



Kia ora Koutou

Welcome to Brightwater School for 2026.

I trust you have enjoyed some fantastic family time over the summer break and you and your children are ready to get back to school to enjoy what we want to be a fun, exciting and learning-filled year.

A special welcome to several new families who are joining our school community this year.

Please see below some information to ensure we start the year as smoothly as possible - as always if you have any questions / queries please don't hesitate to contact me at school, or ring the office.

Key Dates

28, 29 January	Staff Only Days - Staff will be involved in a range of professional learning over these 2 days to support the learning programmes of 2026.
29 January	Whānau Connect Day - This is not an official school day but staff will be in their classrooms to welcome you throughout the afternoon if you can make it. This is a good opportunity to bring your stationery with you, familiarise yourself with the classroom and your teacher and also for your teacher to get to know a little about you. 1.30 - 4.30pm
Tuesday 3 February	School Starts for 2026 at 9am
Friday 6 February	Waitangi Day - Public Holiday
Term 1 Dates	Tuesday 3 February - Thursday 2 April

Stationery

At the end of last year your child took home the instructions for how to order online. It would be helpful if your child had their stationery requirements to start the year.

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

Swimming

All children will swim every day - please ensure your child has their togs at school each day - despite the weather in the morning. **Please clearly name your child's gear.**

Sunhats

A wide brimmed sun hat is required to be worn throughout Term 1. Please ensure your child has an appropriate, named sunhat at school every day. If your child does not have a hat they will be required to play in the shade at break times. Please note: caps are not permitted.

Scooter and Bike Safety

If your child is scootering or biking to school, please talk to them about road safety - stopping and looking at road crossings, taking care through bus areas like the NPD forecourt etc. Students walk their bikes and scooters once at the school gate and in the afternoon walk their scooter or bike to the Ellis Street Auto carpark before getting on. Helmets are required. A student must be 10 years of age to bike to school on the road by themselves.

Bus Students

There is one bus run only in the morning - it goes up Teapot Valley (picking children up about 8.15 (we are investigating changing this to 8am - I will let you know when I have heard back from the bus company) and then those students stay on the bus as it travels up River Terrace Road to the Lee / Wairoa Valley turnoff. It turns around there and comes back to school.

In the afternoon it is exactly the same - leaving school with all bus students at 3.05ish - and going up Teapot Valley first before heading up River Terrace Road.

It is the parents responsibility to ensure the students are at the pick up point in the mornings on time. Early in the year senior students will be trained by our Community Constable to be bus monitors - this involves ensuring behaviour on the bus is appropriate and reporting anything of concern to me to follow up. A code of conduct for bus behaviour will be sent home to complete and return to school in the next few weeks.

Hero - our new student management system

We are in the process of moving to a new student management system for 2026. This will allow us to slowly phase out some other communication methods, making everything align to the one process - absences, notices, permissions, enrolments etc. Information will be sent home shortly for you to download the app and full support and instructions will be provided to make this as simple as possible. We will also be available to help where required.

Hero will provide greater and easier functionality for a variety of school-based tasks and allow us to communicate more effectively using one platform.

Contacting School

For any questions / queries prior to starting school please contact Jill in the office - office@brightwater.school.nz or phone 035423666.

Staff for 2026

A special welcome to our new Deputy Principal, Belinda Mackean, who will be teaching in Room 9 (Year 5-6) for 3 days a week. Belinda comes to us from Nayland Primary.

Principal	Glenda Earle	
Deputy Principals	Aimee Sinclair Belinda Mackean	Wai-iti Team lead Waimea Team lead
Team Leader	Larissa Inch	Wairoa Team lead Teacher Room 5 (Y3-4)
Special Needs Co-ordinator	Karen Edwards	Teacher Waimea Team (Y5-6) Teacher Room 9 (2 days)
Waimea Team (Year 5-6)	Belinda Mackean	Team Lead - Room 9

with some Year 4	Karen Edwards Tayla Graham Melody Grant / Dan Brundan	Teacher - Room 9 (Y5-6) Teacher - Room 10 (Y4-5) Teachers - Room 11 (Y5-6)
Wairoa Team (Year 3-4)	Larissa Inch Paula Le'mon / Lisa Rutledge (Friday) Petra Matz Bianca Farmer	Team Lead - Room 5 Teachers - Room 7 (Y3-4) Teacher - Room 6 (Y3-4) Classroom release teacher
Wai-iti Team (Year 0-2)	Aimee Sinclair Andrea Baker Holly Chandler Lynley Bryce Jen Horncastle Alana Flintoft	Team Lead - Room 12/13 Teacher - Room 1 (Y1-2) Teacher - Room 2 (Y1-2) Teacher - Room 12/13 (NE) Teacher - Room 12/13 (NE) Teacher - Room 12/13 (NE)
Part-time Teachers	Adrienne Cairns Kirsten Powick Joan Duncan Petrina Classen	Literacy Specialist Support STEAM Release teacher - Room 5 Counsellor
Support Staff	Jill Adams Pete Dowding Joanne Prendeville Rebecca Anderson Tessa Werner Alana Flintoft Natalie Randall Myah Lister Richard de Hamel	Office Administrator Caretaker Teacher Aide / Library Teacher Aide Teacher Aide Teacher Aide Teacher Aide Teacher Aide School Chaplain

We look forward to seeing everyone again soon and welcoming you all to the 2026 year at Brightwater School.

Glenda