

NEWSLETTER



COMING UP

Term 1 2026
Important Dates!

Friday 6th Feb - Waitangi Day, School closed
Thursday 19th Feb - Growers Festival 5-7pm
Tuesday 24th Feb - BOT meeting 6pm

Term 1 Focus



Mr Williams' Message

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,
Nau mai, haere mai, Welcome back to school for 2026.

It has been awesome to see everyone back at kura and the smiles on our tamariki faces as they reconnected with friends and teachers. The sense of energy and whanaungatanga around the school has been a great way to begin the year.

A special welcome to all our new students and whānau joining Pukekohe Hill School for the first time. We hope you feel a strong sense of belonging and that your time with us is both enjoyable and rewarding.

We are also excited to welcome four new members of staff to our team this year. A warm Pukekohe Hill welcome to:

- Mrs Nikki White – Year 3 & 4
- Mrs Lisa Goldsack – Maths Support
- Mrs Jocelyn Brodie – Literacy Support
- Mrs Tracy Jamieson – Learning Assistant

We are delighted to have you join our kura and look forward to the contributions you will make to our learners and the wider school community.

As you would have seen, there is a significant amount of infrastructure work currently underway along Ward Street. This work has required access to Ward Street to be limited in sections, and we have been advised that these restrictions are likely to remain in place for several months.

Finally, Thank you to our whānau for helping make the start of the year run so smoothly. Your organisation, with stationery and equipment, has really supported our tamariki to settle quickly into learning. We appreciate your ongoing support.

2026 School Stationery

It's not to late to order your students stationery online! Link below. Having the correct stationery ready at the beginning on the year, helps to set students up for success!

<https://www.myschool.co.nz/pukekohehill>

2026 Camp - Donation is now on Kindo for Year 5 and 6 students, camp flyer below!

This year we are requesting a \$100 donation towards the cost. Camp is such a valuable experience for our senior students, and we really appreciate your support to help make this experience possible for them.

You are welcome to pay this off over the coming weeks, you can select the payment on kindo, and edit the amount to what you wish to pay today, then click add to cart. It will then just add the amount you have chosen to your cart, you can continue to do this until the full donation has been covered. All contributions are greatly appreciated!



Chosen Valley Y5/6 CAMP 2026

Week 8

16th - 20th March

3 days, 2 nights

Camp A - Monday to Wednesday

Rooms 15, 17, 19, 30

Camp B - Wednesday to Friday

Rooms 14, 18, 16

Activities at camp include

- Flying Fox
- Archery
- Down Hill Trolley
- Orienteering
- Confidence Course
- Raft Building
- Kayaking
- Challenge Courses
- Water Slide

Key Facts

- Students not attending are expected to come to school
- Consent forms, dietary and medical information will be collected in Term 1, 2026
- Cost is subsidised by the school but there will still be a \$100 donation requested per student via kindo. (increased costs)

Road Patrol Supervisor Needed!

Monday AM and PM needed

Email leem@pukekohehill.school.nz if you can help!

TEACHER ONLY DAY

SAVE THE DATE



WHĀNAU EVENING
&
GROWERS FESTIVAL
19TH FEBRUARY 2026



PHOTOGRAPHY - Reminders

Students can bring them to school from this week.

The photo/s can be given to their teacher or to Mrs Willis in Room 23.

- Each child may enter one print for our school competition.
- We have an exciting opportunity to also enter photos into the Pukekohe A&P Show!
- If your child would like a chance to enter the A&P show too, please send in two photos (they can be the same or different, but must fit the Transport theme).
- A selection of photos will be chosen to represent our school at the Pukekohe show.
-  Deadline: 16th February 2026 - please have all photos in by then.
- Photo size: 6x8 inches (15x20cm).
- Write your child's first and last name, DOB and room number on the BACK of the photo.

PUKEKOHE HILL SCHOOL WHĀNAU EVENING

GROWERS FESTIVAL 2026



THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

Pukekohe Hill School
Growers Festival & Whānau Evening
is about bringing our community
together, making connections, and
Growing Great People
Together.



2 DESIGNER GRASS HEAD

Whether you make a person, monster, or animal, grass heads are great fun to grow!

You will need:

- Grass seed
- Potting mix
- Old nylon stocking
- Jars, upcycled container or other items to serve as a reservoir for their bodies
- Upcycled or natural materials for decorating

Idea: Create Your Grass Head

Plant seeds 3 WEEKS before the Growers Festival for best results.

1. Put 2 tablespoons of grass seed in the toe of a stocking.
2. Fill with Soil
3. Add soil to make a tennis ball-sized head. Keep seeds near the top.
4. Tie & Set Up
5. Tie a knot under the soil ball. Place the stocking in an upcycled container with the tail in water — it will soak up moisture.
6. Decorate
7. Add a face using natural or recycled materials.
8. Grow & Trim
9. Keep soil moist. Watch the "hair" grow and give it a haircut when needed!

You can use your own grass seed or request some from school. A google form will be sent out term 4.

Judges will be looking for:

- Most creative design
- Use of natural and upcycled materials



INFORMATION FOR EXHIBIT CATEGORIES

Growers Festival Student Categories

There are 4 exciting categories to enter:

1. Pumpkins
2. Designer Grass Heads
3. Bird Houses
4. Photography

- ✓ Children can enter more than one category, but only once per category.
- ✓ Entries will be displayed and judged in teams: Pohutukawa (Yr 0-2), Kauri (Yr 3-4), and Totara (Yr 5-6).
- ✓ Each item must clearly show the student's name and room number for judging.
- ✓ Projects must be created by students, with adult help only when necessary. For example, when using sharp objects.

