

[School Calendar](#) - We will be continuing to add more details to the school calendar items so if you click on an item it will show any extra information about the event/item.

**School will be open on Monday 29 Jan from 9-11am
if you'd like to pop in, drop off stationery and have
a quick kōrero with kaiako.**

School begins for 2024 on Thursday 1st February, 9:00am.

Kia ora e te Whānau

Happy New Year!

We're looking forward to seeing ākonga back at school next week. I hope you've managed to have some lovely family time and have managed to make the most of the hot, sunny days.

⇒ Hopefully you have had time to read the final On Board for 2023. I've included the section on the Strategic Plan again below.

⇒ We're thrilled that the astroturf is completed and ready for use. The construction of the replacement shade sail is underway so we should have that early in the term. It'll be appreciated if this hot weather continues. The playback refurbishment is also well underway, with the pouring of the matting surface planned for tomorrow and Friday..



⇒ On 19 December 2023, Education Minister Erica Stanford confirmed 3 Education portfolio actions as part of the Government's 100-day action plan.

1. Cellphone restrictions
2. One hour a day teaching core skills
3. Ministerial advisory group established

The first change *“requires schools to restrict ākonga | student's cell phone access in class”*. This has not been a particular concern for us at Ngaio School, so apart from updating our policy, nothing will change.

The second action *“requires schools and kura with students in Years 0 to 8 to spend an average of an hour a day teaching each reading, writing and maths, as well as pānui, tuhituhi and pāngarau. This can be in dedicated lessons as well as through integration across all learning areas.”*

Kaiako at Ngaio School will continue to deliberately and purposefully dedicate at least this amount of time to teaching these core skills.

We are encouraged by the communication of this change, assuring us *“that the ‘one hour a day’ policy is not meant to detract or limit special events like camps, sports days or outings. The policy allows schools to manage the average amount of reading, writing and maths teaching time through a week. This provides the flexibility required to accommodate days where students may spend time out of the classroom. Teaching will continue to include a mixture of techniques, including collaborative tasks, problem solving, investigations, games and all the other best practice techniques usually used to engage and develop young people's skills. The importance of oral language is also recognised in the new policy.”*

Our timetables already cater for the requirements and are similar to examples shared with us. You can read more about the policy actions [here](#).

The third action is the establishment of a Ministerial advisory group and is intended to review parts of the refreshed NZ Curriculum relating to English and maths for primary and intermediate schools.

See you next week!

Ngā mihi nui
Raewyn Watson
Te Tumuaki

Road Patrol Help Needed

We have nearly completed our roster for Road Patrol for Term 1 but there are still some gaps. We'd appreciate you considering adding your name to this important roster. Please email Chantal, c.mckee@ngaio.school.nz if you can help with Road Patrol on Abbott Street, Wednesdays from

8.25-8.55am, or on Ottawa Road, Thursdays from 8.25-8.55am or 2.55 to 3.20pm. Your help would be very much appreciated. Support and help is always available.

Excerpt from On Board December 2023

Strategic planning

We are pleased to present a high level draft of the Ngaio School Strategic Plan for 2024-2025, as well as the key actions from the 2024 Annual Implementation Plan.

School strategic plans usually cover a three year period, but in line with Ministry of Education guidelines, this plan is for the next two years only, so that future plans sync up with board terms.

Each year we also highlight specific things we will focus on in the upcoming year towards the goals and initiatives in the strategic plan.

You can view the high level draft of the 2024-25 Strategic Plan and 2024 Annual Implementation Plan on the school website through this link [Strategic Plan Summary 2024-.pdf](#)

If you have any feedback, please send any comments or questions to botcraig@ngaio.school.nz by the end of January 2024.

Putting together the plan

We are incredibly grateful for the detailed and thoughtful responses to our earlier community consultation. There is too much to summarise succinctly here, but we have read and discussed your responses in detail and they have contributed to the content of the strategic plan.

There was a lot of positive feedback about ensuring that we maintain and look after our wonderful school grounds to make sure they remain a fantastic place for our kids and community. We also received a lot of positive feedback about our fantastic teaching staff and some of the events, such as our Matariki evening, that bring the community together.

The feedback contained rich detail about what is important to you and your aspirations for your children's time at Ngaio School which feeds directly into our work on learner profiles and students journey through the school. It was also clear that we should focus more on communication and on communicating progress, including the three way conferences.

Hopefully you will see some of the feedback reflected in the plan, but if you would like to talk about anything in more detail please reach out to any of the Board members.

There is also a huge amount of effort from Raewyn, Sarah and the rest of the leadership team that goes into these strategic and annual plans. There is always so much we want to include and half the challenge is narrowing it down to focus on the most important bits each year.

Purpose of the strategic plan:

The strategic plan sets out how the board will meet our primary objectives (set out in the Education and Training Act 2020):

- Every student at the school can achieve their highest educational standard
- The school is a physically and emotionally safe place, ensures students' human rights are upheld and takes steps to eliminate racism, stigma, bullying and other forms of discrimination
- The school is inclusive of and caters for, students with differing needs
- The school gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including by:
 - working to ensure that its plans, policies, and local curriculum reflect local tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori, and te ao Māori
 - taking all reasonable steps to make instruction available in tikanga Māori and te reo Māori
 - achieving equitable outcomes for Māori students

The Strategic Plan highlights specific areas for further growth or development which are in addition to the school's 'business as usual' focus on teaching across the curriculum.