



29th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

CAVING TRIP FOR YEAR 8 STUDENTS

Year 8 students will have the opportunity to participate in **one of three caving trips** to Waipu Caves on **Friday 15th August, Friday 29th August or Friday 12th September**. The aim of the trip is to explore the underground environment, including cave formations and glow worms, as well as broadening the students' experiences in Physical Education. We will be leaving school at 10:30am, arrive at the caves area approx. 11:30am gear up and explore the caves until approx. 1:15pm, clean up and return to school by approximately 2:30pm. ***The trip will only take place if there are enough adult helpers and there is no rain on the day.***

Your child will need the following clothing and equipment:

- Shortie or long wetsuit (optional but recommended)
- Older over clothes – long pants and long sleeves needed
- Gum boots, boots or old trainers - no jandals
- Gardening gloves (optional but recommended)
- Helmet (bike or skate helmet ideal)
- Head torch - preferably taped to the helmet *before* bringing this to school
- Towel
- Change of clothing and plastic bag for wet gear.
- Packed lunch and drink.

I have had the pleasure of introducing young people to caving, both in the UK and NZ, for over 25 years, and am an NZOIA (New Zealand Outdoor Instructor Association) Cave Leader. Caving is a fascinating way to introduce students to new environments and enrich their 'localised curriculum' experiences. I do need parent help with transport. Parents are also welcome to join the trip inside the cave, although similar clothing to the list above is recommended. There is no cost to students for the trip.

If you would like your child to participate in the Year 8 Caving trip, please complete the reply slip below and return it to school by Friday 1st August. Please indicate your availability to transport students and your *preferred* date, if you plan to assist. The specific date for your child will be confirmed after reply slips have been returned.

In order to give '*informed consent*', or permission for their child to attend the activity, parents need to be aware of likely hazards in the cave environment. Waipu cave contains multiple areas of slippery, uneven

surfaces and occasional low ceilings. There is a risk of students slipping, falling over and banging their heads. As there is a streamway in the cave, **no caving will take place if there is rainfall or a forecast of rain**, due to associated water level risks. The drive to and from Waipu Caves is mostly on sealed roads, with metalled roads closer to the caves. There is a risk of vehicles coming off the road. This risk will be mitigated through travelling in convoy and appropriate speed limits discussed with assisting drivers and actions to take in case of a breakdown.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the trip further.

Regards

Mark Ashcroft

Principal

CAVING TRIP FOR YEAR 8 STUDENTS TO WAIPU CAVES

I give permission for _____ to participate in the caving trip and have read the above letter, outlining likely hazards.

I am/am not able to help transport students to and from Waipu Caves. I have _____ seats available.

My car does have an up-to-date WoF and I am a full license holder - **Yes/No**.

I am/am not able to assist with the trip inside the caves.

For assisting adults, **please circle your preferred date**:

- Friday 15th August
- Friday 29th August
- Friday 12th September

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER _____