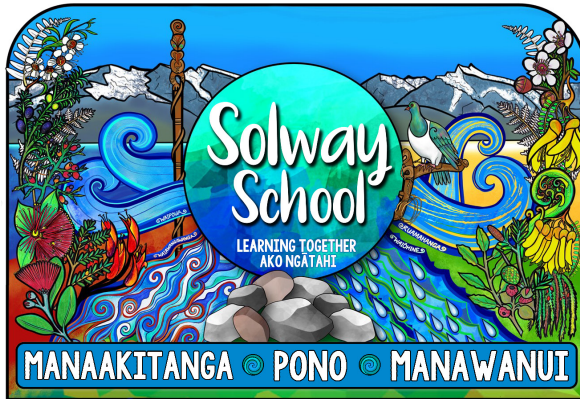


# Solway School Newsletter - Term 3, Week 2

Tuesday 22nd July, 2025



## Upcoming Events Dates & Reminders

- ★ School photos 30th July
- ★ Grandparents day 8th Aug

☎ 06 377 4850

☎ 022 105 3218

f Facebook

✉ [office@solway.school.nz](mailto:office@solway.school.nz)

✉ [principal@solway.school.nz](mailto:principal@solway.school.nz)

🌐 [School Web Page](#)

*Tēnā koutou, Talofa lava, Mālō e Lelei, Namaste, Kia Orana, Bula.*

*Tēnā koutou e te whānau o te kura o Solway,*

**Flexible Learning Environments - A Welcome Shift:** The Minister of Education, Hon Erica Stanford, recently announced the end of compulsory open-plan classrooms. All new classrooms will now be built following a more flexible model—similar to what we have used at Solway. For the past decade, Ministry policy required that all new or refurbished classrooms adopt an open-plan design, where multiple classes shared one large space without internal walls. When we built our new classrooms at Solway several years ago, I advocated for the inclusion of glass sliding doors—despite Ministry advice to the contrary.

Based on my experience working at Auckland's largest intermediate school, and supported by wider research, it's clear that open-plan environments work well for some learners—but not for all. Many students, particularly boys, thrive in single-cell classrooms where they can benefit from more structure, fewer distractions, and a greater sense of focus.

At Solway, we've long taken a flexible approach. Our classrooms feature sliding glass doors that allow us to open spaces up for collaboration when needed, while still preserving the advantages of single-cell rooms for core learning areas such as reading, writing, and maths. It's encouraging to see national policy now aligning with the balanced approach we've found to be so effective.

Our Board of Trustee elections are approaching, and this year all nominations and voting (if required) will be managed online by an external provider. Our current board includes five parent representatives, with at least one stepping down at the end of the term. If you're interested in serving our school community, nominations are open for the next two weeks. For more information, contact: [election@electionpilot.nz](mailto:election@electionpilot.nz) or 0800 VOTENZ (0800 868 369).

**Grandparents Day** - Friday August 8th, please ask Grandparents to keep this morning free

**STUDENT LEARNING CONFERENCES** - Today & tomorrow , Tuesday July 22nd 1:20pm to 5:30pm  
Wednesday July 23rd 3:10pm to 5:00pm Parent teaching meetings - School will finish at 1pm on the  
Tuesday, buses will run at 3pm, supervision until 3pm will be available if essential. [Here is the link to book appointments https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/nmmcg](https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/nmmcg)

Ngā mihi Mark Bridges

## School Notices

### CLASS SPOTLIGHT - Kanuka

#### Kānuka Kids - Hockey skills

We have been really lucky to have Mr Veale come and teach us basic hockey skills - how to hold a stick, dribbling, and scoring goals!



