

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #2
Friday 13 February 2026



Focus Value:
 Respect - Whakaute

School Goal:
 I treat myself kindly and I believe I can learn

It has been a settled start to the year for the vast majority of our students who have come back ready to learn and excited for the year ahead. A highlight of Week 2 was the efforts of our Waitaha (Year 7-8) students on the annual bike trip to Ngāmotu beach. The weather was amazing and the students were certainly looking forward to getting in the water to cool down after cycling along the foreshore walkway. The day even turned on a tail wind for the bike ride back which helped the students show tū māia and push through to make it up the hills and get back to school. Thank you to the Waitaha Team teachers for organising the event and all the parents who joined us to help out.

Next week we have our first Celebration Assembly for the year. Our assemblies will be on Mondays at 2.15pm this year and we are pleased to have the whole school back together in the hall. We warmly invite our families to attend to help us celebrate the students' achievements and efforts. At our Celebration Assembly, we award Triple A and Values certificates to those students who have shown their best over the first couple of weeks of school.

Staff Acknowledgement

Emma Feather-Smith was unintentionally omitted from our 2026 staff list last week. We apologise for the oversight and acknowledge Emma as an important member of our Teacher Aide team.

Open Morning – Structured Literacy

Following last year's curriculum changes which introduced Structured Literacy across our school, we would like to invite our whānau to join us for an Open Morning on **Wednesday 25 February**. Parents and caregivers are asked to meet in the school hall at 8.55am for a short presentation. The presentation will provide an overview of what Structured Literacy programmes look like in our classrooms and the reasons behind this approach. From approximately 9.30am, families will have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom to observe a Structured Literacy lesson in action. Please note that, on this occasion, the classroom visits are for observation of learning and not a general classroom tour as we have done in the past. All our families are warmly welcome to attend.

Looking Ahead

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	Monday 16 February	Tuesday 17 February	Wednesday 18 February	Thursday 19 February	Friday 20 February
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 2:15 Celebration Assembly – Class Councillors announced 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 5:30 Year 5-6 Camp Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 9:00 New Entrants Transition Visit
	Monday 23 February	Tuesday 24 February	Wednesday 25 February	Thursday 26 February	Friday 27 February
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 8:55 Open Morning – Structured Literacy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 9:00 New Entrants Transition Visit Deadline for Year 5-6 camp donations

School Camps – Year 5-6 and Year 7-8

Planning is progressing quickly for both the upcoming camps and student anticipation is building. These experiences are made possible through community support as they are not funded by the Ministry of Education. Your contribution helps ensure we can continue offering these camps. Thank you for supporting our students to have these valuable outdoor experiences.

Upcoming Dates

Here are some upcoming dates to pencil in your calendar:

- 6 March Years 1-3 Mangati Swimming Sports
- 9 March Taranaki Anniversary – school closed
- 11 March Years 4-8 Swimming Sports
- 17 March Years 4-8 Triathlon
- 19 March School Photo Day
- 31 March Parent Teacher Interviews
- 1 April Parent Teacher Interviews
- 2 April Last day of Term 1

Teacher Only Day – Monday 20 April

This year we have again been asked by the Ministry of Education to take two Teacher Only Days for the development of mathematics programmes. We apologise for this disruption as we know it impacts all of our families. The Board has approved the first of these days for **Monday 20 April**, which would have been the first day of Term 2. School will be closed for instruction on this day and Term 2 will now start on Tuesday 21 April. The second Teacher Only Day will likely be in Term 4 and we will let our community know as soon as this date has been set.

Donations Wanted

We are seeking donations of board games or indoor activities for our *Whakawātea*, a calming space students can access during break times. If you're able to help, donations can be delivered to the school office. Thank you for your support.



Behaviour Management Plan

At Bell Block School, we believe that for children to learn, they must first feel safe, respected, and supported. We have updated our Behaviour Plan to ensure every student understands our expectations and knows how we will support them when things go off track. Attached to this newsletter is an outline of our new Behaviour Plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to chat to your child's classroom teacher.

2026 School-Based Immunisation Programme

Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora would like to inform you of some upcoming changes to the School Based Immunisation Programme (SBIP) for Year 7 students, which have now come into effect. As part of national changes to the immunisation schedule, **Year 7 students will now be offered both their Boostrix (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Whooping cough booster) and HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccinations at the same time.**

What this means for you and your Year 7 child:

- The Public Health Nursing team will offer your child **both** immunisations on the same day in Year 7 and no further immunisations will be required in Year 8.
- Your child will bring home an immunisation consent form that will include **both** immunisations this week.

