



# NEWSLETTER

Start of Year Newsletter 2025



## CLARKVILLE TE KURA KI WAIMĀTAO

Kia ora Clarkville whānau

Welcome to our school community for 2025. We are really looking forward to your child starting or returning on Friday 31 January for Connect Day. This day operates with students and their parents/caregivers booked into one hour slots between 8am and 6.30pm. If you haven't booked your session yet, please do so quickly through Hero as we only have limited slots available now.

Connect Day is an opportunity for a more relaxed start to the year for the children. It also gives parents/caregivers an opportunity to have a good chat with the teachers rather than trying to catch up with them during drop off on the first day with all the children back together at once.

The 1 hour blocks will be structured with a 10 minute catch up with all of the children and parents/caregivers at the start. Then for the other 50 minutes, you will stay in the learning space, connecting with other children and their parents/caregivers and maybe completing some information gathering activities with your child/ren. During this 1 hour block, you will also meet with both of the learning space teachers. Please be aware that your personal session with the teachers is limited to 10 minute blocks during your hour. This is to ensure that all children and parents/caregivers can be catered for over the day. Please support the teachers to end the session 10 minutes after starting - our teachers love talking about your children and sometimes find it difficult to end the sessions even with others waiting.

You are very welcome to bring your child's stationery to your session if this supports an easier start to the school year for you and your child/ren. Maths No Problem workbooks have been funded by the Government for 2025. This is an amazing initiative that we hope continues in future years. I realise that start of year school costs can be unwelcome so every little bit helps.

Thank you to those parents/caregivers who also paid the voluntary School Donation of \$100 for 2024. Our School Board has also kept the amount the same for 2025. The School Donation is an essential part of ensuring that our students have access to the very best, broad education. It funds the many 'nice to haves' that we would not be able to offer without parents/caregivers making this payment each year. Again, start of year school costs can be challenging so we welcome smaller weekly payments if this makes this more manageable.

We have a new staff member joining our team for 2025 with Annabel Thoms teaching in Kaiapoi (Year 5/6) learning space once a week on Wednesdays while also covering teacher and Team Leader release on other days. Annabel is an amazing teacher who has worked as a Team Leader and teacher most recently at Wigram Primary School and Southbrook School. We were able to secure Annabel for several days relieving last year and many of the students have already formed a strong learning connection with her. Please introduce yourself to Annabel when you see her at Clarkville. I know you will all make her feel so welcome like our community always does with our new people.

Jenny Collinson will work fulltime in our Horotueka (Year 3/4) learning space with Paula Gray to start 2025. Jenny was Acting Team Leader in our Year 5/6 learning space while Bridget Chilton was on Maternity Leave. A massive 'thank you' to Jenny for providing this cover with both of our teachers in this space on leave from the middle of 2024. Welcome back to Bridget Chilton who resumes her role as Kaiapoi learning space Team Leader and to Kristie Morrison who returns to teach with Bridget in Year 5/6 after returning from her secondment with a structured literacy provider.

I am very pleased to inform our community that Lynley Bockett will continue at Clarkville for 2025, teaching across the school providing teacher release on Fridays and flexible cover other days. Lynley is a Clarkville treasure and an amazing teacher - I am so thankful that she has again agreed to postpone her full retirement!

Our school continues to be divided into 4 teams this year:

**Kaikanui learning space - Year 1/2**

Sue Edwards, Team Leader

Hayden Smythe, teacher

**Horotueka learning space - Year 3/4**

Paula Gray, Deputy Principal and Acting Team Leader  
Jenny Collinson, teacher

**Kaiapoi learning space - Year 5/6**

Bridget Chilton, Team Leader  
Kristie Morrison, teacher Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri  
Annabel Thoms, teacher Wed

**Wairaki learning space - Year 7/8**

Mitchell Bailey, Team Leader  
Meg Wix, teacher Mon-Thurs  
Kris Barrow, Principal and teacher every second Friday

**Release Teacher**

Lynley Brocket

**Learning Assistants**

Ella Burgess  
Helen Frith  
Ann Frahm  
Brodie McDonald

**Learning Support Coordinator**

Jo Hall, Wed and Thurs

**Deputy Principal and Special Needs Coordinator**

Paula Gray

**Principal**

Kris Barrow

**Office Administrator**

Kathryn Macintosh

**Caretaker**

Brodie McDonald

**Our Environment**

There have been a couple of building projects over the end of year break.

- Removal of pinex ceiling tiles and installation of new drywall ceiling, acoustic panels and sound partition in the Kaikanui (Year 1/2) learning space
- The continued transformation of our space at the back of the school with a path being installed. Hopefully this area will become a useful parking option in the years to come if the school can secure funding.

**Safe Travel**

Please support our school to ensure our students arrive safely at school and get home safely is very important to us.

Please help us by:

- Ensuring our school Office knows when your child is catching the school bus.
- Ensuring your child wears a helmet if they are travelling to school by bike (for those very few that do).
- Encouraging your child to cross at the designated crossing area out the front of the Library that is patrolled every afternoon after school finishes.
- When parking in the Clarkville Peacehall car park, align your vehicle with others already there.
- Not parking on Yellow Lines along Heywards Road.

We hope you enjoy being a part of our school community and I look forward to connecting with you this Friday and next week as we welcome back our awesome students.

Noho ora mai

Kris

AN UPDATE FROM THE CLARKVILLE TE KURA KI WAIMATAO SCHOOL OFFICE

The office will be open on Wednesday morning, Thursday morning and all day Friday this week.

Families ordering uniform will be advised when it arrives.

The new lapboards are now available at cost price, \$6.00 each. These are double sided and very sturdy, we ask that you do not purchase any other type of board. It is hoped that these boards will last for several years.

Maths No Problem books have arrived, these will be given out by the teachers, the cost of these is to be covered by the Ministry.

Two pairs of shoes, possibly Nike, were left outside on the last day. As no one came to claim them they were brought to the office recently. Please contact us if you think that they may be yours. Possibly a good reminder to everyone to ensure that clothing is clearly named.

**Dates for Term 1 2025**

**Friday 31 January** - Connect Day (students attend for 1 hour with their parent/s/caregiver/s) - details above

**Monday 3 February** - First full school day

**Thursday 6 February** - Waitangi Day - Public Holiday

**Wednesday 12 February - Friday 14 February** - Kaiapoi (Year 5/6) learning space at Hanmer Springs camp

**Friday 11 April** - End of Term 1

*More dates to follow*

**Please Note**

*Easter takes place during the school Term 1/2 break in 2025*