



COCKLE BAY SCHOOL  
STRIVE ON  
Mahi Kaha



Children and their learning at the heart of all we do  
Ko ngā tamariki me a rāatou ako kei te ngākau o ngā mihi

## From the desk of Mrs Bigwood - 3 June 2026



Talofa Aiga and welcome to Samoan language week!

I hope you all enjoyed your long weekend.

Our Teacher Only Day focussed on the teaching of Writing, led by an expert facilitator, Louise Dempsey. This is a school wide focus in 2026, as Writing data is lower than Reading and Mathematics, and shows some discrepancies between student groups, notably boys' writing. Already our professional development programme has made a difference to children's learning, so we are excited about the progress being made. It is interesting that recent Curriculum Insights Research indicates that, nationally for Writing, 41% of Year 3 students, 38% of Year 6 students, met or exceeded curriculum expectations in 2025 (based on provisional benchmarks). At the end of 2025, Cockle Bay School results showed that 81% of Year 3 students and 78% of Year 6 students met or exceeded curriculum expectations. The research and data needs to be interpreted with care, however, due to the newness of the new curriculum and its early implementation in schools.

Our recent visit by Education Review Officers proved very affirming of what Cockle Bay School offers our students. There is a new report format introduced nationally this term, so we are one of the first schools to receive this. Oral feedback indicates that Cockle Bay School is doing well, excelling in many areas and offering wonderful teaching and learning opportunities. The final report will be received in about six weeks, and shared with the community in due course. Attached, please find a flyer from ERO explaining the new report format: [New ERO Report: Guide for Parents](#)

We continue to experience property damage at nights/weekends, with some very unpleasant graffiti in numerous places over the long weekend. Please would our parent community who uses the school grounds report to the police any antisocial behaviours they notice. Any identification (without putting yourself at risk) is helpful. Thanks so much.

Mandy Fischer has noticed that our bean bag toss boards have seen better days. If the school funded the materials (marine ply etc.), is there any builder/home handyperson who might be interested in donating their time/expertise to help us have a few new sets for school? [See image here:](#)

Fa'afetai lava  
Dorothy Bigwood



## Term Dates

**Thursday 2 July:** End of Term 2, finish at 3:00pm

**Friday 3 July:** Teacher Only Day (school closed)

**Monday 20 July:** Term 3 Starts

**Friday 25 September:** End of Term 3, finish at 3.00pm

## Term 2 - Important Dates

**Friday 5 June:** HPPA Rugby Interschool

**Wednesday 10 June:** HPPA Rugby League

**Friday 12 June:** HPPA Rugby Interschool

**Monday 15 June:** Māori Whānau Hui, 4pm in the hall

**Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17 & Thursday 18 June:** Takahē Year 6 Maritime Museum Trip

**Monday 22 June - Eco Warriors Interschool Planting Day**

**Tuesday 23 June:** Parent Reporting Information session 5-6pm in the hall

**Wednesday 24 + Thursday 25 June:** HPPA competitive soccer days

**Thursday 2 July:** Last day of Term 2

## Team Assemblies - Principal's Awards

**Friday 5 June:** Senior Assembly (Kōtuku Team)

**Friday 12 June:** Junior assembly (Kea Team: Rms 27, 28, 29)

**Friday 19 June:** Senior Assembly (Kākāpō Team)

**Friday 26 June:** Junior assembly (Kea + Kiwi Team: Rms 26, 30, 31)

**Friday 3 July:** no assembly (Teacher Only Day)