Year 8 students will be offered the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination this year.

Immunisations for Year 7 & 8 students will take place at school on Monday 16 March. Please return consent forms to the office drop box by next Thursday 19 February even if your child is not having the immunisations.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Public Health Nurse, Claire Browne at Claire.browne@tdhb.org.nz or 027 444 2108.

Sports Registrations 2026

Registrations for Term 1 cricket, touch and rippa rugby have now closed and teams are being finalised. Team details and information will be notified to all players via the *@school* app as soon as possible.

Registrations for winter sports remain open via [myKindo](https://mykindo.co.nz).

Term 1

Season start dates:	Cricket	Saturday 14 February
	Touch	Wednesday 25 February
	Rippa Rugby	Thursday 5 March



BELL BLOCK SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR PLAN

At Bell Block School, we believe that for children to learn, they must first feel safe, respected, and supported. We have updated our Behaviour Plan to ensure every student understands our expectations and knows how we will support them when things go off track.

1. OUR SHARED LANGUAGE: TRIPLE A & AROHA

We use one main framework to talk about behaviour:

- Triple A: Attitude, Ability, and Action. It's about giving "Our Best Always."

Underpinning our Triple A framework sits:

- Our School Values: Respect, Responsibility, Standing Brave, Caring and
- AROHA: These are our core pillars: Achieve, Respect, Ownership, Heart, and Adapt. (Waitaha Yr7-8 students trialling only)

💡 PARENT TIP: Next time your child finds a hobby or chore difficult, ask: "Which part of AROHA can help you right now? Do you need to Adapt and try a new way, or use your Heart to stay kind to yourself?"

2. CELEBRATING THE GOOD STUFF

We focus on "catching students being good." To reward positive choices, we use:

- Rewards: Click Cards (Y0–6), AROHA tokens (Y7–8), and school-wide ROARSOME certificates. Every 50 clicks or tokens is rewarded with a juicie. A maximum of 5 clicks or tokens can be earned each day. Clicks and tokens are accumulated until the second to last week of each term when your child is awarded a certificate based on their number of clicks or tokens earned across the term.
- All classrooms are using Class Dojo to reward positive behaviours, please ensure you join with the code so you can celebrate your child's achievements too!
- Celebration Days: Each term, we work toward a team-wide reward for our collective efforts.

💡 PARENT TIP: When your child brings home a Click Card or Certificate, ask: "What specific Action did you take to earn that?" Helping them link the reward to the specific behaviour reinforces the learning.

3. UNDERSTANDING MINOR VS. MAJOR BEHAVIOURS

We categorise behaviours so our response is fair and consistent:

- Minor: Small slips like being late or unintentional disruptions. These are "teachable moments."
- Major: Actions that harm relationships or safety. These involve the Leadership Team and a call home.

💡 PARENT TIP: Help your child understand that everyone makes mistakes. Ask: "Was that a 'glitch' (Minor) that we can fix quickly, or a 'big choice' (Major) that needs more help to put right?"



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4. WHAKAWĀTEA: TIME TO RESET

If a child is overwhelmed, we use Whakawātea (Clearing/Calming). It is not a punishment. It is a supervised space to "reset" the brain so a student can return to class with dignity.

💡 *PARENT TIP: You can use this at home! If emotions are high, try saying: "Let's take a Whakawātea moment together." Practice three deep breaths or a quiet activity before trying to talk about the problem.*

5. WORKING WITH YOU (PERSISTENT BEHAVIOURS)

If minor behaviours happen repeatedly, we step up our support. This might include a Buddy Class reset or a Whānau Hui (meeting).

💡 *PARENT TIP: If we call you for a meeting, remember we are on the same team. You can help by asking your child: "What is your teacher seeing that we can work on together at home?"*

6. FIXING THE "HURTS": RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

When things go wrong, we ask: Who was affected? How can we make it right?

💡 *PARENT TIP: When siblings or friends argue, move away from "Who started it?" and try asking: "What can you do to fix the 'hurt' you caused?" This builds the Ownership pillar of AROHA and reinforces our school values of Empathy and Responsibility.*

OUR PROMISE:

We will lead with kindness and consistency.

We value your partnership in helping our tamariki become the best versions of themselves!

KAHA I NGĀ WĀ KATOA