from the Hero Mobile App.
- Donation Tax Credit: If you pay school donations before March 31 (end of the financial year in NZ), you can use these receipts to claim back 33.33% from the IRD.
- Troubleshooting: If you have trouble accessing these, contact the school office@discovery.school.nz

Movin' March Final Walk or Wheel to school Monday 30th March

Walk or wheel with staff and friends to school - meeting outside The Coop at 8.10am (leaving at 8.15am).
More details on Hero and Facebook.

Book Character Day!



Get ready for a "Symphony of Stories" during Discovery School's Book Week in Week 2 of Term 2! Children will have a fantastic time reading and exploring books from various authors throughout this week. To celebrate, we're also having a Book Character Day on Friday, May 1st. Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. Start planning your costumes over the school holidays for the Book Character Day Parade!

Test Pots - Can you help?

We are looking at refreshing the painted greetings out the front of our school. We are looking for test pots of coloured paint. If you have any that you no longer need, please send them our way. If you have any questions, contact Vicki Howarth - yhowarth@discovery.school.nz

School Bank Account Numbers:

We suggest you set the accounts as follows:

DSchool for all school payments and donations please use the school bank account:

Discovery School Board

12-3254-0122028-00

DSchool Pizza for Pizza fundraisers

Discovery School Board

12-3254-0122028-52

DSchool PTA for DSPTA fundraisers

Discovery School Parent Teacher Association

12-3254-0129836-00

Domino's Pizza Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Domino's Pizza fundraiser this term. [Senior team are next!](#)



A big thank you to Whitby Domino's
for supporting our pizza fundraiser!

\$1 from every mini pizza sold has
been donated to Discovery School



2026 ezlunch

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



ezlunch.

Fresh lunches.

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- Ezlunch makes school lunches simple and stress-free.
- Enjoy tasty meals fresh each day while supporting local cafes and caterers.
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Have questions? Visit support.mykindo.co.nz or hello@mykindo.co.nz or 0508 454 636. Monday to Friday 8am - 4pm.



[Click here to order!](#)

Please note cut off time for ordering is 8.30am

Monday - Truffle Café
Wednesday - Kurashi Catering Sushi
Friday - Pita Pit

TRUFFLE



Discovery School PTA - DSPTA News

School Disco: Friday 27 March


Our first disco this year is **Let's Dance & Dress to Impress** - come along in your best outfit and be ready to dance. Junior Team parents are welcome to stay and dance along with your tamariki. Please enter through the hall door, and leave/collection is through the doors out to the pool side. **We need parent help to run these events, so if you can donate 1 hour of your time, please sign up here.**

 Disco Helpers - 27 March 26


Future sausage sizzle dates for Term 2 & Class Parent Help Allocation

This year we're trying a slightly different approach to our lunchtime sausage sizzles, with the aim of sharing the workload more evenly across our school community. Each classroom will be assigned to one sausage sizzle during the year, for which we'd love support from the parents and whānau from those classes to run.

Tuesday 5th May - Room 3, 12, 17 parent helpers

 5.5.26 Lunch Helpers

Tuesday 23rd June - Room 4, 13, 18 parent helpers

 23.6.26 Lunch Helpers

Many hands make light work! Thanks in advance.

DSPTA Readathon will begin Monday 20th April and finishes Friday 1st May. This is one of our major fundraisers for 2026. We will be celebrating a love of reading and asking our tamariki to get sponsorships for reading lots of books/pages and minutes over the school holidays. The readathon will be happening in the first two weeks of term 2, with a Book Week parade and Book Character Disco happening on Friday 1st May. **Booklets will be sent home next week.**

Keen to be involved?

If you'd like to be involved in the DSPTA and help decide what fundraisers we run and where our contributions go, please get in touch by emailing dspta@discovery.school.nz for more details, or come along to one of our meetings. Our Chairperson and Treasurer are moving on soon, so we'd love to hear from anyone interested in joining! Check our [Facebook page](#) for the date of the next meeting.

Our Next meeting Tuesday 28th April 2026, 7pm - all welcome!

2026 AGM: Wednesday 27th May, 6:30pm, followed by our monthly meeting.

DSPTA Website

Check out the new DSPTA page [DSPTA | Discovery School](#)



YOU'RE INVITED TO A FUNDRAISER SCREENING OF



RATING TBC

**LIGHT HOUSE PAUATAHANUI
3 PAEKAKARIKI HILL ROAD
SUNDAY 17TH MAY 5.00PM**

ARRIVE AT 4.00PM | TICKETS \$25

Discovery School Fundraiser, & DSPTA social get-together! All welcome!

Bring cash for raffles and treats for sale on the night

Book tickets by emailing: dspta@discovery.school.nz

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 taura (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](#).