

Newsletter TeKau ma tahi e Whā Hakihea

Donovan Primary 4 December 2025

Issue 11

From the Principal's Desk

Kia ora and haere mai to this our last full Newsletter for 2025.

Next week we start our run of celebrations and acknowledging our learners. We have Merit assemblies on Wednesday 10 December, Juniors 11.30am and Middle and Seniors 1.30pm. Graduation of Yr6 students will be on Thursday 11 December at 6.50pm with ticket entry only and Prizegiving on 12 December at 1pm.We look forward to welcoming parents to these events. Especially to our families who are finishing their time with us. We want to thank you for your service and connections with our school and our staff. Good luck for high school and a warm farewell to all our Year 6 learners. We look forward to hearing of your future achievements.

A big thank you to our Board of Trustees and PTA for another year full of events, work and promoting our school. These two groups give much of themselves and their time to provide extras and help for our Donovan children.

A special thanks to each and every member of Staff who work in classrooms, offices, gardens, canteens, sports fields to provide the things that our learners need to achieve and succeed not only in schools but in life. Rest up and enjoy your family time, then we will return and do it all again.

Thank you to Mrs Keast and Miss Grant who worked in our extra Junior class for the last two terms. We look forward to working together in the future.

To our A.P's and team leaders, thank you for guiding our staff this year. Your work is truly valued.

2026 is shaping up to have its own unique workload with the introduction of more new curriculums, national testing and new reporting requirements for parents. We will work our way through this in a way that it meets the needs of our learners and community.

This will be the last Christmas newsletter that Mrs Erskine will produce. Maureen will retire at the end of Term 1 2026. Her position of Office Manager will be advertised over the holiday break and will close on 9 February 2026. Far too soon for thank you and goodbyes but unfortunately these will come next year.

To all our Donovan families, enjoy your time with your children over the busy festive time. Make time to relax and reflect on all the things your family has achieved this year. See you all again on Monday 2 February, ready to start the new year.



Ma te wa

Peter Hopwood
Principal

Important Dates

2025

DECEMBER

Fri 5 –Reports will be emailed home.
Wed 10 –Merit assemblies held at Donovan Primary Hall
Jnrs 11.30am
Midd/Sen 1.30pm
Thur 11– Yr 6 Day Out and Graduation at Donovan Primary 6.15pm—Ticket entry only
Fri 12 - Prizegiving at Donovan Primary Hall 1pm Limit to 4 per family.
Tue 16 Dec -Term Four ends School closes with the Flag lowering at 1pm.

2026 Term Dates
Mon 2 Feb—School Starts
Thur 2 April—Last day term

Term 2
Mon 20 April Term 2 starts
Fri 3 July Last day term

Term 3
Mon 20 July Term 3 starts
Fri 25 Sept Last day term

Term 4
Monday 12 Oct
End of Year to be advised

Public Holidays 2026 where school will be closed.
Fri 6 Feb –Waitangi Day
Fri 3 April Easter Friday
Mon 6 April Easter Monday
Tue 7 April Easter Tuesday
Mon 27 April- Anzac Day (observed)
Mon 1 June—Kings Birthday
Fri 10 July—Matariki
Mon 26 October –Labour Day
End of year to be advised.

Assemblies

Fri 5 Dec –Whole assembly

Kia ora koutou,

As we move toward the end of another busy and rewarding year, the Board of Trustees would like to share some updates, celebrate our achievements, and express our appreciation to everyone who continues to support our school community.

Firstly, we warmly welcome Ben Nally, our newly elected Board member. We are excited to have your energy, experience, and commitment, as we work together to support the continued growth and success of Donovan. Thank you for stepping forward to support our community.

We also say heartfelt farewell to Aaron Kerr. Your dedication, time, and contributions have been invaluable to us. The progress we have made would not have been possible without your guidance. We wish you all the best in your future.

This year has been a significant one for school improvements, and we are proud to highlight these major accomplishments. Block A, B, C, and D have had their exterior painted. Our tiger turf Basketball Court has been a great addition and is already being well used by students and the community. We are excited to announce that our second tiger turf area is just about ready to be opened. This multi-use turf will provide more opportunities for sports and physical activities for our students and community alike. We thank everyone involved in making these upgrades possible, from planning to construction, to final touches.

