



NEWSLETTER

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Kia ora whānau,

I am hoping everyone had a wonderful April holidays. Obviously the weather has proved a challenge but I know as a staff, after a busy Term 1 with many events, trips and enthusiastic students a break was well received. Term 2 will be just as busy and with eleven weeks we know there will be times when everyone will be challenged by sickness, tiredness and energy.

Attendance: For 2026 we made the decision to strive to have an attendance rate of over **93%** of our roll present for 90% of the year. Many of our senior students have set personal goals to strive to have a 100% attendance in 2026 which shows how much they want to be at school. What is evident with the huge shift in achievement standards in 2026 is that every day immersed in learning will give the best possible chance to increase achievement. During Term 1 our attendance rate was at **80%** of our school roll attended 90% of the term. In simple terms with our roll over 140 students, 112 of them attended every day or had less than 1-5 days off in the term.

During Term 1 our Year 5 group had the highest percentage attending.

There are many factors that impact on attendance and there is no way we are wanting you to send students to school sick as we need to continue to have our staff and classes stay healthy. What we are really conscious of is that with the increased academic curriculum expectation, every day in classrooms is extremely important. As a staff we have been emphasising the urgency of getting started quickly and that is where you, as whanau, play a huge part. Having tamariki at school ready to go for the days learning before 8:30. The golden time for learning is in the first 3 hours of the school day and the majority of our core teaching of literacy and numeracy is occurring at this time. It is recognised that tamariki are more anxious and reluctant to get into learning when they are late into class. They miss the key instructions for the day, can feel embarrassed by coming in late and the disruption can change the flow for the classroom teacher. We would really like you to support our urgency of being here on time for the learning to kick start at 8:30

Winter Sport:

Firstly thank you to all our parent volunteers for taking sports teams in 2026. It is so great seeing the variety of experience we have in contributing to coaching teams. We love seeing people prepared to put their hand up and give it a go even if they don't have any experience. We are in for a bumper year and sports kicking off next week. It's incredible to see how many students have signed up and really exciting that we have 1 extra netball team and 1 extra hockey team this year compared to last year. Please remember that because we are a small school it can be harder to have teams made up of the exact right age group, in some instances there may be younger students in a team to ensure we have enough. Also, a reminder that Jess Knox works incredibly hard to create these teams, ensure teams have a coach and manager and to manage all the games and information. We are very grateful to Jess and all the work she does. Remember things won't always be perfect or exactly how you may envisage them, if you ever have any questions or concerns over the course of winter sports email jess directly at jknox@southmak.school.nz. Have a great season and remember that kids being with their friends and school mates, enjoying hanging out together is key and being a good sportsman is the most important thing. As parents our role should be about celebrating students being involved learning to work together, improving skills, having fun and contributing.

Transporting to school pressures: We are all well aware of the costs of travelling around our region and acknowledge the cost of getting to and from school each day. Jill and her Marton Cabs team is not able to support in this role again for Term 2. Last term we sent an opportunity to support connecting people for carpooling from areas. We only had two respondents, one from Marton and one from Bulls. If you would like us to connect you with others to support carpooling, please complete the [online form](#).

Inter-School Athletics

At the conclusion of last term we had 19 senior students attend the Inter-School Athletics in Hunterville. This is always a very competitive day with all our tamariki striving to make the top 5 spots in Long Jump, High Jump, Discus, Sprints and Long-Distance races. Throughout the day the encouragement amongst the team of students was brilliant and the way they competed against others and their peers was very pleasing. We had some fantastic individual results.

Peiter Botes: Third overall Year 4/5 Boys with 1st in sprints, 4th in Long Jump and 5th in Shot Put

Harry O'Neill: Third overall Year 6/7 Boys with 1st in 1500m, 2nd in Sprints and 4th in Long Jump

Indy Jones: 2nd Equal overall Year 8 Girls with 3rd in Discus, 4th in High jump, 4th in 1500m and 4th in Sprints

We also celebrated some students doing extremely well in individual events:

Braxton Blakelock: 1st Discus

Oscar Auret: 3rd Longjump



ANZAC Learning Celebration:

Next Friday at 12:00 we will be holding an ANZAC memorial and Learning Celebration. This will be lead by our Senior Students and if the weather allows will do this outside Kea space by the flagpole. This will also be an opportunity for us to welcome new students to our kura and we look forward to having whanau come join in the celebration and memorial.

ANZAC Memorial Marton:

For those in the community who attend the Marton ANZAC service we will have some students representing the school with laying our school wreath. Students who attend can wear the school uniform if they wish.

Duathlon:

We will hold this next Friday after the ANZAC/Learning Celebration. With all times approximately happening the same as advertised on HERO

Thanks FOS:

During the break we have been able to install the adjustable basketball hoop purchased by FOS for out on the turf. This will support basketball in term 4 and another sporting activity for students to participate in during breaks. Thanks to Andrew Morriss and the team for putting down the concrete to get it installed.



