



BC PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 2026 - NEWSLETTER #2

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The first four weeks of term have been marked by a strong sense of settledness across the school, which has been both encouraging and a true blessing. I am grateful to God for the relationships and friendships that are developing — between students and teachers, and among students themselves. As a school, we deeply value fostering a genuine sense of belonging for both students and families. From my interactions across all year levels, it is evident that this is being experienced within our community. There is indeed much to be thankful for.

Thank you for prioritising time with your child’s teachers over the past few days. I have been encouraged by the high level of attendance and engagement with our *Parent Teacher Conferences*. The partnership between home and school is invaluable. Developing a shared understanding of how your child learns places us in the best possible position to meet their needs effectively throughout the 2026 academic year.

I would also like to warmly welcome our new international students and families to Bethlehem College Primary. We recognise that choosing to relocate to another country for education is a significant commitment. Our hope and prayer is that you settle well, feel supported, and form meaningful, lasting friendships within our community.



TERM 1 KEY DATES

Y2 TENT DAY
Wed 4th Mar - BC

Y6 CAMP PARENTS MEETING
Wed 4th Mar – 6pm - Lblock staff room

Y3 MARAE TRIP
Tues 10th Mar – Wairoa Marae

Y6 MARAE TRIP
Wed 11th Mar – Wairoa Marae

Y5&Y6 NC SWIMMING COMP
Tues 17th Mar

Y5 ELMS TRIP
Thurs 19th Mar – 8.45am – 2.45am

CIVIES DAY
Fri 20th Mar – Charity & Theme TBC

Y6 CAMP
Mon 23rd Mar – 25th Mar – Totara Springs

Our Vision

To be a Christian learning community of excellence where lives are transformed.

Facebook: [@bethlehemcollege](#)
Instagram: [@bethlehemcollege_nz](#)
Website: [Enrolled Families](#)



Today you will have received communication regarding the Bethlehem College Attendance Management Plan. This plan is a requirement of the Ministry of Education and underscores the importance of regular school attendance. We have both a responsibility and a duty to ensure that students attend school unless they are unwell.



You can support us by notifying the school via SchoolBridge if your child will be absent, including providing a reason for their absence. For your information, schools are now required to make contact with parents after five days of absence within a term. If a child is absent for ten days or more in a term, a meeting with Primary Leadership is required to explore how we can best support improved attendance. If absences reach fifteen days or more, a meeting with me, as Head of Primary, will be arranged.

Please be assured that these measures are not intended to be punitive. Rather, they are in place to ensure that we work together to support your child's wellbeing and consistent engagement in learning.

WORSHIP ASSEMBLY



- Mr Edmeades used Pip and Pop, his sock puppets to show that friendship and forgiveness go together. Using the proverb 17:9 *"If you forgive someone, you show that you love him. But if you keep talking about it, you break up a friendship"*, Mr Edmeades highlighted how important it is to let go of 'wrongdoings' if we are saying someone is forgiven.

Friends are important. Mr Martin shared last week about the attributes of a good friend. He asked us to consider if we were good friends or not and then challenged us to make one new friend during the week at school.

ASSEMBLY

E3 and E4 along with our MC's Nikitah van der Put and Alexander Adams led a fantastic assembly this morning talking about the pacific migration from Hawaii. They performed a Sasa dance. The secondary Pasifika group performed as well, and we were blessed.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOL...

JUMP JAM

Jump Jam is a whole school initiative aimed at getting everyone engaged in physical exercise, while also having fun. It began with enthusiasm last Friday, led by a keen group of Year 5 and 6 volunteers. Our thanks to Mrs Ruth Sutcliffe who will be guiding this group across the year, as they endeavour to learn new routines.



BUCKET DAY

Year 3 has been looking at the story, "Have you filled a bucket day today?" We had a fun bucket rotation of water relays, ball and bucket relays and balloon volleyball into a bucket. In class we played a variety of games with container activities. 'Have you filled a bucket today?'

CLOAK BAY AWARDS

A1 were the first recipients of our cloak bay trophy for 2026. Our student service leaders Esther and Manna had the privilege of presenting the trophy and took the time to remind us all about keeping our bags zipped, lockers closed and no rubbish in the area. Congratulations A1!



BC PRIMARY CLUBS

At BCP, we love to have our students involved in extra-curricular activities, whether it be sports, the arts or even lego! Next week we have three such opportunities starting.

Year 5 and 6 students

- Kapa haka on Monday afternoon from 2:15pm in the hall
- E Pro8 on Tuesday at lunchtime outside the hall.



Years 4 – 6 students

- Choir will start on Friday from 1:15 - 2:00pm in the music room.



We encourage students to come and check these activities out over the next couple of weeks before deciding on their commitment. If these are things your children might be interested in, please encourage them to attend.

Please join us!

LIBRARY NEWS

The joy of reading aloud at home

Experts say children need to hear a thousand stories read aloud before they begin to learn to read for themselves. A thousand! But three stories a day will deliver a thousand stories in one year alone.

Read-aloud sessions are perfect times for engaging in conversation because the reader and the listener can chat endlessly about the story, the pictures, the words, the values and ideas.

Reading aloud and talking about what we're reading sharpens children's brains and helps develop their ability to concentrate at length, to solve problems logically, and to express themselves more easily and clearly. The stories they hear provide them with witty phrases, new sentences and words of subtle meaning.

Quotes and ideas from *Reading Magic* by Mem Fox

The library is open to 4pm every day if any parents want to come with their child to choose books. We look forward to seeing you!

Three stories a day could be:

- one favourite
- one familiar
- one unknown or the same book three times



with their child to choose books. We look forward to seeing you!

Quotes and ideas from *Reading Magic* by Mem Fox

The library is open to 4pm every day if any parents want to come with their child to choose books. We look forward to seeing you!



PRIMARY SPORT

Y5&Y6 SWIMMING SPORTS

Year 5 and 6 students enjoyed their annual Swimming Sports competition at Greerton Pools on Monday 16th February. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who were able to attend in support. It was great to see children fully participate and encourage one another. BCP certainly has some incredible swimmers.



