



SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

Developing Capability ♦ Character ♦ Confidence in an exceptional educational environment.

Newsletter No.05 May 2026



[Dear Springbank Family](#)

May was an incredibly busy and productive month for our Springbank families, marked beautifully by the start of the winter sport season. Looking ahead, we want to extend a massive congratulations to the students and parents of our Under-15 Netball team, who will be traveling to Samoa next year for an international competition during the April school holidays. The team has some exciting fundraising initiatives planned. Please see page 16 on ways you can support the team.

At school, our annual school-wide Cross Country was a resounding success. Students from Preschool to Year 13 gave their absolute best across the various courses, showcasing remarkable fitness and perseverance. Our Year 7 students were very excited to have the bog included in their course this year. Meanwhile, our Prefects and Student Leaders have been actively bringing our values to life through events like Pink Shirt Day, Little Heart Day, and Pyjama Day. Further afield, our Year 13 delegates represented us exceptionally well at the Model United Nations (MUNA) in Auckland. This simulation allowed our students to step into the shoes of UN ambassadors, engaging in diplomatic debates and inspiring conversations. We are incredibly proud of their growth and their achievement in winning the prestigious award presented by the Secretary General, for Most Knowledge and Best Use of the UN Charter.

Behind the scenes, the mid-year rush is well underway for our staff. Junior School teachers have completed writing reports, while our Middle and Senior teachers are heavily focused on preparing Year 10 to 13 students for their mock exams in Weeks 6 and 7 of Term Three, as well as the final Cambridge exams commencing on September 24th. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated team at Springbank. Our teachers possess a deep understanding of each student's character and academic journey, and they are genuinely invested in aiming for excellence across academic, social, and personal development. They remain readily available should you have any questions, and I extend my sincere thanks to them for their ongoing outstanding work.

On a personal note, thank you so much for the many kind emails and conversations I have had with many of you regarding my departure at the end of the year. Your support means an immense amount to me. Please rest assured that our management team is already working thoroughly through our transition plan, and we will keep you updated as we move forward.

Tina Hallowes, Principal



Dates & Events to Note:

We have a wide range of internal and external events and trips across Term Two. All events can be found on our school website calendar.

- **House Quiz Afternoon (Middle & Senior School) – Friday 12th June**
- **Senior School Ball – Saturday 13th June**
- **Inter-school Cross Country 4-7 year olds – Wednesday 17th June**
- **New Zealand Army Band – Wednesday 17th June**
- **Matariki Prep Day – Wednesday 24th June**
- **Matariki Celebrations – Thursday 25th June**
- **School Holidays – Saturday 27th June to Sunday 19th July**

- **TERM THREE – Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September (10 weeks)**
 - **Springbank Science Fair – Thursday 30th July (hosted in the school gym)**
 - **Book Fair – Thursday 30th July (hosted in the school gym)**
 - **BOI Beast Run – Friday 31st July**



Matariki Celebrations 2026

Our fabulous Matariki Celebrations are coming on **Thursday 25th June**. This annual event is a highlight of our school calendar where our Springbank community come together to help celebrate the Māori New Year. It is an event where everyone in the school community can be involved from prepping the vegetables, digging the hangi pit, making soup or stuffing, providing goods or services, to being part of the all important hangi team.

- ❖ It is a time to remember those that have passed.
- ❖ It is a time to celebrate the present and
- ❖ It is a time to plan and look ahead to the future.

If you are able to help with our celebrations in anyway, please email Taryn.



Whangarei Medical Careers Trip

During the first week of May, a group of Year 11 to 13 students went to Whangarei for the day to have a hands-on experience in the health sector.

Students were introduced to careers in radiology, pathology, pharmacy, psychology, dietetics, occupational therapy, dental/oral health, physiotherapy, speech therapy, anaesthetics, play therapy, podiatry, and looking at the central sterilisation unit.

Giving students the opportunity to participate in career days allows students to get a better understanding of what the different careers involve, what tertiary studies they may need to follow, and if this is the career path they want to pursue.



LitQuiz 2026

Two excited teams set off on Tuesday 5th May for Kerikeri Primary School's hall with Ms Hatherly and Mole Powles (Emmy's Dad), for the annual sport-of-reading competition.

There was a poignancy to LitQuiz this year; Wayne Mills, the founder and champion of the competition, announced that this is to be his final year after decades of running it. Don't worry, he has a brilliant successor ready to step up in 2027.