The Board would like to express our sincere gratitude to Peter Hopwood, our amazing teachers, and support staff. Your hard work, passion and dedication continue to inspire our students and strengthen our school community.

We would like to thank all our parents who volunteer, support sports teams, help with school activities, and show up for our children. Your involvement makes a huge difference and is really appreciated.

You may have heard a lot in the media about BOT's not legally having to give affect to the principles of Te Tiriti and report on this. As a Board we are proud of our whakapapa, connection and relationships with mana whenua. As a board we are committed to ensuring that Te Tiriti o Waitangi informs our governance and decision making and we will continue to honour the principles of Te Tiriti in our work as trustees of the school.

As we wrap this year, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Be safe and hope you all have a great break.

Ngā mihi nui,

Rumi Pfeifer

Presiding Member



Season's Greetings for Donovan Primary PTA,

It's hard to believe we are at the end of 2025 already and Christmas is almost here. This year the Donovan children have gathered up more great memories for the Donovan memory bank and will be looking forward to the summer break.

The PTA would like to thank our Donovan community who have helped make this year a positive and productive one. The children enjoyed a Disco earlier in the year, warmed up with Milo day in Term 3, sold many tickets in the annual Christmas raffle and had many lunches throughout the year from our Canteen. These events helped us to purchase a new Mini tramp; bench seats on the Turf; soccer nets; glow stick lights for the children at Matariki; sandpit trollies; new mats for assemblies; $100 to each class for winter activities and games and funds towards the new basketball hoops. Your efforts with contributing to all these wonderful fundraisers has helped make the above happen.

Our fantastic canteen crew have done it yet again. Their voluntary time kept our canteen going and delivered an awesome Friday menu to many students. We appreciate all their hard work and the time they have given this year. The canteen does not run without the help of our wonderful volunteers.

We would also like to extend a thank you to the Staff of Donovan for ongoing support with our PTA and making 2025 another great year. It really does take a village.

We farewell Amy Hibbs and Nicola Carr this year from our PTA. Your time and efforts while on the PTA have been hugely appreciated and you will be missed.

To the Year 6 leavers and their families, we wish you all the best in your next chapter after leaving Donovan Primary.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy summer break.

Donovan Primary PTA



PTA RAFFLE

Congratulations to our winners of the PTA Raffle. Every winner was contacted by text message last week, so if you are like us in the office and haven't received a text, we will have to try again next year.

Thank you to everyone for all the Christmas donations, they made up 45 impressive prizes. We cannot do these kinds of events without your support.

