



## School Fortnightly Newsletter

by Melissa Grant on 13th February, 2026 14:53

**TAKA TIPU**  
**MORNING FOOTBALL**  
**AT NORTHCOTE**

6 WEEK MORNING FOOTBALL TRAINING HELD AT THE SCHOOL  
AVAILABLE FOR ALL NPS STUDENTS

TIME: 7:45am - 9:45am  
DATE: 20 FEB - 27 MARCH

- Suitable to all ages and levels Boys and girls
- Qualified and experienced coaches
- Technical and Physical development Program
- Enjoyable training Environment with loads of games

Use our Link for more Sign up Information:  
<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/452823>

GET READY FOR A FUN

**Girls Time**

Girls Aged 9-15  
Friendships Workshop

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
3:30 - 5:30 pm and 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Birkenhead

Book online: [www.strongerwithin.org](http://www.strongerwithin.org)

**TEN FEET TALL**  
FOR SPEECH & PERFORMING SKILLS

Confidence isn't a personality trait  
it's a skill

Friday Classes at Northcote Primary  
Speech & Drama Classes - Build Speaking  
& Performing Confidence

Clear Speaking, Acting Skills, Public Speaking,  
Sharing Opinions, Expressive Voice, Debate  
Skills, Drama Games, Social Skills,  
Communication Skills

Refer a friend  
\$30 discount

Ask us about our Term 1 discounted fees

Welcome to the first school newsletter of the year which will come out fortnightly on a Friday.

As I reflect on my first few weeks here, I am struck by how quickly this school has felt like home. My own smooth transition is a testament to the strength of this school, and I am dedicated to making sure that every family feels that same sense of belonging and confidence as we navigate the year ahead.

Highlights for me so far included gathering together at our Mihi Whakatau last week to welcome our new staff, students and whānau. It has been amazing getting to know the children, meeting you and hearing your hopes and aspirations for the year ahead. I have also been very impressed by the dedication of our staff and their focus and commitment to the children in their care each day.

I was impressed when walking through Room 14 this week who have been learning about what life was like in Aotearoa New Zealand before the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. They explored how Māori lived, worked, and built their communities. As part of this learning, students collaboratively created their own pā (Māori villages), learning about the different types of pātaka (storehouses) found within a pā and why they were important for storing food and supplies. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for photos of their creations.

You might have noticed near the Nutsey Ave drop off area that we have a temporary water hose feeding the Tōtara block and a hole in the ground with a blue cover over it. This is due to a water leak underground. I am working with the Ministry of Education to find where the leak is and to get it fixed. I will keep you updated with progress.

### Curriculum and Assessment Update:

Despite the recent government media coverage on changes to assessment and reporting, our commitment to your child's growth remains our priority. We are carefully navigating these updates while maintaining our tracking systems that allow us to monitor your child's progress and achievement. Our teachers are implementing the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum while keeping the fidelity of our local context, ensuring we are providing a range of rich learning experiences that support the holistic development of our learners.

### Attendance:

The government is mandating stricter school attendance because low attendance rates are directly related to poor educational, social and economic outcomes.

In 2025, our regular attendance rate was 76%. This year, our target is to meet and exceed the government expectation of 80%. We have had a great start to 2026, sitting at 88% since last week. Our challenge now is to continue to build and sustain this momentum.

If you intend to take your child out of school for a holiday or other non-school reasons a formal written request must be submitted to the Principal in advance. We appreciate your support in prioritising your child's education during term time.

You can find our Attendance Management Plan [here](#) on our school website.

### **Sports News:**

Team sports are starting up for the year which is exciting. All sports will now have their registration and payment through My Kindo. Log into your account and it is under the sports tab. Sports uniforms must be worn for all sports. These are available at the school office or ordered through My Kindo. Singlet \$50 Shorts \$40 Netball Skirt \$40. We have a small amount of second hand items available at the office.

Basketball registrations are now open for Semester 1. Registrations **close** Thursday the 26th February.

Flippaball registrations are now open for Term 1 in Year 6: Must be confident swimmers. Registrations **close** Sunday 15 February.

Before School Football Opportunity:

Takapuna Football Club are starting their Friday before school training sessions. [Information and sign up here.](#)

### **Reminders:**

A healthy food and drink environment helps support a young person's wellbeing, including their immediate physical and mental growth and development. It also helps establish positive behaviours for the future. Good nutrition can positively affect student behaviour, learning, concentration, and energy. We encourage healthy lunchboxes and support drinks to be water only. Please avoid sending in chocolate or lollies.

We strongly encourage toys to be left at home to avoid distractions during learning time. We are not responsible for the loss of toys at school. If it is a treasured toy, please leave them at home.

Scholastic Lucky Book Orders: Your child should have come home with the lucky book order brochure this week. Orders close on Friday 20th of February.

Year 5/6 camp is coming up and information has been sent in hard copy to parents and you can find it [here](#). Please read this carefully so we can plan accordingly.

### **School Board Update:**

We welcome Max Brown to the School Board as a parent representative following the casual vacancy from last year.

While we do our best to manage our financial position, school finances operate on fine margins. We rely on school donations and activity fee payments to ensure we are able to provide opportunities and resources that are core to our school. These costs have been loaded onto your My Kindo account. Thank you for your support. Payment by the 31st of March gets you into the draw for one of three \$100 Prezzy Cards!

Schools Docs policy review:

This term we are reviewing some of the policies in the Safety On and Off School Grounds section. We welcome your feedback on these policies

- Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances Policy
- Sun Protection
- Digital Technology and Online Safety
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

To review, visit the website <https://northcoteprimary.schooldocs.co.nz>

Enter the username (northcoteprimary) and password (shore).

Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.

1. Read the policy.
2. Click the Policy Review button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
3. Select the reviewer type.
4. Enter your name (optional).
5. Submit your ratings and comments.

**Key dates so far for this term** ([link here to full calendar](#))

Our next whole school assembly is next Thursday the 19th of February at 10:30am which I will be leading.

Whole school assembly: March 5th 10:30am hosted by the Kererū Team.

9-11 March: Kauri Team Camp

Whole school assembly: March 19th 10:30am hosted by the Tūi Team

Whole school assembly: April 2nd 10:30am hosted by the Kauri Team

2nd April: Last day of Term 1

Looking forward, we have two teacher only days this year. The dates are 29th of May and the 28th of August.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Melissa**

[melissag@northcoteprimary.school.nz](mailto:melissag@northcoteprimary.school.nz)