Although no team prizes came our way this year, there were individual cash prizes for answering questions between the rounds. Olive, Ace and Ms Hatherly won cash! The chance for young readers to mix with like-minded peers is so enriching, and the children were able to catch up with readers from across Northland.

The competition always runs at a speedy pace, and so much is packed into the three-hour event – everyone comes back to school just buzzing!

In other library news, we are hoping to get a little free library up and running next term. Does anyone have a cupboard (or similar) that we could renovate? It wouldn't need to be fully weatherproof, because it could live under cover. Fingers crossed! Thank you.

- Jill Hatherly



Springbank School Cross Country

Our annual Cross Country was one of the best this year, with clear blue skies and lots of energy from everyone. The day started off with our youngest friends from Preschool running a full lap of the field, followed by Headstart and the Junior School. Each year it is amazing to watch the confidence, speed, and determination of students as they get older.

The afternoon session is for the Year 7-13 runners, and the bog adds an extra element of challenge and fun. Some students power through with only a few splashes, some might lose a shoe, while others enjoy getting totally soaked. Mrs Hulse has the prime position and always gets awesome photos and video to share.

Congratulations to everyone who completed the school Cross Country this year. It might not be a favourite event for everyone, but it shows great resilience and determination to complete it.



Pink Shirt Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in Pink Shirt Day. It was great to see students from all year levels taking part. Pink Shirt Day was created and led by Mental Health New Zealand to encourage everyone to celebrate kindness and create environments where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected.



Red Heart Day

This term, as part of our initiatives for 2026, we ran a Little Heart Day to support Heart Kids New Zealand and raise awareness for children living with heart conditions.

As school student leaders, we organised a red-themed lunchtime bake sale, a Junior School colouring competition, and a raffle to win a giant jar of lollies. On the day, students wore red to show their support, and with big thanks to the amazing involvement from our whole school community, we raised over \$400 for Heart Kids New Zealand.

A big thank you to the students in the Student Volunteer Army for making all the baking for the bake sale. It was awesome seeing everyone come together for such a great cause.

Sebastian and Ava



Friends of Springbank

The Friends of Springbank held their AGM recently and the committee roles were confirmed as:

- Chairperson – Heather Sorensen
- Secretary – Sarah Sorensen
- Treasurer – Brent Martin

The committee received the feedback from students after the school cross country, and for 2027, the BBQ sausages will be back 😊! Committee member Natalie Morris is working behind the scenes organising a Parent Social Night, so watch this space for more information.

The committee has helped fund more student experiences with sporting events, Springbank's Got Talent, Volleyball Club, LitQuiz, Ugly Shakespeare, Recycled Fashion Show, and Defensive Driving course for seniors.



"Further the educational experience of Springbank School students"

Next Friends of Springbank meeting: will be Tuesday 28 July, via Zoom, 7.30pm. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the time.



Our legendary Springbank Fireworks Extravaganza will be held on **Saturday 7th November**. This year we will be having a different format which will enable more of our families to be able to enjoy the event as spectators (instead of volunteering etc). We will however, still need some help with setup/pack down.

We are on the lookout for external food trucks and vendors from the community, so please feel free to let anyone you know who might be interested to please get in touch with us. Any students (and/or their family) who would like a stall similar to market day, an activity stall or family business stall, are also welcome to reach out.

All Vendors would need to be completely self-sufficient with power (if needed) and cash/efpos capabilities, as we will not be using Springbucks this year.

Please get in-touch directly to info@millbaymagic.co.nz with any questions or if you would like to be a vendor.

Spaces are limited but priority will be given to Springbank families and previous vendors.



Springbank Clubs

We have some fantastic clubs at school this year for students to get involved with. Run Club, Bush Craft Club, Volleyball Club, Drama Club, Robotics Club and the most recent addition, Warhammer Club. Lunchtime and afterschool clubs help create a positive and inclusive school environment where students can build confidence, form friendships, and engage in meaningful activities beyond the classroom.

Run Club

Throughout Term 1, Run Club was held regularly on Monday afternoons to support students in working towards their 100 Club laps while also improving their overall fitness and running ability. Sessions were designed to encourage participation from students of all skill levels, creating a positive and motivating environment where everyone could challenge themselves and track their progress.

