

Greenhithe School Board Newsletter Term 3 | 2025

Our Vision

Our children grow to be capable, balanced, confident learners who embrace new experiences and opportunities.

Kia tipu kaha ai a mātou tamariki i raro i ngā manaakitanga hōu o ngā wheako me ngā angitu hei ākonga tau hei ākonga maia

Haere mai Andrea – A New Chapter for Greenhithe

As we step into Term 3, it's a real privilege to officially welcome Andrea Clarke as the new principal of Greenhithe School.

Andrea's journey into the term began with something uniquely special - a pōwhiri that wasn't just ceremonial, but a powerful expression of *mana*, *aroha*, and shared commitment. In welcoming Andrea, her whānau, and the rōpū from Kaukapakapa School, we honoured not just a person, but a kaupapa.

Why the pōwhiri matters

A pōwhiri is more than a welcome - it's a ceremony that connects people, places, and purpose. Rooted in tikanga Māori, it represents the weaving together of manuhiri (guests) and tangata whenua (hosts) through shared respect and intention.

It's also something beautifully unique to Aotearoa - a celebration of our culture, our heritage, and our values of warmth, inclusion, and tolerance. Few places in the world welcome new leadership with such depth and meaning. It reminds us who we are, and the kind of community we aspire to be.

At Greenhithe, the pōwhiri reflects our commitment to *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* and to growing a school culture grounded in Aotearoa's bicultural heritage. It's how we practise partnership - not just in words, but in action.

This pōwhiri was a powerful display of *manaakitanga* (respect) and *kotahitanga* (unity). We accepted Kaukapakapa School's *wero* - their heartfelt challenge - to embrace Andrea, uphold her mana, and walk alongside her as she begins her journey with us. In turn, she steps into our kaupapa and our community, bringing experience, passion, and future-focused leadership.

My words on the day

For those who weren't able to be there, here's the speech I gave on behalf of the Greenhithe School Board:

Pōwhiri for Andrea Clarke

16 June 2025 | Greg Duff, Board Representative

“E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangatanga maha o te wā, tēnā koutou katoa.

Tēnā koutou te iwi o te rohe nei, Te Kawerau ā Maki.

Ki a koutou te whānau o Andrea, nau mai, haere mai ki tō tātou kura.

Ki a koutou hoki te tira mai i Kaukapakapa School, nau mai, haere mai.

Ki a koe e Andrea, e te tumuaki hou, nau mai, haere mai ki tō whānau hou.

To everyone gathered here today - a warm welcome. A special welcome to our local iwi, Te Kawerau ā Maki. Thank you to those who have helped host us here at Greenhithe School.

To Andrea's whānau, and to the large contingent from Kaukapakapa School - thank you for making the journey and this powhiri special.

Andrea - as our new principal, we're thrilled to welcome you into the Greenhithe whānau.

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Tēnā koutou katoa.

My name is Greg Duff, one of the Board Representatives here at Greenhithe School.

It's a genuine honour to be part of this pōwhiri - a ceremony that reflects who we are as New Zealanders and marks a significant chapter in our school's journey.

While my te reo Māori is still a work in progress, our board is deeply committed to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi. That commitment drives our focus on creating a school where Māori language, culture, and identity thrive, guided by true partnership with tangata whenua. We are proud to walk alongside our local iwi, Te Kawerau ā Maki, in this kaupapa.

Andrea - you join us as a proven leader from Kaukapakapa School. I've seen firsthand how your leadership has positively shaped that community, weaving its people and stories into the fabric of the school.

When recruiting our new principal, we were looking for more than just capability - we sought someone who embodied a commitment to Te Ao Māori, deep community connection, a focus on academic success, and a future-focused vision. You brought all of that - and more - through a highly competitive process.

You balance experience with innovation: one foot firmly grounded in tradition, the other stepping confidently toward the future. Your belief that learning is a process - not a destination - aligns beautifully with Greenhithe's vision. Your calm resilience, especially during a remote interview full of technical challenges, highlighted a steady and adaptable leader who lived our PRIDE values in real time.

We're thrilled to have you at the helm. Your strengths directly support our mission to empower every learner and lift teacher capability. Together, we can ensure that every ākonga grows into a confident, capable, and compassionate learner — prepared to embrace opportunity and thrive.

As you begin this new chapter, know that you have the unwavering support of our Board, staff, whānau, and wider community. We value strong leadership and genuine collaboration. Together, we'll foster a school where every child feels they belong, where their strengths are celebrated, and where they're empowered to soar.

I leave you with this whakataukī:

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu.

(Adorn the bird with feathers so it may fly)

With the right support and leadership, our school and its people will flourish.

Andrea - nau mai, haere mai ki Greenhithe School. Ko koe te rangatira o te waka nei.

You are the leader of this waka now.

Tēnā koe, Andrea. Tēnā koutou katoa."

As a Board, we're excited about the journey as much as the destination. In Andrea, we see a leader with strong academic vision, one who will connect deeply with our community, build relationships that matter, and help write a new chapter - both in the life of Greenhithe School and in the lives of our ākonga.

"He waka eke noa."

We are all in this waka together.

Ngā mihi nui,



Greg Duff

Greenhithe School Board Representative

(on behalf of the School Board)