Newsletter Toru E Whitu Haratua 2026

Donovan Primary 7 May 2026

Issue 3

From the Principal's Desk

Kia Ora and Greetings

Welcome back to Term 2.

What a fast start to the term with swimming along with Mrs Erskine's last day and the ANZAC service.

Our little service was amazing and such a learning experience for the children and swimming has started off extremely well.



We held a special assembly for the children to acknowledge Mrs Erskine's time and work with us. It was so wonderful and appropriate.

And what a surprise when the school surprised her with a road (driveway!) named in her honour.

For those of you who haven't met Mrs McDonald in the office, please introduce yourself and we will all try to make her feel very welcome.

Another reminder that Monday 25 May is our Teacher Only Day for Maths Curriculum, we will be closed for this day.

Descriptors and Reporting

We are moving closer to Mid-year reports so we are going to give you information each newsletter up until reports go home.

The information is to help you understand the reports because of an array of changes.

What is unchanged is that as parents you can expect 2 written reports per year, some of our New Entrant children will receive one depending on their state date.

What has changed is that we are required to mark each child using 5 new descriptors:

Emerging

Developing

Consolidating

Proficient

Exceeding

These descriptors are used to grade each individual child's attainment with their Year Level in the NZ Curriculum.

This is a major change that might look like the learner has regressed, but really it is because the curriculum at each Year Level has got harder with greater expectations.

How we will be required to report is also changing even more next year, a narrative on how they are doing in Reading, Writing and Maths.

We will keep giving you more information rather than giving you too much to digest at once. It can be complicated when the "goal posts" have moved so much.

Peter Hopwood
Principal

Important Dates

May
Tues-Fri 5-8Mid/Snr swimming
Tues 19 –X Country
Mon 25 –**Teacher Only Day – closed**
Tues 26-28 -Jnr swimming
Wed 27 Zone X Country

June
Mon 1 –King's Birthday– closed
Tues-Fri 2 – 4 -Jnr swimming
Tues-Fri 9-12 -Jnr swimming
Fri 12 - Southland X Country
Tues 16 - BOT meeting
Fri 19-Disco

July
Fri 3 July-Last day term
Mon 20 July-Term 3 begins
Tues 21 –Board Meeting

Aug
Tues 18 –BOT Meeting

Sept
Tue 22—School Photos
Tues 22 –Board Meeting
Fri 25-Last Day Term

Oct
Mon 12 Oct-Term 4 begins
Tues 20 –BOT Meeting
Mon 26 Labour Day-closed

Nov
Tues 17 -BOT Meeting

Dec
Tues 8 -BOT Meeting
Last day to be advised.

Assemblies

May

8-Whole school 1.30pm
15-Snr/Middle 1.30pm
Junior 2.15pm
22-Whole school 1.30pm
29-Snr/Middle 1.30pm



Congratulations to the children who received the R.E.AL certificates for Term 1, Week 9, 2 April 2026

Rm	Name
2	King Ndayambaje
5	Kayla Dickson
7	Mali Fraser
8	Quinn Fraser
9	Chloe Leader
10	Braxton Young
12	Ava Tupou
13	Aria Snodgrass
14	Theo Butler
15	Theo Nally
16	Leonne Morales
17	Kaison Reed
18	Oakleigh Drake
19	Gift Fidelle
20	Isa Michel
21	Rhylan McCleery



Congratulations to the children who received the R.E.AL certificates for Term 2, Week 1, 24 April 2026

Rm	Name
2	Jonathan Robertson
5	Tatum Schiller (absent)
7	Ames Pradman
8	Madison Short
9	Jaxson Branks-Harland
10	Zhavia McMurdo
12	Caspar Mair
13	Sophie Chatfield
14	Emily Tretheway
15	Rydah Parry
16	Ethan Shu
17	Kiana Patel
18	Sofia Spriggs
19	James Burke
20	Oakley Jefferis
21	Levi Megee

Accounts

Your child's account will be sent home soon. Donovan Primary do not charge any school fees. Junior and Middle students will have Reading Logs ($3.00) on their accounts. Also any unpaid sports fees will be added as well. We would appreciate payment before the end of term one.

Absences

School Stream App—go to Forms then Absentee Form and complete absence and submit or text your absences on 0273 727070—child's first and last name, class and also reason for absence. You can also go to the url on your computer - https://donovanprimaryschool.myschoolstream.net

Thank you!

A huge thank you to the Gutsell family for the amazing donation of books, puzzles and games for our school library.

It is very much appreciated!



NEW STUDENTS



A warm welcome to our new families to the Donovan Community.

The children below started with us since our last newsletter. We hope that they and their families enjoy their association with Donovan Primary.

Florence & Alba Deuchrass, Ollie Burns, Jordan Wells

Kian Dela Llana, Greyson Frost-Nyman, Devon Ramage

Marley Grantham, Islay Kerr, Liam Leonard,

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.

Community Notices.

Please read the Community Notices that is sent with this newsletter. It has lots of information that may be of interest to the students as well as the parents/caregivers.

REMINDERS—

- Sports fees are to be paid to school as soon as possible.
- Cellphones to be handed into the office
- All medicines are to be handed into the office for safe keeping and an Administer Medical Form completed
- Office to be notified of lateness or early pickup as students must be checked in or out through the office.
- Keep the office up to date with any changes to personal information already held.