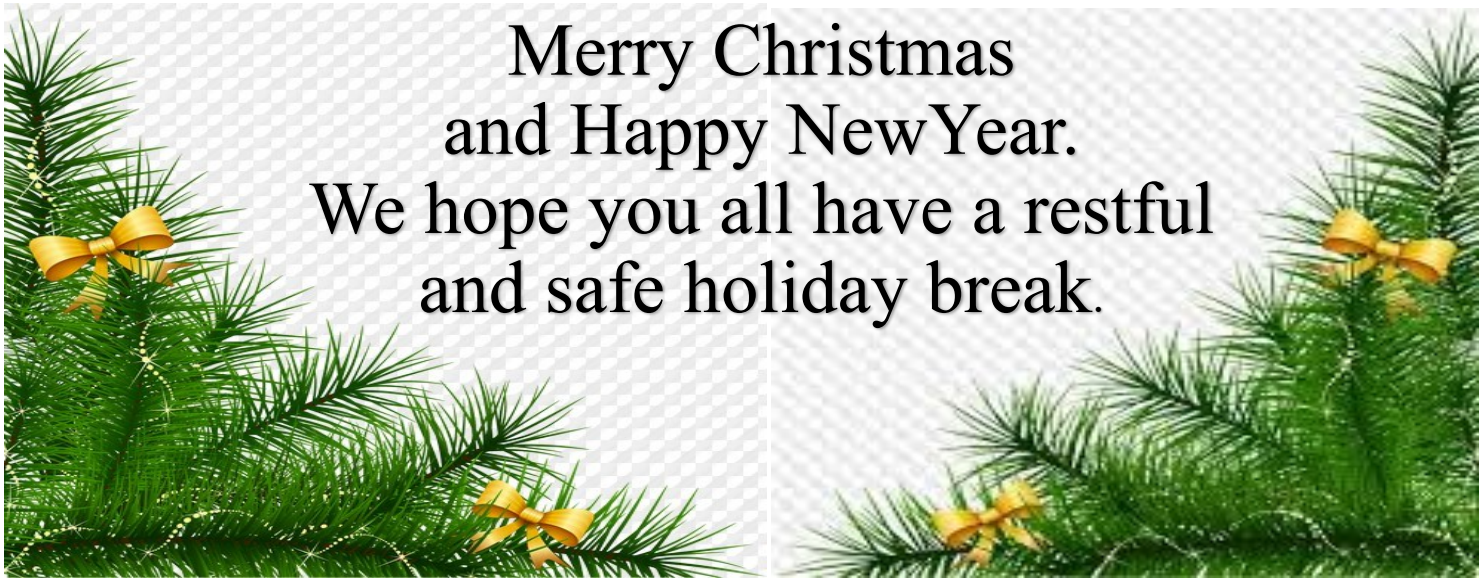
NEW STUDENTS



We welcome Aria Branks. We hope she and her family all enjoy their association with Donovan Primary.

As it is the end of the year could we please have all sports uniforms and equipment returned to the school office asap. Also any readers or other school resources could these also be returned.

Canteen will be **closed from Friday 5 December** to enable the PTA to do a thorough end of year clean. We will notify you when it reopens for 2026 on School Stream. It will not be available when school starts.



2026 PREPARATIONS: Start date for 2026 Monday 2 February. Everyone will know their class so please go directly to the new class before 8.50am. If unsure, please meet in the hall and we will help you out.

END OF YEAR PREPARATIONS

- **Reports** will be emailed on **Friday 5 December.**
- **Merit Assemblies** will be on **Wednesday 10 December in the Donovan Primary Hall**. This is where we recognise children who work hard all year. Middles and Seniors will be at 1.30pm and Juniors at 11.30am.
- **Graduation Day and Evening** will be on **Thursday 11 December**. The Year 6 students enjoy a day out and have a **formal** graduation in the Donovan Primary Hall, starting at **6.15pm. Students will need to be here by 6pm.** You will be advised when the day programme is confirmed. Family invites will go home with admission tickets for 4 per family.
- **Prize Giving Assembly** will be held at Donovan Primary school hall on **Friday, 12 December at 1pm.** This is a time to celebrate the children who are being recognised for outstanding effort and achievement within the school. Parents will be notified if their child is a recipient. Two deserving students will be awarded our PTA and BOT trophies for Citizenship and we will be presenting our Kia Koha trophy as well as naming our School Leaders for next year. There are limited spaces available so we are limiting spectators to 4 per family.
- Our last school day will be Tuesday 16 December at 1pm with the lowering of the school flag. As Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 December are still school days, if your child is absent, please let us know.

2026 PREPARATIONS

Start date for 2026 –Monday 2 February at 8.50am.

Everyone will know their class so please go directly to the new class before 8.50am. If unsure, please meet in the hall and we will help you out.

If you know that your child, or children are not returning to Donovan for 2026, could you please let the office know immediately, as we are currently working on classes for next year.

The 2026 school day commences at 8.50am. Morning tea is from 10am to 10.20am. Brainbreak is from 11.20am to 11.30am and lunch is from 12.30pm until 1.00pm where they come inside to eat, and school finishes at 3pm.

Next year's holidays and term breaks are all on the front page on the left-hand side of this newsletter.

STATIONERY

Stationery lists are included with this newsletter. We will also tape them to the office door.

Office Max and Qizzle are both offering online ordering and if ordered early they will delivery to your home.

The school office will be open from Tuesday 27 January.

CANTEEN - it will not be open immediately but we will notify you as soon as it is ready for heat ups.

Teachers will contact their students via email a few days before starting school, to introduce themselves and let you know what room they will be in for 2026.



