



KENAKENA SCHOOL

"EXCITING... MOTIVATING... POSITIVE"

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INFORMATION ON HOW WE WILL REPORT TO PARENTS IN 2026: TERM 1 UPDATE

Dear Parents and Caregivers

He mihi nui ki a koutou nga matua, me nga kaitiaki o a tatou tamariki. Tena koutou katoa.

Technology has enabled the use of digital applications to regularly share your children's learning with you. Kenakena School has developed our reporting schedule to enable better conversations about learning progress and achievement. Kenakena School uses *HERO* as our reporting and communication platform. Our regular means of sharing achievement and reporting is through **The Learning Snapshot** (See Information at the end of this letter), which continues to evolve to accommodate the Ministry of Education's new requirements for reporting progress and achievement. *HERO* is where your children's Learning Snapshots will be communicated.

You will already have received information on how to sign up for *HERO*. In case you missed that, here is the link with instructions for families and whanau:

<https://linc-ed-hero.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360026349934-Logging-into-Hero-Information-for-Families>

What is changing regarding assessment and reporting?

Starting from January this year, the Ministry of Education has mandated implementation of the new Mathematics and English Curricula.

Previously, achievement was reported against 2-year curriculum levels. Now your children's progress will be assessed and reported against their current school year level. Like most other schools, our teaching staff is still becoming familiar with the new structure and content of the English and Mathematics Curricula and working through how to best assess and report against that structure and content.

The Ministry of Education produced some useful assessment descriptors, which we began using towards the end of 2025. A final version of those has been produced for use this year, along with a set of corresponding progress descriptors for reporting to you on your children's progress. As the use of the assessment descriptors has been mandated by the Minister, we need to re-develop our reporting templates for Reading, Writing and Mathematics, as well as ensuring we can celebrate learning in other curriculum areas through our Learning Snapshots, shared with you on HERO. The HERO team is working on producing a reporting format for its membership schools to use.

As we adapt to assessing and reporting against the new curriculum structure, you could see a change in your child's progress or achievement compared to previous years, which may be the result of changes in the curriculum expectations for your child's year level.

What has not changed is that our teachers use a variety of methods to track and understand your children's progress, including:

- Assessments to measure key skills and knowledge.
- Observations to see how your child applies their learning.
- Learning conversations to discuss your child's understanding and growth
- Self-assessment and peer assessment to build reflection and collaboration skills.

At Kenakena School in 2026 we are re-working our assessment and reporting schedule and documentation to fit with the Ministry of Education's mandated reporting timeframes.

TERM 1

- Introductions Meeting/He Whakawhanaungatanga (the process of establishing relationships, relating well to others). This meeting is for parents and teachers to introduce themselves, to talk about the home-school partnership to encourage and support your children's learning. Children should attend this meeting with their parents or caregivers. These meetings occur at the beginning of the school year and took place on February 3.
- Sharing of Learning Snapshots featuring your children's learning in areas other than maths and literacy through HERO school wide.

TERM 2

- Parents and caregivers will be provided with a full report on Hero covering Reading, Writing and Mathematics on Friday of Week 8 (June 12)

TERM 3

- Sharing of Learning Snapshots featuring your children's learning in areas other than maths and literacy through HERO school wide.
- Reconnection/Te Here Tangata Meetings in Week 8 (Wednesday September 9 from 3pm to 7pm, and Thursday September 10 from 2pm to 5pm) for discussing general learning progress and addressing learning focus for the remainder of the year. *These have been moved to Term 3 this year to fit in with the Ministry of Education's mandated reporting schedule (formal written reports on English and Maths mid-year and end-of-year).* The Reconnection meetings area also known as *Te Here Tangata (Weaving people together – Maintaining Relationships)*

TERM 4

- Parents and caregivers will be provided with a full report on HERO covering Reading, Writing and Mathematics in Week 7 (TBC)

Bruce McDonald

PRINCIPAL

'THE LEARNING SNAPSHOT'

CELEBRATING YOUR CHILDRENS' LEARNING AT KENAKENA SCHOOL

When the Ministry of Education began its review of the New Zealand Curriculum, consideration was given to the way learning progress and achievement of students is reported to parents. One of the significant questions raised was: *How could we shift from reporting to parents and whānau as a twice-yearly 'compliance' activity to ongoing information sharing with students, parents, and whānau, recognising that this is a critical component of educationally powerful partnerships for learning? (Curriculum, Progress and Achievement – Emerging Findings 2018).* Kenakena will continue to produce Learning Snapshots in between the now twice-yearly (mid-year and end-of-year) compliance activity of written reports mandated by the Minister of Education.

Like many schools, Kenakena considered how we could make use of technology to report more effectively and in a timely manner. Our major sharing platform is now the HERO app., which is used school-wide to provide you with regular examples of the work your children are producing. Children may post their own work, which can include comments from them and from their teachers. This allows regular opportunities for you to engage with your children by discussing their work with them and writing your own feedback.