Koro Nanny Granny Gramps Grandma Grandpa Grandad

### Grandparents Day 2025

An invitation to all Grandparents - come and join us at Solway School on

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025

9:30am - Grandparents turn up - welcome in the school hall (children come to school as normal)

9:45 - visit your grandchild's class and look at their work and take part in the activities in their class

11am - cup of tea/coffee back in the hall for the grandparents (children can go to play outside)

We would love to see you and have you spend the morning with us at Solway

Oma Opa Nana Pop Kuia Poppa

## Week 2 Ako Card Winners!!!

Congratulations Zave, Pharrell, Declan, Silas, Aubree, Bella,  
Lucy, Rena, Marni, Hunter S-V, Hunter J-S, Aliza



## **2025 Solway School Board of Trustee Parent Representative Elections**

This will be happening in September this year. The school electoral roll is printed and available at the office if you wish to see if you are on the roll and eligible to vote.

### Pita-Pit Lunches - Fridays each week

For our new families: It's simple; all you need to do is register at: [www.lunchonline.co.nz](http://www.lunchonline.co.nz)

1. Register an account
2. Add member/s using your child's name & current classroom
3. Make a payment so you have funds in your account before ordering
4. Select your lunch and place an order

Orders can be placed right up until 8.30am on the day the lunches are available. Any problems/queries with set-up please see Selina in the office. We have found the lunches healthy & enjoyed by the children with quite a few options available.

IMPORTANT: Can families with existing accounts for children, please make sure you update the classroom for your child/ren if applicable as it saves many tears on a Friday!!

### School 2025 Dates

- ★ Term 3: July 14th to September 19th
  - ★ Term 4: October 6th to December 16th
- Teacher only day October 24th*  
*Labour day October 27th*



## STARS OF THE WEEK



**Pōhutukawa:** Willow is a fantastic role model in our class and has been showing lots of Manaakitanga this week. She is always kind, calm, and helpful, especially with our new students, making sure they feel welcome and settled. Ka pai Willow!

**Kānuka:** Jenni is our star this week. Welcome to Kānuka! We are so happy that you have joined our class with your fabulous smile and can-do attitude. We look forward to lots of fun learning with you.

**Rimu:** Grace has come back to school showing all our three Values; Manaakitanga, Manawanui and Pono. Grace has stepped up to be a role model this term, she is staying focused on the mat and in learning time. Keep it up Grace!

**Harakeke:** Maia shows all of our three Solway values but especially Manaakitanga. Maia is kind and thoughtful to all around her and always wears a smile on her face. Mīharo Maia!

**Tītoki:** Emilie Majurie has written a great recount about Dog Safety, after our morning with Scruffy from 'Dogs in Schools'. Emilie remembered all the guidelines and tips on how to stay safe around dogs. Fantastic listening & writing! Mīharo Emilie!

**Kōwhai:** Myra always shows Manaakitanga in the classroom. She is passionate about her learning, puts so much effort into everything she does, and is a fantastic role model in Kōwhai. Ka rawe Myra!

**Tōtara:** Ayla has shown Manawanui with her learning - applying a good deal more resilience when it comes to working more independently now. Thanks Ayla!

**Matai:** Liam has shown Manawanui in his writing and maths. He has made great improvements and is growing in confidence every day. He also shows leadership in class; setting a good example and helping others. Kei runga noa atu, Liam.

**Mānuka:** Polly for showing pono by being inclusive and showing compassion. She has been caring and supportive with new students.

**Rata:** Daniel has demonstrated Manawanui in writing this week, where his passion for creative storytelling has shone. He approaches his writing with enthusiasm and excitement, producing imaginative and fun stories! Ka rawe, Daniel.

# Community Notices



**Team Up**  
with  
**TREMAINS**

Thinking of selling? **Do you want to help Solway Primary School receive \$500?**

Support your local community by **teaming up with Tremains.**

List and sell with us and we will give \$500 to Solway Primary School to help with their fundraising efforts. Contact us today to find out more.



**TREMAINS**

**Tira Pollock | 027 403 3074**  
tira.pollock@tremains.co.nz

**Casey Shailer | 027 337 9856**  
casey.shailer@tremains.co.nz

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Ka nui te mihi, ā, kia pai te wiki