Congratulations to our R.E.A.L winners for Friday 7 November 2025

Rm	Name
2	Sophie Armstrong
15	Leo Bekhuis
16	Georgia Savage
20	Morgan Garrick
21	Mogi Lindberg
5	Mya Lord
6	Stella Burns
7	Liam Checketts
8	Charles Varma
9	Alana Clark
11	Aleyna Begya
12	Nevaeh Te Raki
13	Kavaeus Auckram
14	Henrique Michel
17	Utsav Pradhan
18	Te Awa Hamlin & Jaydah Peni
19	Kora Aitken



Congratulations to our R.E.A.L winners for Friday 21 November 2025

Rm	Name
2	Ollie Tomlins
15	Aaron Lee
16	Harper Bye
20	Zareah Pou
21	Cooper Allan and Mason Megee
5	Hunter Lloyd
6	Jaxson Branks-Harland
7	Ollie Ward
8	Cooper Hayes
9	Bella Kean
11	Shevon Hapugoda
12	Alyssa Kirton
13	Van Horrel
14	Grace McCullough
17	Sarena Campbell-Bungard
18	Judah Tomlinson
19	Samaira Bhangu

ACCOUNTS

We would appreciate all accounts to be paid by the end of November if this is possible please. If it becomes difficult, we would accept a weekly automatic payment of $5 or $10 to help keep on top of it all. This is such an easy option as it soon accumulates and you can add sports etc to the credit balance.

Stationery Requirements for 2026

New Entrants

New Entrant packs are available from the office for $60.00
This includes **a Donovan sunhat.**

Year 1: (Only replace items if completely used otherwise last year's books can be used)

- ☐ 1 x Large journal bag Velcro
- ☐ 4 x Amos glue sticks 35gm
- ☐ 5 x Warwick #24 Project Book
- ☐ 7 x JWB/LWB junior writing 14mm ruled 40lf exercise book
- ☐ 6 x Whiteboard marker bullet black.
- ☐ 1 x box facial tissues (100 sheets)
- ☐ 1 x Red Pens – Papermate Ink Joy 100RT
- ☐ 5 x Black Pens – Papermate Ink Joy 100RT
- ☐ 2 x Permanent Marker – black (fine tip)

Year 2



- ☐ 4 x Large Amos Glue Sticks
- ☐ 1 x Warwick My Maths Book 1 Quad 10mm
- ☐ 1 x My Maths Book 1 unruled
- ☐ 4 x My Everyday Book 1 Warwick unruled
- ☐ 2 x My Literacy Book 1 Warwick
- ☐ 4 x Whiteboard markers (Black) - fine
- ☐ 6 x JWB/LWB 14mm Ruled
- ☐ 1 x Colouring pencils (12)
- ☐ 1 x Large book bag (if required)
- ☐ 1 x box facial tissues (100 sheets)
- ☐ 2 x Red Pens – Papermate Ink Joy 100RT
- ☐ 5 x Black Pens – Papermate Ink Joy 100RT
- ☐ 2 x Permanent Markers – black (fine tip)

Please name all stationery. **Items can be purchased online and delivered to your door. Order at www.myschool.co.nz (Office Max) or https://schoolpacks.co.nz/ (Qizzle)**

Year 3 & 4

- ❑ 9 x 1B5
- ❑ 3 x 1E5 with Margins or Warwick quad 7mm
- ❑ 1 x 9B5 Warwick School Pad
- ❑ 2 x Red Pens, Papermate Ink Joy 100RT
- ❑ 7 x Black Pens, Papermate Ink Joy 100RT
- ❑ 1 x Whiteboard Marker (fine, Black)
- ❑ 4 x Large Amos Gluesticks
- ❑ 1 x Colouring Pencils (12) –**no felts, no gel pens**
- ❑ 1 x Rubbers
- ❑ 1 x 30cm Ruler **(non flexi)**
- ❑ 1 x Large Book Bag (if required)
- ❑ 1 x Pencil case
- ❑ 2 x Warwick #24 Project Book
- ❑ 1 x box facial tissues (100 sheets)
- ❑ 4 x HB Pencils and pencil sharpener
- ❑ 1 Highlighter
- ❑ 1 x Black fine tip permanent marker



