



10 February 2026

School Newsletter 1

Website: www.coatesville.school.nz

Phone: 09 415 9218



Welcome to 2026! What a start!



We are well underway! The first day was excellent! It's been the kind of start that has made staff feel very happy and has already established an expectation of a fantastic year ahead. Thank you for your support. Your positive input has definitely helped prepare the children to feel ready for the joys of school once again. And judging by some comments, parents are enjoying their children being back to school too!

The **conferences with the teacher last week were very well attended**. Thank you for taking the time to prepare your child and to attend. These conferences aimed to share important information and strengthen the relationship early in the year. While this was very important, ongoing communication once the year is underway is critical to continue the positive start.

There has been a great deal of preparation undertaken for this term. School leaders have **responded to the major changes of the new curriculum** to provide a very structured first term. We are aiming to embed some priority expectations across our English and Mathematics programmes in this very short Term 1. You will receive information on our curriculum rollout and how you can support at home.

The **plans for 2026** will involve our parents/caregivers having a significant role in supporting their child's progress and our school as a whole. We look forward to your input in 2026!



Mihi Whakatau - Friday 13 February at 9am

As is our tradition, we will **officially welcome all new staff, new students and their whānau at Coatesville School during a mihi whakatau** this week.

This welcome will be held in the **school assembly area beginning at 9am this Friday**. Whaea Trish will help lead the ceremony. All students and staff will attend.


All parents/caregivers and wider family are invited to attend the ceremony.

Manuhiri (guests - new staff, students and their whānau) will be guided as a group to their seats and be officially welcomed. All those wanting to join the group are asked to wait at the top of the school driveway at 9am for a short briefing.


A whakatau is a form of welcome ceremony similar to a pōwhiri, but less formal and more flexible. It is used in many different contexts and can be adapted to suit many types of occasion. The aspects that are common in both forms of welcome are the tikanga (values and principles) that underpin and drive them.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT

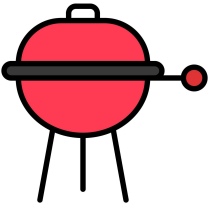
Welcome to 2026 – the Board welcomes our new and returning students and their whanau, as well as our new members of staff. We have had our first Board meeting for 2026 and are making progress on the Annual Plan – it promises to be an exciting year!



Strategic planning survey – a massive thanks to those parents who completed the recent survey. By letting us know your priorities for your child(ren) and the school more generally, this is very helpful for the Board's ongoing strategic planning. We will continue with our school community engagements, and will be in touch with those who expressed an interest in being on a focus group.



New breakout space – thanks to funding secured by the wonderful FOTS team, there is now a new all-weather breakout learning space between rooms 11 and 12. The library and Room 1 block were also recently painted and are looking great.



BBQ evening – last but not least, keep an eye out for an announcement soon about an upcoming BBQ evening – which was postponed from the end of year BBQ last year.

Next BOT meeting: 9 March, 6:30 pm



Coatesville School Annual Plan 2026 - Progress!

Teaching staff discussed key priorities and goals for the year at a Teacher Only Day.

The **BOT** have examined, and discussed at length, a draft of our detailed annual plan.

More discussion with the staff and BOT is scheduled before the 2026 Annual Plan is confirmed.

Parents/caregivers' feedback helped formulate the draft plan and everyone will be given the opportunity to see more, hear more and ask questions about the plan in the coming weeks.

Watch this space!

Critical components of the draft plan:

“What are the keys to school progress in 2026?” (next page)

“Key Goals for 2026” (page after next!) High expectations for success

Plan **driven by the New NZ Curriculum expectations and very new MOE reporting expectations**

Plan includes very **detailed, explicit actions to help fulfil each school goal**

What are the keys to school progress in 2026?

