



# Whakamaru School

Tena Koutou/Greetings

Welcome to our school. We cater for all primary and  
intermediate aged students  
Year 1 to Year 8.



***Whakamaru Vision: that students will be life-long learners  
using skills in the real world ...***

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***Kaahu Rd, RD1, Mangakino · Phone (07) 8828872 · Fax (07) 8828822  
principal@whakamaru.school.nz***

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*Welcome to our very special school.*  
*Why is it special?*

- Children are encouraged to learn to the best of their ability.
  - Small class sizes.
  - Rural country school.
- A school with a family atmosphere whose members are encouraged to genuinely care for each other.
  - Our kids are active country kids.
    - Annual Ag Days.
    - School Choir.
    - Sports Days.
- A member of the Pinelands cluster group of schools.
  - Kapa Haka group.
- A Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour on site.
  - Drama/Dance specialists on staff.
  - A Social Worker in Schools on site.

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- We listen and act on concerns and comments.
- A Duffy School - free or subsidized books available for every child in the school.
- A 'Cool School' - using the latest in mediation techniques by peers in the playground and the classroom.
- A school pool and trained instructors for swimming.
  - Guitar tuition available.
  - Gardening Club.
- A dedicated staff of experienced teachers.
- A Student Council - encouraging leadership in students.
- Education Outside the Classroom is offered at all levels of the school. Class overnight experiences are included in this - particularly at the senior end of the school.
  - A Health Promoting School.
  - No School Fees.

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## Staff

Staff members are all experienced and enthusiastic:-

Principal	Mrs Jill McArthur
Year 0 - 1 Teacher	Ms Keriana Whatarau (Deputy Principal)
Year 2 - 3 Teacher	Mrs Jenny Collins
Year 4 - 5 Teacher	Miss Kareena Coombe
Year 6 - 8 Teacher	Mrs Melissa Isaacson
Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour	Ms Pia Marty
Teacher Aides	Mrs Christine Taylor, Mrs Claire Hamilton
Office Manager	Mrs Elva Lorenz
Caretaker	Mr Roly Schwass
Cleaner	Mrs Trish Turfrey
Social Worker	Rochelle Lemberg

Talk to us if you need anything from us. We are here to help and provide the best learning opportunities for your child.

We are at school early to ensure we are prepared for the day and are in our rooms from 8:30am to spend time with the children before the school day starts at 8:45am.

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### Absences

In the case of a child being absent from school then please contact the school. The school will follow up on all unexplained absences. If your child is late to school then please have them go to class via the school office to let us know they have arrived.

### Bell Times

Please ensure your children are here ready for the school day by 8:45am.

Session 1	8:45 - 10:30
Morning tea	10:30 - 10:50
Session 2	10:50 - 11:45
5 minute break	11:45 - 11:50
Session 3	11:50 - 12:30
Lunch	12:30 - 1:15
Session 3	1:15 - 2:45

### Board of Trustees

This group of elected parent representatives meets monthly - usually on a Wednesday. Meetings are advertised in the school newsletter. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

### Buses

We have two buses:-

Farm Bus (Pouakani Farm/Ranginui Road)	Grahame (driver)
Sandel/Tihoi Roads	Driver from Go Bus.

If you have a question about bus routes then please ring the office to talk to Elva (Office Manager). The Principal is in charge of the buses apart from that. If you need to discuss anything further then please ring the school and ask to speak to Jill.

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Every child in the school who travels on the bus (including to Tech Arts) is required to sign a behaviour contract. There are senior children who report daily to the Principal about bus behaviour. Good behaviour can be maintained by speaking to your children about your expectations.

### Duffy Books

We are a Duffy School which means we receive lots of new books into the school. We give these books out to children at every opportunity - including on starting school, at assemblies, and other times as appropriate. We feel this recognizes the place of reading and literacy development at Whakamaru School.

### Enrolments/Pre-School Visits

It is important that we know when your child is starting school so please ensure their name is on our list. All children may have two school visits to familiarize themselves with their new surroundings. These are usually one morning and one afternoon in the week before their birthday. Please contact Ms Whatarau to organize dates. Parents must be on-site during these visits. Please remember all 5 year old enrolments must be accompanied by a copy of their birth certificate/passport and immunization record. A new requirement is that we have a record of their preschool education.

### Gardening Club

We have the opportunity for students to take part in this club where they have a say in how the school grounds are developed. This is held at lunchtimes.

### Healthy Schools

We are part of the Healthy Schools programme. This means we are lucky enough to have fruit for the students to eat every day -

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usually just before morning tea time. This is delivered fresh to the school twice a week. We also have other healthy initiatives - including being an accredited sunsmart school - through this programme.

#### Kapa Haka Group

This group meets weekly and will be taking part in performances through the year as our Maori culture is an integral part of our school.

#### Library

We have a library on-site which every child has the opportunity to use weekly during class time. We have recently installed new software which means students can access the catalogue and records remotely.

#### Newsletters

These are sent home with the eldest child each Monday. Please take the time to read them as they tell you about what is happening at school. We are more than happy to print your ads or community news if space allows.

#### P.T.A.

We have a very supportive group of parents who meet twice a term or as necessary. They are responsible for fundraising and have organized some fantastic events. We are very lucky to have this group backing the school.

#### School Banking

School banking is available through NZ Credit Union. Application forms are available at the school office. Banking day is Tuesday.

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### School Pool

We are lucky enough to have a pool. All teachers are trained in the Swim Safe Instruction Programme and are qualified to teach swimming. Please make sure that your child has their togs and towel at school during the swimming season as it is expected that they will all take part in this part of the school programme. If, due to sickness, they cannot swim, then please make sure they have a note. There are consequences for non-swimmers.

### Social Worker

We have a social worker in schools who works in our school twice a week - Mondays and Thursdays. You are most welcome to request that your child sees her if you would like. Just contact the school office to arrange a time.

### Stationery

This may be purchased from the school. It is important that your child is ready to learn with the appropriate stationery so please ensure it is purchased when the request notice is given. Prices are maintained as much as possible through the year.

### Student Council

This year the Student Council will be selected by the teachers. This group will be organizing special days for the other students in the school, and collecting ideas from other students to pass on to the Principal and other staff so children feel they have a real say in what happens in the school. There are only well-behaved students required for this valued position.

### Sunhats

Children must have a hat at school during Term 1 and 4. On very sunny days they will be expected to sit in the shade if they do not have one.

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### Technology Classes

All Year 7 and 8 students attend Technology classes at Forest View High School in Tokoroa. This is held every second Wednesday. There is no charge for transport by bus but there are associated course fees which the Board subsidises. Students may also be expected to supply some ingredients for Food Technology.

### Visitors

All visitors to the school are welcome and should report to the school office to sign in as you arrive.



Classrooms

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Children at the annual Agricultural Day



Getting out in our community

## NOTES

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