

# TE TŪHONO

*Your pūra, your newsletter.*



**DON BUCK SCHOOL**

**KŌKIRI NGĀTAHI**  
*exceptional together*

**WEEKS 1 - 3**

**TERM 1 2025**



**UPCOMING KEY DATES**

Year 5/6 T-Ball

Year 7/8 Softball

Week 5

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Waka Leadership

Announcement

Week 6

Friday 14th March

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Kokiri Ngātahi

Community Afternoon

From 2pm - All welcome!

Thursday 3rd April

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Teacher Only Day

Friday 11 April

**SCHOOL IS CLOSED**

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# UPDATE FROM MR. STIRLING



Tēnā tātou te whānau!

We've had a wonderful start to the year at DBS with everyone getting into the BEAT of our awesome kura. It's been amazing to welcome new staff, new families, and new tamariki to our kura whānau.

We hope you have all enjoyed seeing our newly refurbished learning spaces shine for the start of the year. We continue to develop our school to be one of vibrancy and warmth. We are so proud of how engaging our school is. A big thank you to all our amazing staff for your amazing preparation for start of the school year. It's going to be an exceptional 2025!

To give you an update on our school lunch service we were disappointed to have to end our partnership with local provider, Lunch with Crunch at the end of last year. We are now being delivered the standard meals from the one national provider who supplies the school lunches to all kura across the country. Up to this point in the term the meals that have been delivered to us have been of a very poor standard with little menu variation. We are working alongside our local schools who have had a similar experience with their lunches to advocate for a better service and standard of meal moving forward. I will keep you posted with progress.

Finally a reminder that you are all welcome at our end of week celebration assemblies we hold at 2pm every Friday. This hui is such an important event in our school week where we celebrate, sing, dance, play games, and have amazing fun together. Please come along and join in the fun. All welcome!

Me poho kererū (Be proud) - Sandy Stirling - Tumuaki

## KOKIRI NGĀTAHI - GROWING OUR KURA TOGETHER

This year, our focus is on Growing Our Kura Together, and we're excited for the journey ahead! From creating new learning opportunities to strengthening whanaungatanga across our community, 2025 is all about making our school an exceptional place for our tamariki.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be reaching out to connect with you on a range of important aspects of our kura – from how we report your child's learning, to growing our Te Ao Māori foundation, and refining our kura values and future goals.

Your voice is a crucial part of shaping the direction of our school, and we'd love to hear your thoughts. Keep an eye out for opportunities to share your ideas, get involved, and be part of this exciting journey.

He waka eke noa – we're all in this together!

## STAY CONNECTED AND UPDATED WITH SEESAW

Kia ora whānau! This year, Seesaw will be our main way of communicating with you, keeping you updated on important school news, events, and your child's learning journey – all in one place! You can easily stay connected through the Seesaw app on your phone. If you haven't been connected yet, please reach out to us – we're happy to help! Over the coming weeks, we'll also be sending out emails and texts to ensure everyone is signed up. We can't wait to share more with you through Seesaw!



## OUR DBS WEBSITE

Kia ora whānau! Along with Seesaw, our school website is the go-to place for key information, including term dates, important notices, and updates. We'll keep it updated so you always know what's happening at kura. And of course, don't forget to follow our school Facebook page for snapshots of learning, events, and celebrations! Stay connected, stay informed, and let's keep Growing Our Kura Together!







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# KAI AND KORERO WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Join our Principal Mr. Stirling for a morning  
kōrero over breakfast!

In 2025, we're focused on **Growing Our  
Kura Together**, and we'd love to hear your  
thoughts, ideas, and aspirations for our  
school.

Come along, share your voice, and help us  
continue building an exceptional learning  
environment for our tamariki. All whānau  
welcome!

**Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday**  
**4th / 5th / 6th March**  
**8:15 - 9:00am**





# TEACHER ONLY DAY

Friday 11th April

## SCHOOL CLOSED

We will be closing the school for our teachers to join other schools in the area to look through the updated curriculum for 2025.



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# WHĀNAU HUI

Come along for some kai and connect on our kura journey for 2025. Also meeting our iwi leaders from Te Kawerau A Maki

Also to discuss next steps on our Rumaki journey.

**Wednesday 26th March**  
**2:30pm – 4pm**



# OUR KURA WHĀNAU

We are excited to introduce our amazing teaching staff and kura whānau for 2025! Our dedicated team is ready to inspire, support, and guide your tamariki on their learning journey this year. Together, we are committed to creating a warm, inclusive, and engaging learning environment where every child can thrive. We can't wait to learn, grow, and celebrate alongside our students and whānau throughout the year.