Event	Placing	Name	Event	Placing	Name	Event	Placing	Name	Event	Placing	Name
Year 5 Girls 100m Freestyle	1st	Bella Jang	Year 6 Girls 25m Backstroke	1st	Ella Baker	Year 6 Girls 25m Breaststroke	1st	Ella Baker	Year 6 Girls 50m Backstroke	1st	Ella Baker
Year 5 Girls 100m Freestyle	2nd	Lisa Jang	Year 6 Girls 25m Backstroke	2nd	Piper Urquhart	Year 6 Girls 25m Breaststroke	2nd	Piper Urquhart	Year 6 Girls 50m Backstroke	2nd	Piper Urquhart
Year 6 Girls 100m Freestyle	1st	Ella Baker	Year 6 Girls 25m Backstroke	3rd	Xanthe Bialostocki	Year 6 Girls 25m Breaststroke	3rd	Heidi Comer	Year 6 Girls 50m Backstroke	3rd	Olivia Medwin
Year 6 Girls 100m Freestyle	2nd	Tabitha Dos Santos	Year 5 Boys 25m Backstroke	1st	Matthew van Tonder	Year 5 Boys 25m Breaststroke	1st	Samuel Hardman	Year 5 Boys 50m Backstroke	1st	Reiken Myburgh
Year 6 Boys 100m Freestyle	1st	Yanni Wu	Year 5 Boys 25m Backstroke	2nd	Reiken Myburgh	Year 5 Boys 25m Breaststroke	2nd	Matthew van Tonder	Year 5 Boys 50m Backstroke	2nd	David Nonweiler
Year 5 Girls 25m Freestyle	1st	Isabella Finlayson	Year 5 Boys 25m Backstroke	3rd	Hendrik Wentzel	Year 5 Boys 25m Breaststroke	3rd	Hendrik Wentzel	Year 5 Boys 50m Backstroke	3rd	Samuel Germann
Year 5 Girls 25m Freestyle	2nd	Isla Williams	Year 6 Boys 25m Backstroke	1st	Yanni Wu	Year 6 Boys 25m Breaststroke	1st	Yanni Wu	Year 6 Boys 50m Backstroke	1st	Yanni Wu
Year 5 Girls 25m Freestyle	3rd	Eliza Davis	Year 6 Boys 25m Backstroke	2nd	Tai Ssekajja	Year 6 Boys 25m Breaststroke	2nd	Luke Buchanan	Year 6 Boys 50m Backstroke	2nd	Tai Ssekajja
Year 5 Boys 25m Freestyle	1st	Matthew van Tonder	Year 6 Boys 25m Backstroke	3rd	Yejun Cho	Year 6 Boys 25m Breaststroke	3rd	Beau Wright	Year 6 Boys 50m Backstroke	3rd	Beau Wright
Year 5 Boys 25m Freestyle	2nd	Austen Ussher	Year 5 Girls 25m Butterfly	1st	Judy Jang	Year 5 Girls 50m Freestyle	1st	Eliza Davis	Year 5 Girls 50m Breaststroke	1st	Lisa Jang
Year 5 Boys 25m Freestyle	3rd	Judah Stone	Year 5 Girls 25m Butterfly	2nd	Coco Xu	Year 5 Girls 50m Freestyle	2nd	Judy Jang	Year 5 Girls 50m Breaststroke	2nd	Coco Xu
Year 6 Girls 25m Freestyle	1st	Piper Urquhart	Year 6 Girls Butterfly	1st	Ella Baker	Year 6 Girls 50m Freestyle	1st	Ella Baker	Year 5 Girls 50m Breaststroke	3rd	Bella Jang
Year 6 Girls 25m Freestyle	2nd	Ella Baker	Year 6 Girls Butterfly	2nd	Elina Kim	Year 6 Girls 50m Freestyle	2nd	Piper Urquhart	Year 6 Girls 50m Breaststroke	1st	Ella Baker
Year 6 Girls 25m Freestyle	3rd	Ella Clarkin	Year 5 Boys 25m Butterfly	1st	Samuel Germann	Year 6 Girls 50m Freestyle	3rd	Heidi Comer	Year 6 Girls 50m Breaststroke	2nd	Piper Urquhart
Year 6 Boys 25m Freestyle	1st	Tai Ssekajja	Year 6 Boys 25m Butterfly	1st	Yanni Wu	Year 5 Boys 50m Freestyle	1st	Matthew van Tonder	Year 6 Girls 50m Breaststroke	3rd	Elina Kim
Year 6 Boys 25m Freestyle	2nd	Yanni Wu	Year 6 Boys 25m Butterfly	2nd	Beau Wright	Year 5 Boys 50m Freestyle	2nd	Reiken Myburgh	Year 5 Boys 50m Breaststroke	1st	Samuel Hardman
Year 6 Boys 25m Freestyle	3rd	Beau Wright	Year 5 Girls 25m Breaststroke	1st	Isla Williams	Year 5 Boys 50m Freestyle	3rd	Austen Ussher	Year 5 Boys 50m Breaststroke	2nd	Matthew van Tonder
Year 5 Girls 25m Backstroke	1st	Isabella Finlayson	Year 5 Girls 25m Breaststroke	2nd	Hannah Henson	Year 6 Boys 50m Freestyle	1st	Yanni Wu	Year 5 Boys 50m Breaststroke	3rd	David Nonweiler
Year 5 Girls 25m Backstroke	2nd	Isla Williams	Year 5 Girls 25m Breaststroke	3rd	Jennifer Yang	Year 6 Boys 50m Freestyle	2nd	Tai Ssekajja	Year 6 Boys 50m Breaststroke	1st	Yanni Wu
Year 5 Girls 25m Backstroke	3rd	Eliza Davis				Year 6 Boys 50m Freestyle	3rd	Beau Wright	Year 6 Boys 50m Breaststroke	2nd	Beau Wright

