



Merivale School

Te Kura o Tūtarawānanga



Matuatia Te Ako



Learning First

PĀNUI

4 February 2026



WEEK 1
WEEK 2

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
2 Feb School starts for 2026	3 Feb	4 Feb	5 Feb TEACHER ONLY DAY	6 Feb WAITANGI DAY	7 Feb	8 Feb
9 Feb	10 Dec	11 Dec	12 Dec	13 Dec Parent Teacher Interviews	14 Dec	15 Dec



Parent-teacher interviews will be held at the following times:

8:00am – 3:15pm Friday 13th February 2026

To book your interviews, either use the QR code above with a smartphone camera to take you directly to the booking page, or go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code in your browser, and enter the event code **m5qqx**

Then follow these three simple steps:

<p>1 Enter your details</p>	<p>First enter your details. If you need to book for more than one student, change the "Book for x students" setting, and enter the other student's name.</p>
<p>2 Choose teachers</p>	<p>On the next page, pick the teacher you want to meet.</p>
<p>3 Choose times</p>	<p>Then you'll see a timetable showing when your chosen teacher is available. Simply click on the time that suits you.</p>

When you have finished, your interview timetable will be emailed to you. And you can return to the site and enter the event code **m5qqx** again to change or cancel your interviews.

If you don't have internet access, please call the school office - **phone 0800 825 392** and they will be able to make a booking for you.

Your child's teacher and room number are :

REMINDER: This is a Non-School Day; however, your child is required to attend the interview in full school uniform with you.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS :

These are coming up next week on Friday 13th February. We would love to see a parent / caregiver for all our students on this day so please make sure you make an appointment. (See instructions in this newsletter on how to book an interview). If you require any assistance with this then please contact the school office.

Appointments are for 15 minutes, please make sure you are on time as your appointment cannot run over time.

STATIONERY 2026

Room costs: per student



Payments to be made at the office.

Room 1	\$20.00
Room 2	\$20.00
Room 3	\$20.00
Room 4	N/A
Room 5	\$25.00
Room 7	\$25.00
Room 8	\$25.00
Te Awaiti	\$20.00
Te Awanui	\$25.00

STATIONERY 2026:

It is very important your child has their stationery ASAP to get started with their school year. We have stationery packs ready to go in the school office, see attached prices.

HERO - we are up and running with our new Student Management System. Some of you will already be familiar with it through other schools. PLEASE download the app (see instructions below) and set up an account, then start having a look at how it works. At this stage you will notice absences, attendance and community notices however there will be much more to follow. Staff are all learning this new program as well so please be patient with any teething problems.

DOWNLOAD HERO

Search in the app store: **Hero by LINC-ED**



READY, SET, SIGN IN!

Stay in the loop by following these steps

- DOWNLOAD THE HERO APP**
Once downloaded, click "Sign In"
- ADD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**
Select "Next"
- SELECT "NEW USER"**
Your account will be set up by your school using the email address that you provided when you enrolled your children, use this address to request a password.
- SELECT "SUBMIT"**
Hero will send you an email with a link to follow.
- CHECK YOUR EMAIL**
You should receive an email within five minutes.
- FOLLOW THE LINK**
This will take you to a secure page to enter your chosen password.

If you encounter problems logging in, please check with your school to make sure they have the correct details for you.

Tena Koutou Katoa,

Ka mihi nūnui ki ā koutou ki te kura o Tūtārawānānga i tēnei tau hou. Naū mai, haēre mai!

Welcome back everyone! In particular, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all new whanau and staff who will be joining us on our Tūtārawānānga journey in 2026. It was particularly rewarding to pōhiri our new students and whanau on Monday in line with the expectations of our local iwi, Ngāti Ranginui.

We also observe tīkanga and taha Māori practices by students referring to adults by their first names but respectfully using the prefixes of Matua or Whaea e.g Matua Oliver or Whaea Emma.

Our motto is Matuatia Te Ako - Learning First. This is significant to Merivale School, not only for our tamariki but our staff, Board and whanau as well. Because at the end of the day, we are ALL learners. We also acknowledge our Nga Uara e Wha - The 4 Values - Tuakiri, Matatōa, Hono and Manaaki. All of which form an integral function of teaching and learning at our kura. Over the coming weeks we will be using Tuakiri as our specific Uara/value for Term 1.

For those new to operations, the newsletter will be issued every Wednesday. We cover the priorities in our weekly newsletter but at times communication may be sent in a singular notice. Please ensure that you keep updated. We have recently adopted the school management system Hero. This aligns with many schools in our area. All communications are working towards being available through the Hero platform.

Merivale School Board. The Board for 2026 are:

Tiria Maunder - **Presiding Member**
Amiria Roberts, Lani Thomsen, Kate Parkinson, Bryan Papali'i - **Parent Representatives**
Darren Kiwi - **Staff Representative**
Jan Honey - **Board Secretary**
Tom Paekau - **Principal**

Merivale School Staff. The staff for 2026 are:

TE AWAROA (Rumaki)

Te Awaiti Kaiako- Losaria Harimate-McGruer (**Team Leader**)

Te Aranui Kaiako - Paora McGuer

Kaiawhina - Renata McGruer

AURAKI (Mainstream)

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Room 3 Kaiako Melissa Hope (**Team Leader**)

Room 1 Kaiako Bonnie Heberton/ Amiria Roberts

Room 2 Kaiako Emma Henshaw

SENIOR SCHOOL

Room 7 Kaiako Darren Kiwi (**Team Leader**)

Room 5 Kaiako Saffron Haan

Room 8 Kaiako Oliver Kyle/ Dolly Rall

Teacher Assistants Bex Stephen, Toni Taylor, Bryan Papalii, Linda Samuel, Deb Gamman, MacKenzie Hohaia

Administration Jan Honey, Karen Thompson

Caretaker Richard Williams

Deputy Principal / SENCO Heather Langley

Deputy Principal/ Curriculum/ LSC Shirralee Hohaia

Principal Tom Paekau

We also have several external agencies and services that work with our kura who come in throughout each term.

School Houses. Congratulations to Ruru who were winners of the House Trophy in 2025. Next week our school House Competition kicks into gear again. Whaea Mel and Matua Oliver are in charge of houses this year.

Uniforms. These are compulsory for all students and can be purchased at the office. Hats are also compulsory in Term 1 and 4 for shadeless work or play. For an invoice, please ask Whaea Jan or Whaea Karen in the office. If you have any concerns regarding uniforms, please contact me directly.

School Stationery Packs. All stationery is to be purchased through the office. The stationery packs, depending on classrooms, are at the discounted price of either \$20 or \$25. Again, should you require an invoice, please contact Whaea Jan or Whaea Karen. If you have any concerns, please contact me directly.

Teacher Only Day. Tomorrow, **Thursday 5 February**, school will be closed for instruction as our teaching staff will be involved with scheduled professional development for AI and literacy. Please make the necessary arrangements for your child.

Finally, in light of the recent tragedies on Mauao, in Welcome Bay and throughout Aotearoa, we wish to acknowledge and pay our respects to those who passed. We also wish to thank the many nameless heroes who worked tirelessly, across a multitude of trials and tribulations, to support and serve those directly affected. Tena koutou.

Mauri Ora,
Matua Tom