Canteen Heatups

Just a reminder that it costs 20c per heatup per student to have your child's lunch nice and hot for lunchtime. The PTA have tried to make it as easy as possible by charging 20c per heatup or $4 per term or $10 per year per child.

You can send the money along to either the office or the canteen anytime or pay for it with the Friday Menu through School Stream.

The heatup service may become unavailable to families who make no effort to pay for this service. The canteen would like arrears to be settled as soon as possible please. A note will come home as a reminder. The easiest way is to pay for a year subs of $10 per child for the entire year and you don't have to hunt out 20c every time you wish to have a nice warm lunch for your child/ren.

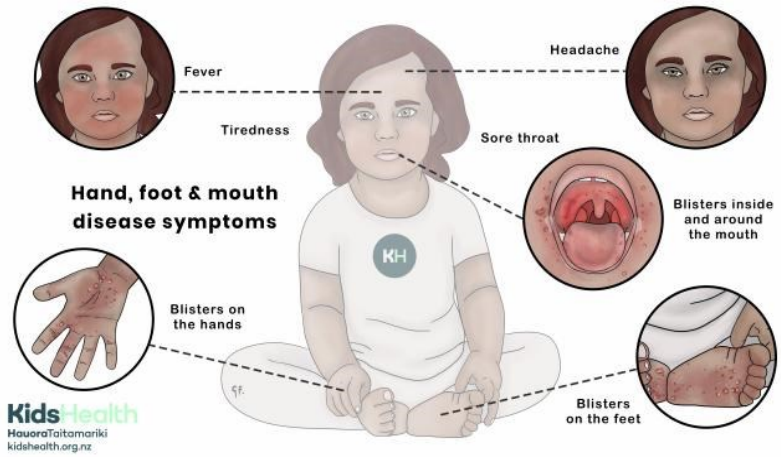


Hand Foot and Mouth

There has been a few cases at school recently, please be aware and familiarise yourself with the symptoms around this illness.

Key points about Hand Foot and Mouth

- Hand, foot and mouth disease is a common viral illness in tamariki (children)
- Tamariki may get red or fluid-filled blisters on their hands, feet or other parts of their body
- Tamariki may also get painful red blisters in and around their mouth,. Other symptoms can include loss of appetite, sore throat, headache and tiredness
- Tamariki with hand, foot and mouth disease usually get better in about 3 to 7 days. Sometimes the rash lasts a bit longer



- **<u>Keep your child at home until they are well again and all the blisters have dried, most tamariki recover without needing much treatment</u>**
- Hand Foot and Mouth is easily caught and spread from person to person by coughing and sneezing, contact through mucus, saliva, blisters and faeces from infected persons. Seek medical help if concerned or symptoms develop further

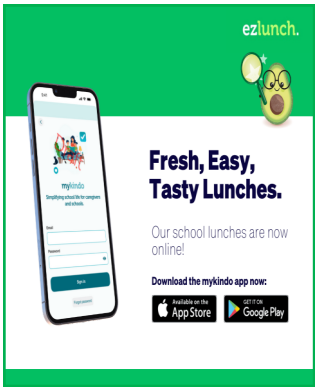
Flying Wasabi is back — now on ezlunch!

Returning from Week 4 of Term 2 - Wednesday 13 May

For some families, this may be the first time ordering Flying Wasabi through Kindo/ Ezlunch since the Lunchonline changeover. Ordering is easy:

Log in to Kindo/Ezlunch: - Use the same email address you used for Lunchonline.

myKindo – Login



Medication

Just a reminder that if you are requiring your child to have any medication administered during school hours, there are a few things we need. (This includes inhalers)

- All medication must be handed into the office for safe keeping
- If it is a prescription medication, we do require it to be in a container showing the name and dosage on the script label.
- A medical consent form needs to be signed by the caregiver.

We do have a fridge in the medical room if medication needs to be kept cool. If your child has to take medication home each day, perhaps talk with the chemist and they may split the medicine into two containers, one for school and one for home. If medication does need to be taken home after school each day, it is the responsibility of the child to remember to come and collect it.

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 –12.20pm, 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

School Stream - We understand that everyone is busy and reading the endless notifications we send out on School Stream can be time consuming. So if it would help, you can thin down the notifications you receive to ones that are relevant. Please read the link below.Please keep the 'Whole School', 'Newsletters', 'Canteen', 'PTA', 'Community Notices', 'Covid' and relevant syndicate levels as essentials. (Sports folders and any others you select can be hidden). Do not panic, you can retrieve the folder again if your child decides to play sport, or change syndicate or has camp etc. I will post everything to the 'Whole School' folder if relevant for the whole school, but reminders etc will go to the respective folder. If you have not kept that folder, you will not see any notifications posted to it. Sports draws will go straight to the respective sports folder. If you have not set up your account and try to start this process, School Stream will ask you to set this up first. Just follow the steps and once completed you will be able to hide folders https://support.schoolstream.com.au/en/articles/2115370-manage-notifications-and-hide-folders

Community Notices: Keep an eye on the separate Community Notices for upcoming community events