High expectations - 'Aiming' for high levels of success

Clarity - Focusing our expectations and intentions

Collaboration - 'Striving' together to 'Achieve'

Proactivity - Sense of responsibility, urgency and initiative

Communication - Open, honest and constructive

Success - 'Achieving' outcomes we are all proud of

Whanaungatanga

Sense of family, belonging and connection to our school

Student Achievement - Goals for 2026

By the end of 2026:

READING All students will meet reading expectations for their year level ('Proficient' progress and beyond)

WRITING All students will meet writing expectations for their year level ('Proficient' progress and beyond)

MATHEMATICS All students will meet mathematics expectations for their year level ('Proficient' progress and beyond)

Student Wellbeing - Goal for 2026

By the end of 2026:

All students are 'Happy' or 'Very happy' at school during 'learning time' and during 'play time'

Staff Wellbeing - Goal for 2026

By the end of 2026:

All staff are 'Happy' or 'Very happy' at school fulfilling their individual roles and working as part of the staff team

Te Reo & Tikanga Māori - Goal in 2026

By the end of 2026:

All staff and students have strengthened their ability to use te reo Māori and their understanding of tikanga Māori



Attendance - Developing a plan for 2026

To support our new student achievement plans we are introducing a new Attendance Management Plan (AMP) in 2026. This is now a requirement for all NZ schools and is currently being finalised.

Absences are impacting student achievement across the country.

We acknowledge that students who miss school regularly will have their progress affected.

In Term 4, 2025 **only 53% of our students achieved 'Regular attendance'**. While the threshold for 'regular attendance' is high (see the table below), we should be achieving a higher level than this.

There were also a **high number of students who were consistently late to school** too.

The AMP is one of a number of initiatives we will implement to support our student achievement in 2026. Components of the plan will be shared in the coming weeks.

	Student Categories	Student with	Equivalent to
	Regular attendance	over 90% attendance	missing fewer than 5 days across a term
	Irregular absence	more than 80% and up to 90% attendance	absent for between 5 and 9 days across a term
	Moderate absence	more than 70% and up to 80% attendance	absent for between 10 and 14.5 days across a term
	Chronic absence	70% attendance or less	absent for 15 days or more across a school term



'Start of the Day' - How you can help!

To support our new student achievement plans we are wanting a highly effective start to the day for staff and students. We would love parents/caregivers support to achieve this.

Before 8.55am - Teachers are preparing for the day ahead

Teachers are always available for questions and brief interactions. If interactions require more, then teachers will suggest you send an email or schedule a meeting to help resolve your questions.

8.55am Handbell - School is ready to start for the day

Teachers are now focused on supporting students and getting learning underway. If parents/caregivers are inside the classroom at this time, please say quick goodbyes and leave the classroom. Please do not enter the classroom after the handbell.

9am Electronic bell - School has started for the day

If your child is not in class before the electronic bell rings they are now officially 'late'. If late, please go to the office with your child to sign in on the tablet. Once completed your child should enter the classroom. Please do not enter the classroom yourself. If you have any message for the teacher please share it with the office staff or email the teacher.



Questions - or Concerns?

To support our new student achievement plans (and student and staff wellbeing) we are wanting to help school staff and parents/caregivers connect whenever there is a 'big question' or a concern. We would love parent/caregiver support to achieve this success this year.

Teachers have been asked to be **proactive and approach parents** when they have a concern about a child or they feel a parent is wanting more than a quick interaction. We would **love parents to do the same**. Sooner is better!

We encourage **face to face meetings** - at the '**right time and right place**'.

Talking usually **helps the understanding, and resolution**, of any concern.

We also advocate the **use of support people** to help the process too.

And if, on the odd occasion, something isn't resolved quickly, **there is always another step you can take to help achieve a resolution**.

Positive communication works - finding solutions is desirable for everyone.

If it is worrying you - talk it through!

[Concerns and complaints process](#)

Concerns and Complaints Process
This initiative should be read alongside our [Discipline and Complaints Policy](#) and related policies or procedures.

OVERVIEW

- The staff raise concerns and complete an act without notifying or notifying.
- The school will assess an request according to the nature of the concern or complaint.
- The school will tell you how we plan to manage your concern or complaint and we will keep you informed when the matter is closed.

HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN OR MAKE A COMPLAINT
Contact the following people at the school (verbally or in writing).