**Bring items before school on the morning of the Growers Festival and take home during the evening.

3 BIRD HOUSE

Idea: Create a Simple Bird House

Materials

Adult supervision required

- 1 milk or juice carton
- Rope, cord, ribbon, or wire
- Acrylic paint
- Paint brushes
- Decorations recycled from household materials, crafts, or nature
- Craft or hot glue



Steps

1. Cut a large hole in the center of one side of the carton, starting several inches from the bottom.
2. Beneath this large hole, cut a small hole to poke a stick through. This will provide a perch for dining birds.
3. Cut two small holes on either side of the top of the carton to thread the rope or wire through.
4. Paint and decorate your feeder. Want to make your backyard birds a cottage? An apartment building? Use your imagination!
5. Fill with birdseed.

Want a challenge? Search online for more creative or advanced Bird House designs!

The Bird House must be made from natural/upcycled materials.
 Judges will be looking for:

- Most creative
- Use of natural/upcycled materials



Bloomarama Challenge

We're excited to announce a special competition for the whānau of our tamariki

- The Bloomarama! This event is open to parents, grandparents, and caregivers. Bring in your best bloom from your garden to share and celebrate.

Judging Criteria

- Form/Shape - The flower's structure should be true to its species, symmetrical, and well-proportioned.
- Colour - Bright, clear, and even colour; intensity and vibrancy are valued.
- Presentation - How well the bloom is displayed, including container or support.

1 PUMPKINS

- We hope your pumpkins are growing well and you're getting excited for our Growers Festival in February 2026!

Pumpkin Festival Reminders!

- The pumpkin has to be grown and cared for by YOU - it's your special project!
- You can enter any type of pumpkin - giant ones, tiny ones, wobbly ones, or super cool shapes!
- Big or small, every pumpkin is awesome - we can't wait to see what you grow for the festival in February 2026!

Judges will be looking for:

- Pumpkin is firm
- There are no scars
- Or soft spots



Prize for the BIGGEST Pumpkin

For more information:

<https://tuigarden.co.nz/how-to-guide/pumpkin-growing-guide/>

4 PHOTOGRAPHY THEME TRANSPORT

Photography Competition Theme!

This year's theme is Transport - old or new!

Roads - Photos where a road or driveway is leading somewhere.

OR

Mechanical - Getting close on engines, car parts, vehicle workshops, etc.

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- If your child would like a chance to enter the A&P show too, please send in two photos (they can be the same or different, but must fit the Transport theme).
- A selection of photos will be chosen to represent our school at the Pukekohe show.
- Deadline: 16th February 2026 - please have all photos in by then.
- Photo size: 6x8 inches (15x20cm).
- Write your child's first and last name, DOB and room number on the BACK of the photo.
- Photos can be submitted from Week 1. 2026 Please give entries to your child's teacher or to Mrs Willis in Room 23.

Judges will be looking for:

- Most creative
- Use of light
- Camera angle



PUKEKOHE HILL SCHOOL

FREE
ENTRY

Growers Festival

5PM
- 7PM

THURSDAY
19TH FEB

CLASSROOM DISPLAYS,
VEGE STALLS,
FOOD STALLS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
AND MORE!

GROWING GREAT PEOPLE.
TOGETHER!



Community News



Milo Fantails training sessions begin soon! If you have a daughter keen to play football in a safe, fun environment, register for our Term 1 programme.

Who : Girls aged 5 to 12

When : Wednesdays 4pm to 4.55pm starting
11th February 2026

Where : Bledisloe Park, Field 6 (meet under
the trees on the High School side)

Cost : Free!

For more information and to register go to our
website page:

<https://www.pukekoheafc.com/fantails/>

FRANKLIN SQUASH CLUBS

JUNIOR TRAINING!

TERM 1 LESSONS 9 FEB - 30 MAR
ON ALL MONDAYS DURING THE TERM
EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
GEAR PROVIDED AT THE CLUB

2 FREE TRIAL SESSIONS

\$100 FOR THE YEAR

CONTACT US TO JOIN - CAN START MID TERM

MARK - 027-478-5021

OR EMAIL ADMIN@FRANKLINSQUASH.ORG.NZ

CLASSES TIME (MONDAY)

GROUP 1 4.00 - 4.55PM

GROUP 2 4.55 - 5.50PM

GROUP 3 5.50 - 6.45PM



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

NEW WORLD
Pukekohe



BHANGRA & BOLLYWOOD CLASSES

Saturday mornings!
31st Jan Onwards

Bollywood
9.45 - 10.30am

Kids Bhangra
10:30-11:15am
(Kids)

11:30-12:30pm
(Adults)

For more info, call
Coach Arsh
021 164 1674

Franklin
Indian
Cultural
Club

Get ready to
move and
groove - punjabi
style!



Venue:
Pukekohe Intermediate
44 Queen Street (Gate 3)
Pukekohe

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"Seasons For Growth is a grief, loss and change Programme for children dealing with challenges in their lives e.g separation, divorce, death, other family changes. Our Afterschool Programme starts Thursday 12th of February 4-5pm, in Pukekohe, and runs once a week over 8 weeks. An optional Parent Programme also runs at the same time. For enquiries or enrolments please phone/text Marisa on 021 142 5812, office (09) 238 7228, or email at seasonsfranklin@xtra.co.nz. For more info please go to www.pukekohecommunityaction.co.nz/seasons."