## ADMIN TEAM



Sandy Stirling  
Principal



Kelly  
Office Manager



Cassandra  
Executive Officer



Jas  
Property Manager

## JUNIOR SCHOOL TEAM - YEAR 1 - 2



Mrs. Hayes  
Assistant Principal  
Junior School Lead



Whaea Hilary  
Ruma Rua  
Kahui Lead - Literacy



Whaea Amy  
Ruma Toru



Miss Park  
Ruma Whā

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM - YEAR 3 - 5



Mrs. Feasey  
Deputy Principal  
Middle School Lead  
SENCO



Whaea Tui  
Ruma Tekau ma Tahī  
Digital Creation Coach



Mrs. Begum  
Ruma Rima



Miss Peters  
Ruma Iwa



# SENIOR SCHOOL TEAM - YEAR 5 - 8



Mr. Hohaia  
Deputy Principal  
Senior School Lead



Sharon Rich  
Ruma Ono



Ms. Lemusu  
Ruma Waru  
Kahui Lead - Pasifika Partnerships



Mr. Shepherd  
Kahui Lead - Numeracy  
P.E and Sports Lead



Ms. Charne  
Ruma Tekau  
DBS Beat Coach



Ms. Cherie  
Ruma Whitu  
Te Reo Coach

# KAIAWHINA / SUPPORT STAFF



Mrs. V  
Support Staff



Whaea T  
Support Staff



Mrs. Miller  
Support Staff



Briar  
Support Staff



Mrs. Sims  
ESOL Support  
Librarian



Paula  
Support Staff



Mrs. Lyttle  
Classroom Release  
Teacher



Ms. Sylvester  
Creative Dance  
Teacher



Ms. Way  
Visual Arts  
Teacher



Whaea Angie  
Classroom Release  
Teacher

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

## WARRIORS TUPU MAIA PROGRAMME YEAR 7/8 GIRLS

We're excited to launch Tupu Maia, an incredible programme in partnership with the One NZ Warriors, designed to build strong, confident young wahine through sport and leadership!

Happening every Monday morning as part of our schoolwide DBS Beat learning and character-building programme, Tupu Maia is all about developing resilience, teamwork, and self-belief—all while having fun and playing like the mighty Warriors!

This is an amazing opportunity for our Year 7/8 girls to learn new skills, grow in confidence, and be inspired by strong female role models in the sporting world. We can't wait to see our young wahine thrive —Up the Wahs!



## TYMS POLYJAMMERS BASKETBALL COACHING YEAR 6-8

We are proud to continue building our connection and partnership with the incredible whānau at TYMS (The Youth Mentoring Scheme) as they help us develop our Year 6-8 basketball team!

Through their Polyjammers programme, our boys are not only improving their basketball skills but also growing in character, leadership, and whanaungatanga. This kaupapa is all about using sport to build confidence, resilience, and teamwork—on and off the court.

We're excited to see our boys develop their skills, strengthen their bond, and grow into an epic DBS basketball team. Ka mau te wehi, e tama mā—let's get to work!





# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE - CARPARK CROSSING

Our carpark in the afternoon can be a very busy place. Our tamariki safety is number 1. Please be aware there is a small crossing just by the school gate, we ask if tamariki and families please use this to keep safe when walking around our carpark area, especially at the start and end of the day.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE - SMOKE / VAPE FREE SCHOOL

This is a reminder to our community that our school is a smoke and vape free zone. That is for all people that enter the school grounds. If students are caught with a vape on school grounds we will be making contact with families to discuss the next steps. It is something we take very seriously, so please whānau, be mindful of what your children bring to school each day.



## TERMS 1 AND 4 - DON BUCK SCHOOL HATS

Please make sure that your child has a Don Buck School hat during term 1 and 4. Due to our sun safety policy we require all tamariki to have a Don Buck School uniform hat to ensure they're staying safe during these hot summer months.

You can purchase these hats from the office or online for \$16.50.

If your child is not wearing a school hat we will be asking them to stay inside or in our designated shade spot during all break times.

We are also encouraging tamariki to leave these at school each day so they have them at school. They do not need to be wearing them home.





## REMINDER - DBS MOBILE PHONE POLICY

As we come into Term 3 this is just a reminder to our community that our school is following the Government's mobile phone policy very closely and have developed clear process around these in school.

Unless required by whānau for safety reasons, no mobile phones will be allowed on our school sites by students. Any phones required by whānau will be collected and kept safe at the office.

Any phones found during the day in class or on school grounds will be collected and whānau will need to come in to collect the device when they can. We appreciate your support.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUAL SUPPORT!

We want to take this section of our Te Tuhono to thank the whānau who have been so supportive throughout this term. From giving your time to trips, donating to transport, to coaching teams and especially for being apart of our celebration hui on a Friday each week!

We love seeing you there and we hope to see more of you as the weather warms up and we reach the end of an epic year at DBS!



## CONTACT US

School Email: [office@donbuck.school.nz](mailto:office@donbuck.school.nz)  
School Phone: (09) 833 6005  
Website: [www.donbuck.school.nz](http://www.donbuck.school.nz)  
Facebook: @DBSPPrimary

## KEEP UPDATED WITH US ONLINE

To see weekly updates or daily changes that may impact our whole school, please keep an eye on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/DBSPPrimary](https://www.facebook.com/DBSPPrimary) or Website [www.donbuck.school.nz](http://www.donbuck.school.nz). We would also like your most recent email address so please let us know of any updated emails by emailing [office@donbuck.school.nz](mailto:office@donbuck.school.nz)