- A staff member involved** (e.g. classroom teacher, head of learning area)
- The principal** for serious matters
- The board chair** for concerns or complaints about the principal
- Another board member** for concerns or complaints about the board chair
- Concerns or complaints may be referred to a more appropriate person (e.g. senior staff, principal, board member)
- The school may ask you to put your concern or complaint in writing to help outline the matter
- You are welcome to have a support person (e.g. witness, friend, family member, representative)
- Confidentiality is expected to respect privacy and confidentiality

HOW THE SCHOOL MANAGES CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

We manage concerns and complaints in a timely manner and seek to protect people's mana and dignity. We ensure:

- processes are resolved fairly
- those involved have the opportunity to be heard
- decisions made in a unbiased

The school assesses the concern or complaint and responds according to its nature and seriousness, and aims to resolve (e.g. support, staff transfer, principal request removed).

NOTIFICATION AND CLOSURE

We will tell you about how we plan to challenge your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

After responding to your concern or complaint the school considers the matter closed.

If you feel your concern or complaint has not been resolved after receiving a response, you may escalate the concern or complaint to the principal or board.

After the board has dealt with a matter, there is no further avenue for consideration by the school.

If you need help to understand the concerns and complaints process, please contact the school.

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SAUSAGE SIZZLE WILL BEGIN 23 FEBRUARY

As we are working on creating the team for 2026 to run the sausage sizzles we wont be starting sausage sizzle lunches until 23 February.

Will be able to order on Kindo next week.

JOINING FOTS

If you would like to join our fun vibrant team we would love to have you!
Reach out to Sarah Spence for more details. fots.coatesville@gmail.com
Our first meeting will be in week 3 or 4 details to come out shortly.



FACEBOOK

If you are new to the school or have been around a while but havent joined our Facebook group, now is the time!!! It's a great way to keep on top of all the community related school information. The Facebook name is below:

"Friends of Coatesville School Community Group"



CAN YOU GIVE US AN HOUR A TERM?

We need more people on our lunch serving roster! Come join our Sausage Sizzle or Pizza Day teams and help serve the kids their lunch once a term.



When needed: Mondays from 12:15 – 1:15



ARE YOU ORGANISED AND GOOD WITH NUMBERS?

We are looking for a new TREASURER to be a part of our FOTS committee this year.
If you would like to find out more information contact Sarah Spence



Contact Sarah Spence for any more info:
fots.coatesville@gmail.com or 021 2233 999



Teacher Release: Each week

Several of our teaching staff will be regularly released from their classroom duties during 2026 for varying reasons.

Some teachers are released to complete **schoolwide or team responsibilities**; they may **have a part time contract for the year**; or they are given **weekly release for professional development during their first 2 years as a teacher**.

Weekly release

Melissa Blignault (Rm 1) - released on Fridays by Jesse Chiari

Avril Williams (Rm 2) - released on Thursdays by Jesse Chiari

Amie Judge (Rm 10) - released on Fridays by Jess Lawrence

Kiko Duan (Rm 11) - released on Wednesdays by Anna Hawkes

Aimee Coombe (Rm 12) - released on Fridays by Anna Hawkes



Teachers: Classroom Release Time

All classroom teachers are allocated 'Classroom Release Time' (CRT) to fulfil their **professional obligations** - ie. planning, assessment, resource collection, coaching meetings, professional inquiries. CRT is part of the collective agreement conditions for all teachers in NZ. The MOE allocation is **5 days per term (or 1 day per fortnight)** for each teacher. The opportunity for teachers to regularly complete essential tasks and professional learning during their release time will be beneficial to students and to parents/caregivers.

We have very capable release teachers working in our school who do a terrific job of continuing the classroom programme on those days.

Release not included on previous page:

Rm 3-5 teachers - released on Wednesdays & Thursdays by Sian Williams

Rm 6-8 teachers - released on Wednesdays & Fridays by Jess Strydom

Rm 2/13 teachers - released on alternate Tuesdays by Jesse Chiari

Rm 10/11 teachers - released on alternate Thursdays by Jess Lawrence

Swimming - Water Skills for Life!

**Water
Skills
for Life**



Your child's school swimming programme will begin this week or next!

