Deanwell SCHOOL

Tumuaki Update

Monday 12th October, 2026

IMPORTANT DATES 2026

TERM 4

General Dates

Thursday 29th October
Board Hui - 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Monday 26th October
LABOUR DAY - SCHOOL IS CLOSED

Wednesday 28th October
Halloween Disco - 5.30pm to 7pm

Thursday 5th November
Ohu Tuākana (Year 3 - 6) Athletics Day
Back Up Day - Friday 6th November

Thursday 12th November
Ohu Pīpī Manu Athletics
Back Up Day - Thursday 19th November

Friday 13th November
EMPLOYEES ONLY DAY - SCHOOL IS CLOSED
Teachers are all attending a Maths Conference in Auckland

Thursday 3rd December
Board Hui - 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Thursday 17th December
Hāpaitia te MANA Assembly - 11.30am

Friday 18th December
Term 4 Ends - 12.30pm (Last Day of the Year)

Learning Conversations

Tuesday 8th December
Learning Conversations
8.00am - 3.00pm Ohu Pīpī Manu
3.30 - 7.00 pm Whole School

Wednesday 9th December
Learning Conversations
8.00am - 3.00pm Ohu Tuākana
3.30 - 5.30 pm Whole School

Learning conversations

We warmly invite whānau and/or friends to be part of these special conversations about your child's learning.

Your presence truly means a lot. It helps your tamaiti feel supported, valued, and proud of their progress.

Let's work together to achieve 100% whānau participation.

Dear e te Whānau,

With the election approaching, there has been a significant amount of political noise surrounding education. Some of the language and behaviour in the public domain recently has been disheartening, behaviour that we would certainly not tolerate here at Deanwell School. Between misleading news and unsettling events, it is easy to feel overwhelmed.

I am writing this to shift our focus back to what truly matters: shining a light on our tamariki, our whānau, and our strong Deanwell/Melville community.

First and foremost, our staff feel deeply grateful and privileged to teach your tamaiti and serve this community. While we acknowledge that we don't always get everything right, we are deeply committed to listening to your voice and working collaboratively to find solutions together.

Deanwell School remains at the forefront of education in New Zealand because our approach is grounded in science, evidence, and research. We are driven by a fundamental commitment to equity, believing wholeheartedly that every single tamaiti *can* and *will* progress.

At Deanwell, we place our tamariki at the absolute heart of every decision we make, mana mokopuna. Our tamariki, staff, Board, whānau, and wider community are all worthy of aroha and a deep sense of belonging.

> Our Deanwell Whakatauākī:
> *Mā tātou anō tō mātou korowai e whatu. We will weave our own korowai.*

We use the metaphor of a korowai to represent the unique identity, language, culture, and story of each tamaiti. When tamariki join Deanwell, we honour the korowai they bring with them, while providing rich opportunities to weave in new knowledge, skills, and experiences.

Evidence-Based & Inclusive Learning
Our pedagogy is rooted in Hauora, with high-trust relationships forming the foundation of all learning. Our core values, Hāpaitia te MANA (*Manaakitanga, Aumangea, Ngātahi, Ako*) guide everything we do. We are a progressive school that celebrates individual strengths while building collective success. To ensure our teaching practice remains world-class, our Board continuously invests in targeted Professional Learning and Development for all teachers.

Our curriculum is explicitly taught using proven framework principles:

- **Explicit Instruction:** Guided by Dr. Anita Archer's Elements of Explicit Instruction.
- **Structured Literacy:** All teachers are trained (or currently training) in Multisensory Structured Language (MSL), aligned with Australia Dyslexia Association and International Dyslexia Association standards.
- **Mathematics:** Delivered consistently across the school using the Explicit Maths Program (EMP).
- **Bilingual Foundation:** We proudly teach two languages, Te Reo Māori and English.

As trained specialists in structured literacy, our teachers are equipped with the expertise to support dyslexic and neurodivergent tamaiti to thrive. October marks Dyslexia Awareness Month, highlighting that roughly 1 in 5 people are dyslexic, representing about 5 or 6 tamariki in every classroom. We know precisely how to teach these tamaiti using proven multisensory methods. Crucially, structured literacy doesn't just support dyslexic tamaiti, it consolidates and accelerates reading and writing for every single tamaiti in the room.

A Culture of Support and Discipline
We are incredibly proud of how motivated, focused, and disciplined our tamariki are. Naturally, tamariki are still learning, and there are times when behaviour can get a bit wobbly. When this happens, our caring staff partner directly with whānau to support our tamariki in making positive changes. On the rare occasion where behaviour reaches serious misconduct requiring Board involvement, our Board responds with deep care, fairness, and thoughtfulness.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, trust, and support as we continue to weave a bright future for our tamariki together.

Ngā mihi nui,

Pam Quirke
Very Proud Principal of Deanwell School

ada Australian Dyslexia Association

Solutions for those who learn differently.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month around the World

Greater awareness builds understanding, inclusion and opportunity.

SUPPORT • INCLUDE • EMPOWER

Certificate

OF APPRECIATION

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

Deanwell Whānau

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SUPPORT IN BOOSTING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT 2026.

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVED:

+10% INCREASE IN TERM 1
+12% INCREASE IN TERM 2
+18% INCREASE IN TERM 3

OCTOBER 2026

DATE

Pam Quirke

SIGNATURE

12.10.26

Attendance

Target: Term 3, 2026

Regular Attendance to be higher than 36%

Summary report, directly copied from the Ministry of Education.

Term 3 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

Regular Attendance

44%

Compared to 26% in Term 3, 2025

Irregular Absence 31%

Compared to 37% in Term 3, 2025

Moderate Absence 12%

Compared to 17% in Term 3, 2025

Chronic Absence 13%

Compared to 21% in Term 3, 2025

What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

1. (M) Illness / Medical Absence 49%
2. (T) Unexplained / Trivial 27%
3. (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 12%
4. (J) Explained and Approved 7%
5. (G) Holiday 4%

How many students were on time to class?

58% of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)

Congratulations, whānau,

WE DID IT AGAIN!

Your commitment and dedication to ensuring your child or children attend school is truly commendable. Ngā mihi nui for the important role you play in their learning.

12.10.26

Attendance

Target: Term 4, 2026

Regular Attendance to be higher than 49%

Okay, Deanwell Whānau,

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN DO IT AGAIN THIS TERM?

Regular Attendance Data - Students who were present 90% - 100% of the time					
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Yearly Average
2025 National Average	65.90%	58.40%	50.30%	57.30%	57.90%
2026 Deanwell	**55%**	**47%**	**44%**		
Improvement	**+10%**	**+12%**	**+18%**		
2025 Deanwell	**44%**	**35%**	**26%**	**39%**	**36%**
2024 Deanwell	32%	35%	36%	34%	34%
2023 Deanwell	41%	23%	32%	31%	32%

We want at least a 10% improvement each term.