Run Club also provided students with the opportunity to build endurance, develop running techniques, and strengthen their confidence in preparation for upcoming competitions and school sporting events such as Athletics day and Cross Country. It was fantastic to see students showing commitment, determination, and encouragement towards one another each week, with many making significant improvements in both their fitness and skill level over the course of the term.

- Brisa Carlyon, Prefect

Robotics Club

Robotics Club has had a fantastic term so far, with students building their skills using beginner-friendly LEGO robotics kits. As confidence and experience continue to grow, the club is now beginning to explore more advanced Arduino-based robotics projects, allowing members to take on increasingly creative and complex challenges.

Bush Craft Club

Bush Craft Club is an exciting new addition to the school's clubs and has already been off to a great start. Students have recently learnt how to safely start and manage fires, cook over them, and understand the risks involved. In the coming weeks, members will continue developing practical outdoor skills, including shelter building and the safe use of knives and saws.

- Jacob Finch, Prefect



Middle & Senior Speech Finals

In mid-May we recently showcased the power of student voice at our annual *Springbank Speak Up!* speech competition. Following in-class preparation by all Year 9–12 students, 85 learners delivered original speeches to their peers designed to inform, persuade, and entertain. With no set topic, the competition produced a diverse and engaging range of ideas, from “Why Giant Clams are Going Extinct” to “Does Free Will Really Exist?”. Finalists from each year level advanced to our school finals, where guest judges Jill Hatherly and Isa Hackett had the difficult task of selecting the winners.

Congratulations to Holly McIntyre (Year 9), Mila Rich (Year 10), and Amelie Gilliver-Dittrich (Senior School) for their outstanding performances.

Mila took out the top spot with her memorable speech, “*The Benefits of Cannibalism*,” and went on to represent Springbank at the Whangārei Rotary Northland Speech Competition. Competing alongside other outstanding orators from across the region, Mila demonstrated exceptional poise, skill and good humour and took home a cash prize as a finalist. We are incredibly proud of her achievement and the way she represented our school. Bon appetit!



Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

Towards the end of May, a group of nine Year 13 students went down to Auckland to participate in the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) event. Student groups are given a participating UN country to represent and take turns to debate on matters of world politics and social concern. This year Springbank School represented Ukraine and Venezuela.

On day one, both teams worked hard to make alliances with other schools / countries such as Japan, UK, and Poland. It was a busy but thoroughly enjoyable day getting into the role of UN representatives and showcasing our political knowledge. On the first night to wind down we went ten pin bowling and played laser tag.

Day Two was another big day with Ukraine working on a major alliance to Remove Russia from their P5 nation status. Through solid research of the UN Charter we created a ticket only entry meeting with other school teams to form alliances. Our hard work and research resulted with team Ukraine winning the award for the Country with the Best Knowledge of the UN Charter, a fantastic and well-deserved achievement.

Both teams would like to give a big thanks to Mrs Hittle for her help with all the organisation, and Mr Epley for accompanying them on the trip down as well. Thanks also to Ronan for taking the photos. It was a fantastic experience and we recommend all Year 12 and 13 students to put their hand up to attend this annual event.



Northland Secondary Schools Auctioneering Competition

On Thursday 28th May, I participated in the Northland Secondary Schools Auctioneering competition. It was a very competitive night with each student having to demonstrate their auctioneering skills, answering questions, selling and promoting their property to its full potential and handling bidders confidently.

The final three students were said to be “*a cut above the rest*” and in the words of the head Judge, “*The lighting could have changed the placements*”.

All in all it was a great experience, and I was pleased to place third overall. Thank you to Ross Patterson from Barfoot for his mentorship and help throughout the competition.