All classrooms will have two 45 minute sessions per week in our school pool with student learning focused on learning the fundamentals skills to feel confident and be safe in the water.

We therefore greatly appreciate your support with ensuring your child brings their togs, towel, goggles (if needed) on their scheduled days. Swimming sessions run from 12:15 - 1:00 pm for Kahu students, and 2:00 - 2:45 pm for Kiwi & Tui students.

If your child is unable to swim on particular day due being unwell or for other reasons, **please contact your child's classroom teacher** to let them know.

Room	Swimming Days	Room	Swimming Days	Room	Swimming Days
1	Monday & Wednesday	5	Monday & Wednesday	10	Tuesday & Thursday
2	Monday & Wednesday	6	Monday & Friday	11	Tuesday & Thursday
3	Tuesday & Thursday	7	Monday & Friday	12	Wednesday & Friday
4	Tuesday & Thursday	8	Monday & Friday	13	Wednesday & Friday

Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon 2026

The East Auckland Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is coming up on the **22nd March** and we would like to encourage more of our students to take part by registering as part of our school group for 2026!

[Please use this link to register!](#)

By linking to our school group it will give us the chance to win some great prizes, a space for one of our tents for our team to come together, and a discounted rate for the delivery of race packs.

Date: Sunday 22nd March 2026

Location: Point England Reserve, Point England

Distances:

- **6 year olds** 50m swim / 1.5km run
- **7 year olds** 50m swim / 4km cycle / 1.5km run
- **8 - 9 year olds** 100m swim / 4km cycle / 1.5km run
- **10 - 15 year olds** 150m swim / 8km cycle / 1.5 km run

For further information about the TRYathlon visit:

www.tryathlon.co.nz/

SOUTH AUCKLAND **Tues 25 Nov**
Mountfort Park

EAST AUCKLAND **Sun 22 Mar**
Pt England Reserve

Enter with your classmates & be in it to

WIN

Enter a group of 15* or more students & your school could WIN awesome prizes thanks to our sponsors



HARCOURTS COOPER & CO Shore to Shore

5km Fun Run/Walk Sunday, 29th March 2026

Join our favorite fun run from Takapuna to Milford!

Prizes up for grabs
Family-friendly open to all ages
Activation zone at the finish line

Register Now!



shoretoshore.co.nz

#shore2shore26

	Fun run/walk	Timed run/walk
Students, families, parents of registered schools only	\$18.00	\$23.00
GENERAL PUBLIC <small>*Not associated to a school</small>	\$30.00	\$35.00



Event Day Schedule

- 7:30am - Check-in opens
- 9:00am - Race starts
- 10:45am - Awards ceremony

Buses

Between Start & Finish Line
\$3 per person, purchase online
7AM-8AM, 11AM-12PM

Merchandise



Contact your School Ambassador if you have any questions!

School Fundraiser!

All entries go towards earning sports equipment for your school - courtesy of Sports Distributors





After School Care in 2026 - sKids!

The 'After School Care' programme has started again for the year. If you require further information please contact sKids.

[Welcome to sKids at Coatesville School!](#)

You can book now!

Coatesville

Welcome to our sKids Centre @ Coatesville School. If you're looking for a safe, structured and fun environment for your children, you've found it! Our affordable out-of-school care encourages kids to be curious and courageous.

Contact Details

Find Us: [Coatesville School](#)

Onsite Number: [0273 183 917](#)

Customer Service: [0800 274 172](#)

Email: coatesville@skids.co.nz

Programme Hours

After School Care: 3:00-6:00pm

Holiday Programme Care: Available at [sKids Riverhead](#)



Important Dates: Term 1 & beyond!

Mihi Whakatau	Friday 13 February at 9am
Sausage Sizzle lunches start	Monday 23 February
Year 3-6 Swimming Sports	Tuesday 3 March
Student led conferences	Wednesday 1 April
Term 1 ends	Thursday 2 April
Term 2 begins	Monday 20 April



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THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to our school Silver Sponsor
TEAM AILSA MCARTHUR - BAYLEYS for
generously fixing up our school noticeboard.
Thank you for supporting our school

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