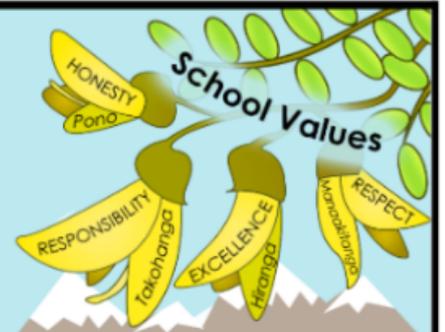




## Principal's message

Growing a community of learners  
He whakatipu hapori ākongā



# Welcome back to Term 1, 2026!



Welcome Back to Term 1, 2026!

Kia ora koutou and a warm welcome back to the start of the 2026 school year! It has been wonderful to see all the smiling faces of our students returning, refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

We have kicked off the term with a very clear message for our students during our welcome back assembly: **Be Kind**. This simple goal sits at the heart of our school value of Manaakitanga (Respect). We have been talking to the children about how respect isn't just a big concept; it is shown in the small, everyday choices we make—inviting someone to play, listening when others speak, and helping each other out.

### Welcoming Our New Whānau & Staff

A special welcome to the new families who have joined the Grantlea Downs community this year. We are delighted to have you with us. We also have some fantastic new staff members joining our team; I have attached our 2026 staffing to this newsletter so you can get an overview of our staffing arrangement. To officially welcome our new students, whānau, and staff, we invite you to our Mihi Whakatau next Friday, 13th February at 9:15 am. A separate invite will be sent directly to new families about this event.

### Our Strategic Direction

This year, we are excited to begin work on our new Strategic Plan (2026–2028). As a Board and Staff, we are committed to achieving our goals under our three strategic pillars (Pou):

- 1. Belonging & Engagement (Te Noho Toitū me te Piri ki te Kaupapa):** Strengthening attendance, cultural connections, and ensuring every child feels they belong.
- 2. Learning that Matters (He Akoranga Whai Take):** Implementing the refreshed NZ Curriculum effectively with clear assessment and reporting.
- 3. Thriving Learners (He Ākongā Āta Tupu):** Supporting all learners to thrive holistically.

We are committed to working in partnership with you. Throughout the year, we will be regularly asking for your feedback to gauge how we are tracking against these goals. Your voice is essential in helping us ensure Grantlea Downs remains a place where every child can reach their potential.

Here's to a kind and successful year ahead!

Ngā mihi nui,

Beth Wills

Principal

Grantlea Downs School



Save the date - Wednesday  
11 February, 5 to 6.30 pm  
School Picnic @ Grantlea  
Downs



## Leadership Team



Mrs Beth Wills  
**Principal**  
beth@grantleadowns.school.nz



Mrs Sandra Annett  
**Deputy Principal**  
sandra@grantleadowns.school.nz



Mrs Linda Gordon  
**Assistant Principal & Learning Support Coordinator**  
linda@grantleadowns.school.nz



Mrs Katharine Wood  
**Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)**  
katharine@grantleadowns.school.nz

## Team Opihi (NE, Year 1 & 2)



Ms Sharleen Hole  
Room 1  
**Opihi Team Leader**  
sharleen@grantleadowns.school.nz



Miss Cameron Murphy  
Room 2  
cameron@grantleadowns.school.nz



Miss Becky Harvey  
Room 3  
becky@grantleadowns.school.nz



Mrs Christine Nash  
Room 4  
christine@grantleadowns.school.nz

## Team Waipopo (Year 3 & 4)



Mrs Bethany Marett  
Room 7  
bethany@grantleadowns.school.nz



Miss Lauren Ramsey  
Room 8  
lauren@grantleadowns.school.nz



Mr Hamish Campbell  
Room 9  
**Waipopo Team Leader**  
hamish@grantleadowns.school.nz

## Team Acacia (Year 5 & 6)



Miss Emma Browning  
Room 10  
emma@grantleadowns.school.nz



Miss Danielle Tippet  
Room 11  
danielle@grantleadowns.school.nz



Mrs Ange Hide  
Room 12  
**Acacia Team Leader**  
ange@grantleadowns.school.nz

# Grantlea Downs Staff

## Team Kereta (Year 7 & 8)



Mrs Vicki Evans  
Room 13  
vicki@grantleadowns.school.nz



Mr Sam Carlaw  
Room 14  
**Kereta Team Leader**  
sam@grantleadowns.school.nz



Miss Alice Austin  
Room 15  
alice@grantleadowns.school.nz

## Release Teachers



Miss Raewyn Guise



Mrs Tina Gibson



Mrs Rebecca Fennessy



Mrs Alyce McKerchar



Mrs Hilary McKnight

# Grantlea Downs Staff

## Property/IT staff.

## Admin staff.



Mr Mark Lissington  
Caretaker / Property  
Manager



Mr Bob Cross  
IT



Mrs Shelley Willocks  
Finance &  
Administration Manager



Mrs Fiona Cameron  
Office Administrator

## Lunches/Cleaning Support staff.

Mrs Fiona Watson  
School Lunches -  
Kitchen Lead

Mr Lance Cassidy  
Assistant Caretaker

Mrs Amber Stewart  
School Lunches

Mrs Julie Woofindin  
School Lunches

Mrs Saffron Kell  
School Lunches Gardener

Mrs Cathy Moffat  
Cleaner

Mrs Sonyia Ramsay  
Cleaner

# Grantlea Downs Teaching Support Staff



Mrs Joy McGillivray  
Teacher Aide



Miss Penni Naylor  
Librarian/Teacher Aide



Mrs Trina Hayes  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Leah Tee  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Margita Kamsma  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Tracey O'Malley  
Teacher Aide



Miss Ari Dungey  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Jo Hedges  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Lena Morris  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Sonyia Ramsay  
Teacher Aide



Mr Paul Christie  
Teacher Aide / Sports  
Coordinator



Mrs Kim Hogg  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Melissa Fialele  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Sandi Sherbourn  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Stacey Sanders  
Teacher Aide



Mrs Jacqui Hide  
Teacher Aide