



Bairds Mainfreight Primary School

## Important Update: Strengthening Our Attendance Initiative for 2026

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Kia Orana, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Bula vinaka, and Greetings

At Bairds Mainfreight Primary School, we remain committed to supporting our tamariki to be at school every day. Improving attendance is a key goal of our Board and a high priority for the Government. Following a review of our 2025 data and Term 1 of 2026, the Board has decided to adjust our Attendance Initiative, effective from **Term 2**.

### Why We Are Making This Change

While our attendance trips and rewards are designed to celebrate consistency, our recent data shows a marked decrease in attendance immediately after these events or initiatives take place. Currently, what we are doing is not having the long-term impact on student success and well-being that our tamariki need.

To ensure we are building lasting habits of dedication, the **90% attendance target will now be calculated as an average across the school year**, rather than reset each term.

### What This Means for BMPS Tamarki

Instead of starting at "0%" at the beginning of every new term, your child's attendance will be a **running total** from the very first day of school in February.

For example:

- **To qualify for the Term 2 reward:** a student must have a **90% average** across all of Term 1 and Term 2 combined.
- **To qualify for the Term 3 reward:** a student must have a **90% average** across Term 1, Term 2, and Term 3 combined.
- **To qualify for the Term 4 reward:** a student must have a **90% average** across Term 1, Term 2, Term 3 and Term 4 combined.

### Clarifying Attendance Standards

To maintain fairness and integrity, we must be clear about how attendance is recorded:

- **Justified Absences:** These include illness, medical appointments, or tangi (funerals).
- **Medical Certificates:** As per our attendance plan, BMPS requires a **medical certificate** for any absence due to illness that exceeds three days. This helps us ensure that "illness" is being reported accurately.

- **Unjustified Absences:** Holidays, family reunions, sports events, or other non-emergency reasons are counted as unjustified.
- **Truancy:** If a student is absent without an explanation, it is recorded as 'truant'.

## **Every Day Counts**

Regular attendance is the key to academic success and building strong relationships. By shifting to a yearly average, we are asking our tamariki to show reliability all year long, not just in the weeks leading up to a reward.

Tamariki with less than 90% attendance across the year may not be eligible for end-of-year awards or the privilege of representing BMPS in sports and cultural groups.

We appreciate your support in ensuring our tamariki are in class and ready to learn by **8:55am** every day. Together, we can achieve our goal of 90% attendance for every student.

Ngā mihi nui

**Bairds Mainfreight Primary School Board**