Year 5 & 6



- ❑ 11 x 1B5
- ❑ 3 x 1E5 -7mm quad
- ❑ 2 x 9B5 Warwick School Pad
- ❑ 2 x Warwick #24 Project Book
- ❑ 5 x HB Pencils
- ❑ 1 x 4b Art Pencil
- ❑ 2 x Sharpie Black fine tip permanent marker
- ❑ 1 x Pencil Sharpener
- ❑ Non flexi Ruler 30cm
- ❑ Scissors
- ❑ Colouring Pencils (24)
- ❑ 3 x Red pens – Papermate Ink Joy 100RT
- ❑ 10 x Black pens – Papermate Ink Joy 100RT
- ❑ 3 x Large Glue Sticks
- ❑ 1 x Black Whiteboard Marker
- ❑ 1 x box facial tissues (100 sheets)

OUR VISION: **The Donovan way celebrates uniqueness where learning is encouraged through personal growth and engagement to create resilient, empathetic and adaptable lifelong learners.**

Sunhats are compulsory for wearing outside during term four. If you require a replacement, it can be purchased from the office for $20. We take cash or eftpos, no paywave.



We are starting to plan our classes for 2026, so if you know that you will not be returning, could you please let the office know. Also keep us up to date with any changes to email addresses, work numbers and any emergency numbers.

Outstanding Fees: -

Don't forget to pay for your child's sports fees or your senior students camp fee. We don't enjoy chasing up money that is owed, and you committed to paying when signing up for a sporting code.

Stationery for 2026

In this newsletter we have included the stationery lists for 2026. Apart from a new entrant, all other students will need to purchase their stationery independently of the school. We have two main providers that have our list and you can order online at a special rate,
www.myschool.co.nz (Officemax) and https://schoolpacks.co.nz (Qizzle) Your orders can be delivered direct to home. Both companies offer a back to school price, so very competitive.

Lost Property

Please keep checking the lost property. It will be on display every Friday outside the hall. Any items left will be donated to charity at the end of each term. If you can't make a Friday then please come and check the lost property box in the hall foyer at any time.



Absences

Please remember to contact the office via School Stream, phone, text or email to advise of any students absence or lateness. The Ministry of Education is still encouraging schools to follow up more vigorously for non attendance. If we have no contact we will mark your child as Truant. Holidays during term time are not accepted and your child will be marked with an unjustified absence.

Remember to keep an eye on School Stream as we have a lot going on this term, and School Stream is how we will keep you informed.

We have communicated many times about the major priority of the Government around attendance and being at school on time. This year NZ schools are implementing new procedures, these are to be in place by Term 1 2026. The Government target is for 80% of students to attend regularly, that is to attend school more than 90% of the time.

Good Attendance (Good chance of success)—is less than 5 days absence in a school term.
Worrying Attendance (Less chance of success) is up to 10 days absence in a school term.
Concerning Attendance (Hard to make progress) is up to 15 days absence in a school term.
Serious Concern (Very hard to make progress) is 15 days or more of absence in a school term.
We will communicate with you if your child is at any of the above stages and we will endeavour to work with you to achieve good attendance.
Lateness is electronically recorded and monitored. Of all absence problems, this is by far our biggest concern. Having learners at school, in class by 8.50am is what we need to achieve., A reminder—children are NOT to be dropped off before 8.20am. There is no supervision of care until 8.20am.

Please remember the canteen do not make up noodles. If you wish your child to have noodles please make them up and put them into a flask or suitable container that will keep them hot.

Also be careful of the plastic containers that food is coming in as some of the cheap containers melt in the pie-warmers.

Sistema containers seem to be the best with either the vent on top or click clack type fastenings. If the food is suitable, tinfoil works well.

School Directory	
Office phone	03 2159664
Office email	office@donovanprimary.ac.nz
Office cell for texting absences only	0273 727070 (Text only)
School Stream Web version	https://donovanprimaryschool.myschoolstream.net
School Bank account	Donovan Primary B O T 03 1742 0052461 00
PTA Bank account	03 1742 0052744 00
Donovan Primary Website	www.donovanprimary.ac.nz
Principal's email	principal@donovanprimary.ac.nz
School Hours	8.50am –12.30pm, 1.00pm-3.00pm
Entry/Departure times	No entry before 8.20am, collected by 3.15pm
Policies and Procedures	**https://donovanprimary.schooldocs.co.nz/** Username: donovanprimary Password: drurylane

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