- Clay Blakeman, Deputy Head Boy



Sky Tower Challenge

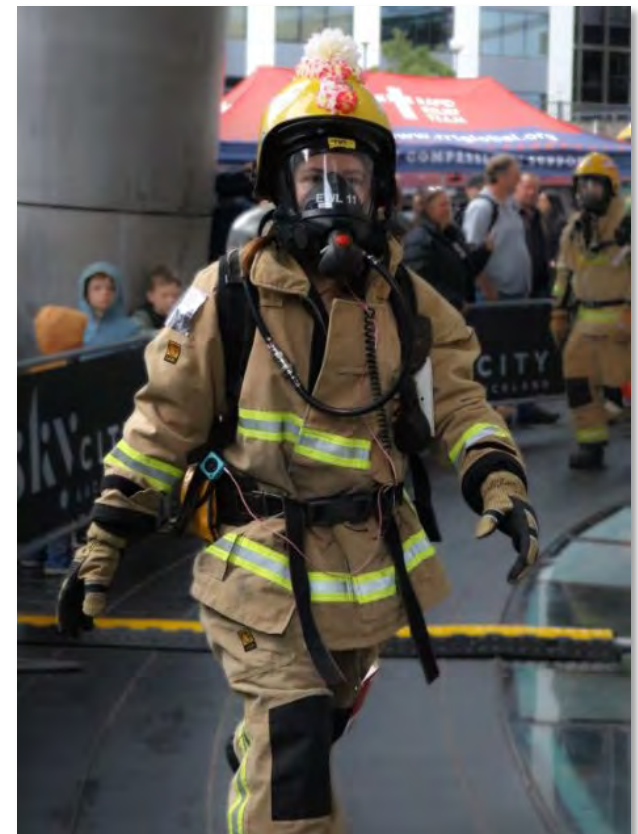
On Saturday 23rd May, I participated in The Sky Tower Challenge alongside my Dad and as a member of the Paihia Volunteer Fire Brigade. I raced up the tower in full kit, which means I wear my mask and breath air in and out of the tank on my back. The gear weighs 25kgs and having to climb 1,103 steps gets you sweaty really quickly!

I completed the race in 16 minutes and 58 seconds, which is 67 steps a minute.

I raised \$3,207.00 and would like to give a huge thanks to everyone who donated to my fundraising page. It all adds up to make a huge difference. In total the event raised \$2.4 million for the Blood Cancer Foundation of New Zealand.

A key reason for participating in this event was not only to support a vital charity here in New Zealand, but I was racing for my Oma who is living with Myeloma, a type of Blood Cancer. Of all the fundraisers I've been involved in, I have found this one to be the most meaningful, knowing that every dollar raised goes towards helping families in one of the toughest times of their lives.

- Toni Warren, Deputy Head Girl



Ugly Shakespeare

On Wednesday in Week 6 we had the Ugly Shakespeare Company perform The Complete Works of Shakespeare (The Abridged Version) for our Year 7 – 13 students. Actors Kelly, Greg and Nick had the challenging task of performing everything from the tragedies to Shakespeare's sonnets and comedies. The show brought the range of the bard's tales to life with outrageous humour, plenty of audience interactions and a decapitated head or two... Our students loved the high energy and fast-firing comedy as they took in a whopping 37 plays in 45 minutes.

Year 7 and 8 classes caught up with the actors post-show and participated in workshops about the actor's toolbox: using body and voice - perfect prep for their upcoming speeches. A huge thank you to The Ugly Shakespeare team for bringing to Springbank School such an engaging introduction into the world of Shakespeare.



PJ Day

It was an easy roll out of bed day on Friday 29th May as we held Pyjama Day at school. Led by Perry and Macy, students were encouraged to wear their pjs, cosy slippers, onesies, or dressing gowns to school for the day. Gold coin donations were collected, along with extra dollars being raised from the lunchtime bake sale.

A big thanks to the members of the Student Volunteer Army who baked goods for the sale, and for students who donated 22 pairs of new Pyjamas.

As a school community we raised over \$450.00, and Macy and Perry will be spending that money on more new Pyjamas to be donated to Bald Angels.



Springbank School Sports

We love to highlight our students' success at sports both in a school team or event, as well as individual competitions. Over the month of May we have had several students compete strongly at sport and we would like to offer our congratulations.

Our winter school teams of hockey and netball continue to grow in confidence every week. Our Intermediate hockey team are thoroughly enjoying the change to a Wednesday night under the Kaikohe turf lights with great wins every week. The basketball boys also play on a Wednesday night playing two games a night and are coming away with some excellent wins.

We'd like to again thank our student and parent coaches for their time every week running practices at school and coaching teams on Saturdays. Your support and leadership is greatly appreciated, and we thank all the parents too for your support on the sidelines each weekend.



Kadee Butterworth (Year 11) competed at the Snowplanet Slopestyle event mid May and got judged on two runs. Kadee had an awesome event and was recognised for her skills by placing 1st in the U16 girls SKI.