Greg Allan, Principal

Athletics Day

What a day we had. Awesome to see everyone giving it their best shot and having a smile while doing it. Huge thank you to Lauren and Sarah from 'Mini Moments Photography' for taking some amazing photos of the students.



CLASSES AND TEACHERS FOR 2026



KŌTARE

Mrs Menges is teaching in the Kōtare space. She has year 0-1 students. Her email is gmenges@southmak.school.nz



TŪI

Mrs O'Neill is teaching in the Tūi space. She has year 2-3 students and her email is boneill@southmak.school.nz



PĪWAKAWAKA

Miss Coleman is teaching in the Pīwakawaka space. She has year 0-1 students and her email is rcoleman@southmak.school.nz



KEA

Mrs Maas is teaching in the Kea space. She has year 4-5 students and her email is amaas@southmak.school.nz



KERERŪ

Miss Richards is teaching in the Kererū space. She has year 2-3 students and her email is lrichards@southmak.school.nz



WEKA

Mrs Minnell is teaching in the Weka space. She has year 5-6 students and her email is kminnell@southmak.school.nz



KĀKĀPŌ

Miss Lagah is teaching in the Kākāpō space. She has year 7-8 students and her email is nlagah@southmak.school.nz

Year: 0/1
Teacher: Glenda Menges
Space: Kotare

Cloak Bay/Toilets- Whare paku

Year: 0/1
Teacher: Rowena Coleman
Space: Piwakawaka

Space: Kiwi
Mrs Ryder
Intervention/
Extension

Year: 2/3
Teacher: Lucy Richards
Space: Kererū

Year: 2/3
Teacher: Brenna O'Neill
Space: Tui

Year: 5/6
Teacher: Kellie Minell
Space: Weka

Year: 7/8
Teacher: Nat Lagah
Space: Kākāpō

Space: Ruru
Library

Year: 4/5
Teacher: Anna-Louise Maas
Space: Kea

Office
Space: Whio

FROM THE BOARD

Kia ora koutou,

Our board meeting near the end of last term covered the following topics:

- funding alignment between FOS and Board/school
- staff and student wellbeing monitor - to be assessed in the coming terms
- Report on the Intervention program and some baseline measures
- Māori student achievement
- Curriculum focus area was Literacy
- EOTC (education outside the classroom) updates from the term - all students had multiple trips out exploring our environment
- Power cut process and outcomes
- The front entrance and classroom expansion property project has been pushed back again due to government funding cuts (this has been in the pipeline for 6 years!)
- Structured Literacy Teacher PLD days in May - relievers to support our school staying open

Our next meeting is Thursday 7th May.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible parent and community support we have that enables our students to have the truly remarkable off-site, learning experiences that they do. Many of you take time off work, organise childcare, provide vehicles and skills that subsequently enrich the lives of our tamariki. My sincere gratitude to every one of you for your generosity and investment into all of our kids.

Kia a pai tō ra,

Libby Rayner - Presiding Member (for another year!)

FRIENDS OF SCHOOL

Hey Everyone,

Hope you all had a fantastic term break!

We're kicking off Term 2 on a high – we've been able to purchase brand new goalie gear for our hockey teams!

As we hop into the new term, the FOS mahi keeps rolling! This term we've got our Pie Fundraiser coming up – perfect timing for the cooler months. All proceeds will go directly towards supporting your child's class camp, so keep an eye out for details.

Pop **Tuesday 12th May** in your diary for our next FOS meeting. We've had some awesome turnouts lately, and it's been so great seeing our community get behind FOS and our fundraising efforts.

Looking forward to another great term together!

Cheers,

Nina Martin

OUR SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

A reminder that our school uniform is black or navy shorts, skirts, pants etc and the school polo tee-shirt and fleece jersey as well as their school hats in term 1 and 4.

As the weather starts to cool down please ensure your child has a school polar fleece. Students are not allowed to wear their own jerseys from home to school. Black or navy long sleeves/thermals are allowed to be worn under their tee shirts for extra warmth.

Don't forget we also have beanies for sale in the office, \$12 each (this is not a compulsory item), however we ask that students are not wearing all kinds of colour beanies to school instead.

Please check the names in your child's uniform to ensure they haven't accidentally brought home someone else's uniform. Also please ensure all uniform is named as it makes it so much easier to return it to the students.



School Hours

Just a reminder that students can be at school no earlier than 8am and no later than 3pm. We appreciate parents have work to get to but our school is not open until 8:00am. Outside of these hours we can not ensure student safety.

School Calendar

- Monday 27th April
ANZAC day observed – no school
- Friday 1st May
ANZAC Assembly
School Duathlon
- Thursday 14th May
Year 7 and 8 careers expo
- Friday 29th May
Learning Celebration
- Monday 1st June
Kings Birthday – no school
- Friday 5th June
Quad Sports – rugby
- Wednesday 10th June
School photos
- Friday 12th June
Learning celebration
- Thursday 25th June
Market Day at school
- Friday 26th June
Quad Sports – soccer
- Friday 3rd July
Learning Celebration
Last day of school