



Cambridge Middle School - Issue 3 - May 2026

Term Two

15 May
Immunisation catch ups

15 May
Pink Shirt Day / Casual
Clothes Day
(Gold coin donation)

26 May
WIMS Hockey

28 May
WIMS Visual Arts

01 June
Kings Birthday (school
closed)

09 June
Year 7 Vision Screening

12 June
Teachers Only Day (school
closed)



Kia ora koutou,

Principal's Pen 2026

Week 3 Term 2

Welcome to Term 2. As we move into the winter season, please ensure all uniform items are named. If your child has misplaced a school polar fleece or jacket please check the lost property (located near Room 4) as there is already a significant amount of items there to be claimed.

New School Board Member: With the resignation of Haydn Wright from the CMS School Board a vacancy was created. After following the process set out by the NZSBA, the CMS Board has appointed James Thornhill by selection. We welcome James to our School Board and look forward to his positive contribution in the coming years.

Learning: Last year the government ran a pilot programme in Mathematics for children who need a boost to get to their expected level. In 2026 they have increased this funding to reach even more year 7 and 8 students. During terms 2 and 3 we will be running two 12 week programmes that will see over 100 students get an additional 2 hours of small group maths tuition per week. If your child qualifies for the first group this term you will receive a letter in the coming weeks.

Students are currently finishing up their performance tasks and learning through our first concept of 'Survival'. There have been some very engaging and creative ways shown by students to demonstrate their learning over the past term through this concept. In Week 5 our concept moves to 'Culture'. Teams are explicitly planning to connect with the community and involve whānau in sharing celebrations towards the end of this concept.

Our staff have also been continuing their professional learning in literacy and mathematics to ensure we understand and are teaching the new curriculum effectively. A key focus has been on learning some of the new assessment tools and the changes to reporting to parents. We will be sharing more information in the coming weeks about the new SMART assessment tool and the changes to the language in reporting that helps you to accurately know where your child is at in their learning.



Principals Pen continued...

Sport: Winter is almost upon us and with that comes our winter codes getting up and running. A lot of work goes into coaching and managing teams and we would like to say thank you to all those parents who step up and support our school and the local clubs by doing these important roles. It was great to be able to get down to netball and football over the weekend and to see so many CMS students involved. WIMS futsal took place earlier this week and we have hockey, football, rugby and ki o rahi coming up during this term.

Leadership: Our student leaders have begun their leadership programme with Mrs Finn and Ms McCree. Their first task was to come up with ideas that contribute positively to CMS. So far proposals include a new mural, a student newsletter and an event to showcase the artistic talents at our school. This week they have been out and about supporting the Salvation Army with their collections outside Woolworths. We have also ordered new uniform tops for our student and sport leaders, which they are very excited about and were proud to receive.

Production: Look out for further information advertising our production this term **The Spongebob Musical**. Be sure to get in quick as I am sure the two evening performances will sell out. It has been great to see the effort and commitment all of the students have been putting into rehearsals so far.

Ngaa mihi nui

Daryl Gibbs

SMART Assessment - Information for parents and whānau

What is SMART?

SMART is a new assessment tool being introduced this year for schools and kura across New Zealand. It's designed for students in Years 3-10 and helps teachers understand where your child is in their learning and what they're ready to learn next. The results will also help ensure your child gets the support they need to thrive and will be shared with you so you know more about how your child is progressing. Please click the link below to read more information about SMART.

[SMART Assessment Information](#)



School Notices

Attendance at CMS

We are proud of our attendance rates, which continue to improve year on year, with 77% of our students attending regularly (over 90% of the time) and 97% arriving on time consistently. This reflects the strong commitment of our students and whānau to learning.

To further encourage positive habits, we continue to offer a termly \$100 prize draw for students in the Green category (90%+ attendance) it was wonderful to award this to a Year 7 student at the end of Term 1.

While attendance is important, it is equally important that we keep our community healthy. We kindly ask that if your child is unwell, you keep them at home to prevent the spread of illness.

Thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining a safe, healthy, and positive learning environment for all.



Thank You to Busy Bees Op Shop

We would like to sincerely thank Busy Bees for their generous support of our school. Their contribution is greatly appreciated and will make a meaningful difference within our community. We are very grateful for their ongoing commitment to supporting local students and whānau.



Waipā Home & Leisure Show

Back again, supporting Local!

15-17
MAY
2026

Friday & Saturday
10AM - 4.00PM
Sunday
10AM - 3.00PM

\$5000 DOOR PRIZE WIN Every visitor to the event automatically goes into the draw.
a two-night luxury stay for two at Te Karaka Lodge, including full dinner, bed, and breakfast. T&Cs apply.



1000's of dollars of show discounts, specials, giveaways on site during the show

also

Travel in style with the use of an MG ZS Vib for the weekend.



Courtesy of Winger Motors Cambridge
T&Cs apply. Driver must carry a full NZ Drivers License.

@MIGHTY RIVER DOMAIN. LAKE KARĀPIRO
Sir Don Rowlands Centre, 601 Maungatautari Rd, Karāpiro, Cambridge

FREE PARKING Gate 2
Children under 12 years Free **ADULTS \$5**

Outside **PLAYGROUND** Onsite **CAFE/FOOD TRUCKS**

Community Notices

CELEBRATING

20 YEARS

of NZSL as an
official language of
Aotearoa
New Zealand

NZ SIGN LANGUAGE (NZSL) ONLINE COURSE

LEVEL 1A – BEGINNER

Start your journey. Connect. Communicate.

A structured 7-week online course for
beginners with no prior NZSL knowledge.

Learn in a supportive small group
environment and build the confidence
to start signing in everyday situations.



START DATE

Thursday

7 MAY



TIME OPTIONS

6:00pm – 7:00pm

OR

7:30pm – 8:30pm

**1 HOUR PER WEEK
FOR 7 SESSIONS**



CLASS SIZE

4 – 6 PEOPLE

Small group
learning



TEACHING

ONLINE

Live interactive
teaching via Zoom



NZSL

Learn NZSL
from experienced
teachers

YOU WILL LEARN:

- Greetings
- Introductions
- Everyday signs
- Needs & Wants
- Simple conversations

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 7 x 1-hour live online sessions
- Interactive teaching & practice
- Personalised feedback
- Course handouts & resources
- Certificate of completion
- Supportive small group environment

COURSE FEES

(per person)

EARLY BIRD (until 6 May):

\$245

(suggested – better reflects value)

STANDARD FEE:

\$275



BRING A FRIEND DISCOUNT:

\$10 off each person
(price apply per person)



No prior NZSL knowledge needed.
Just a willingness to learn!



A great first step for personal
growth, connection and inclusion.



Receive a certificate
of completion.



PLACES ARE LIMITED.

Once full, a waitlist will open
for the next intake.



If minimum numbers are not met, the course
may be postponed and you will be offered
a place in the next available intake.

Join us and
be part of the
NZSL journey!



REGISTER NOW

TEXT ONLY: 027 537 7779

EMAIL: kelly@usign.co.nz