In early May, Eliza, Louisa, and Madison (Year 9) and Zane (Year 10) swam in the Northland Secondary Schools Swimming Championships in Whangarei.

It was a busy morning with heats running constantly in the strokes of freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly over 25, 50 and 100m.

Our students had a successful event with Madison holding onto her current PBs and Eliza, Louisa, and Zane hitting new PBs in their races.

Sports Continue →

Springbank School Sports

On Friday 22nd May, we helped host the NSSS Orienteering event with Northland Secondary School Sports - NSSS students from Years 7-10 race both individually and in teams, following a map around the Springbank School track and paddocks to find the orienteering markers.

All markers must be found and stamped correctly before returning to the finish line. The weather was perfect this year, the students were full of energy, and Springbank School earned some great placings.

Well done to all our participants and a big thanks to our extra Year 10 students who helped with marshalling and scoring duties.

Individual Race

- Year 9&10 Boys = Finn 1st
- Year 9&10 Girls = Iola 1st
- Year 7&8 Boys = Frank 3rd
- Year 7&8 Girls = Susanna 1st
- Year 7&8 Girls = Alessia 2nd
- Year 7&8 Girls = Mia 3rd

Team Race

- Year 9&10 = 2nd
 - (Iola, Alex, Zane, and Finn)
- Year 7&8 = 1st
 - (Frank, Walter, Susanna & Ilha)
- Year 7&8 = 2nd
 - (Jimmy, Henry, Charlotte, Olive G)



Sports Continue →

Springbank School Celebrating 30 years

In the last week of May, a group of 16 students ran in the NSSS Barge Park Cross Country Champs. The course is a step up from our own school Cross Country with some hill work and longer distances for students to complete. Our students were amazing, all finishing their races, all finishing with a smile on their face, and their sportsmanship with both their peers and students from other schools was to be commended.

Congratulations to everyone who ran on the day and special mention to our podium and top ten finishers.

Year 7&8 Girls (50 runners)

- 3rd = Olive K
- 8th = Ilha

Year 9&10 Girls (43 runners)

- 3rd = Addi
- 4th = Skyler

Year 9&10 Boys (50 runners)

- 6th = Nelson





HELP OUR TEAM ❤️
SHOOT FOR SAMOA!
FUNDRAISING DINNER & AUCTION
SAMOA TOUR 2027
SPRINGBANK SCHOOL U15 NETBALL TEAM

DATE:
31 JULY 2026
5.30PM - MIDNIGHT

VENUE:
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH HOTEL
RUSSELL

TICKETS:
\$100 PER PERSON
INCLUDES DINNER AND
ENTRY TO THE EVENT

TABLES OF 10:
\$1000 PER TABLE
BOOK A TABLE AND BRING
YOUR TEAM!

CASH BAR AVAILABLE
GUEST SPEAKER (TBA)
AUCTIONS & RAFFLES
FUN FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED
BY CALLING DUKE RECEPTION
09 403 7829

Duke of Marlborough Hotel
SPRINGBANK SCHOOL



SUPPORT OUR TEAM ❤️
SPONSOR OUR JOURNEY TO SAMOA
SPRINGBANK SCHOOL U15 NETBALL TEAM
APRIL 2027 SAMOA TOUR

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY
Help our dedicated young athletes represent Springbank School and our community in Samoa. Your support will help create lifelong memories, friendships and experiences while allowing our team to compete, learn and grow together.

\$500 ❤️
SPONSOR PACKAGE

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

- Your business name and logo logo featured on the team tracksuit
- Recognition at the Springbank School U15 Netball Team Fundraising Dinner & Auction 31 JULY 2026 THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, RUSSELL
- A team thank-you photo from Samoa to display in your business
- Recognition in team supporter acknowledgements and communications

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS WITH

- Flights and accommodation
- Tournament and tour fees
- Team uniforms and equipment
- Transport and meals
- Cultural and educational experiences

TO BECOME A SPONSOR OR FIND OUT MORE
riki@theduke.co.nz ❤️

SPRINGBANK SCHOOL

Thank you for supporting our team and helping make our Samoa Tour 2027 a reality. ❤️

Headstart Report

This term we have been exploring life cycles from seeds to butterflies to frogs. Frogs have certainly been our favourite so far. How exciting to watch our tadpoles transform in our very own Headstart aquarium! Our students each took turns to draw a frog and what we love is that they are “same, same but different”.