Reminder... Winter Sport registrations close on Sunday 1st March
<https://www.beth.school.nz/studentlife/sports>



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Drop off - please be careful not to park in places that cause congestion, especially on wet days. Remember it is a drop/pick up zone, not a 'leave your car and collect' zone. As a school it is a blessing to have a 'drop off' area and it is important to see it respected for what it is.



Upcoming Road Closures

We have been notified by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council of the following road closures.

- **Road closure between St Andrews Drive and Wakefield Drive**
16 March 2026 – 16 September 2026
- **Road closure between Wakefield Drive and Sterling Gate Drive**
16 September 2026 – January 2027 (specific date to be confirmed)

Uniform Reminders

In our last newsletter there was a reminder for all students to be in correct uniform. It has been noticed that a number of students are wearing PE shirts for general warmth instead of the jersey. The PE shirt is only to be worn for PE. The jersey is required for general wear. If there are reasons this is not possible, please send an email to a member of the PLT. Joel.Devcich@beth.school.nz, Nathan.Martin@beth.school.nz, Jo.West@beth.school.nz

Moving forward, staff will be sending home uniform reminders if there are areas that need addressing.



HAPPY PARENTING

As our children settle back into daily routines of school and perhaps even new activities after school, we can help our children build resilience to change. I thought this article had some good and helpful tips and I encourage you to give it a read.

[Parenting Place - Back to School Survival Guide](#)

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to our school community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jo



NOTICES

- **BC Parent Year Groups:** Join us at the chapel on a Wednesday from 12.30-1 pm for a 30 min devo/prayer/fellowship to encourage & connect parents with similarly aged students.
- **Rob Cope Parenting Evening:** Join us Wed 11 March from 4.30-6 pm to learn specific tools/techniques to empower our kids to make good decisions online. At least one parent from each family is requested to attend one of the four 2026 events. Tickets are \$5 at www.eventfinda.co.nz.
- **Open Day:** New parents to Secondary and prospective BC families are invited to join us for an afternoon touring the campus, talking about the extensive opportunities for students, viewing classrooms, and answering any questions you may have. To reserve a space, please register [here](#).
- **BC Businesses:** Need a referral for a business? Have a business you'd like to list? Want to connect with other businesses? Check out our BC Business page [here](#).
- **Enrolment:** Applications for students entering Year 7 and 9 in 2027 (not currently attending BC) close on 30 June. Online application [here](#).





Join us for

Praying Parents

Praying through topics from
'The Power of A Praying Parent'

Wednesdays
12:30-1:00 PM
BC CHAPEL

4 Mar	Feeling Loved & Accepted
11 Mar	Establishing an Eternal Future
18 Mar	Honouring Parents & Resisting Rebellion
25 Mar	Maintaining Good Family Relationships

*Short devotional, prayer & fellowship.
All caregivers welcome!*

CAR WASH



BETHLEHEM COLLEGE

SAT 28th FEB

12noon to 3pm

\$15.00 per car - Eftpos Available

Kindly support our BC Rowers heading to Maadi Cup in Twizel





THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026

TIME: 4:30PM - 5:30PM

VENUE: TAURANGA DOMAIN
(31 Cameron Road, Tauranga)

Want to play Rugby this season? Are you 5 - 13years old?

Tauranga Sports Junior Rugby Club
registrations are open!

Boys and girls welcome so bring the fam and a friend.
Come along for some fun drills or learn a new skill. Make sure to wear
clothing suitable for a run around and bare feet. No boots required.

There will be spot prizes and plenty of club members around to
answer any questions about the 2026 season.