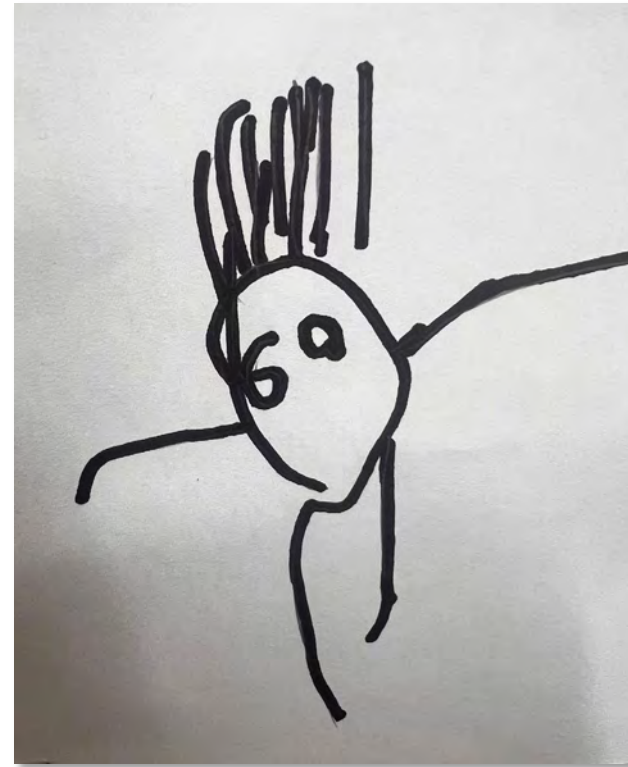


Preschool Update

STOP! PAUSE! TITIRO!

Look at our little artists at work! Our preschoolers explored self-portraits, using mirrors, pens and lots of imagination to create pictures of themselves. From bright smiles to different hair styles every masterpiece was wonderfully unique — just like them!

Self-portrait drawing helps children build confidence, creativity, and self-awareness while having so much fun expressing who they are. We loved seeing their personalities shine through in every artwork!



Springbank School Celebrating 30 Years

As we approach the 2026 Senior School Ball, let's take a look back at some of the Senior Balls from over the years.



Casino Royale - 2007



Formal Dance - 2009



King, Queen, Prince & Princess - 2012



Alice in Wonderland - 2014



Year 13 of 2019



Old Packhouse Market - 2023

School Reminders

Colds & Flu

As winter ills move around the community it is important to keep your children home if they are unwell, so that colds and flu don't spread around their classrooms.

Students should stay home until their symptoms have eased, and for stomach bugs students must stay home a full 24 hours after their last bout of sickness.

Absences

It is **very important** that if for any reason your child is away from school, that we are notified. We are using KAMAR for all school absence reporting. Please go to www.springbank.school.kiwi and follow the instructions. If you need to reset your password, please let Taryn know.

Student sign in and out

If your child is leaving the school during the day for an appointment or leaving early, they must be signed out at the school office. Students are to wait at the office until they are collected by their parent / caregiver. If your child is arriving late to school due to an appointment, they must sign in at the school office before going to class.

Late students

Students arriving late to school must report to the office first to get a late slip.



Term Dates 2027

The current school year is already whizzing by as we head into the final three weeks of Term Two. It is always helpful to look ahead and plan so please find below the term dates and public holiday dates for 2027.

2027 Term Dates

- Term 1: 25th January to 9th April (11 weeks)
- Term 2: 27th April to 24th June (9 weeks)
- Term 3: 19th July to 24th September (10 weeks)
- Term 4: 11th October to 3rd December (8 weeks)

Public and School Holidays

Teacher Only Days	Thursday 21 st and Friday 22 nd January
Northland Anniversary	Monday 1 st February
Waitangi Day	Saturday 6 th February (observed Monday 8 th February)
Good Friday	Friday 26 th March
Easter Monday	Monday 29 th March
Easter Tuesday	Tuesday 30 th March
ANZAC Day	Sunday 25 th April (observed Monday 26 th April)
King's Birthday	Monday 7 th June
Matariki	Friday 25 th June
Labour Day	Monday 25 th October
Teacher Only Day	Friday 4 th December

