



Parua Bay School: Year 6 Snorkelling Trip Information

11th February 2026

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are excited to announce an upcoming Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) opportunity for our **Year 6 ākonga!** Students will have the chance to explore our local marine environment through a guided snorkelling session at the **Reotahi Marine Reserve**.

This experience is facilitated by **Experiencing Marine Reserves (Mountains to Sea)**. Students will not only learn snorkelling skills but also gain insights into the ecology of the Reotahi Marine Reserve and the vital role marine reserves play in our ecosystem.

Event Details

- **Date: Thursday, 26 February 2026**
- **Location:** Reotahi Marine Reserve, Whangarei Heads
- **Cost:** No charge to school (Whangarei District Council have sponsored this event)
- **Transport:** Private parent vehicles
- **Weather Contingency:** Backup date is **Friday, 6 March**. If cancelled, students remain at school.

Schedule

The students will be split into two groups, the groups will be decided upon once we have permission forms returned as this will allow us to split the parent help evenly between the groups.

Group	Meet at Reotahi	Depart Reotahi	Return to School
Group 1	9:30 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 AM
Group 2	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM

Gear List: What to Bring

Note: *Experiencing Marine Reserves will provide all Wetsuits, Masks, Snorkels, and Fins.*

Students will need to bring the following in a dedicated bag:

- **Swimwear:** To be worn under clothing (or brought to change into).
- **Large Towel:** For drying off and changing.
- **Warm Change of Clothes:** Including a sweatshirt/jacket (even if it's a warm day, students can get chilly after being in the water).
- **Sun Protection:** Named sun hat and high-factor sunscreen.
- **Food & Drink:** A large healthy lunch and a full drink bottle of water.
- **Plastic Bag:** For wet swimwear and towels after the session.
- **Personal Medication:** If required, please place medication in a named ziplock bag and hand it to the classroom teacher on the morning of the trip.

Safety and Supervision

Miriam and Briar will lead the activity and will attend the event with students. They will identify any hazards and manage the risks according to the school's safety management plan. This includes **briefing students prior to leaving about behaviour and expectations while at the venue, medical needs are met, ensuring that supervision is sufficient, and ensuring that students safely travel to and from the event site.** The risks at this event are very minimal but could include **a vehicle accident, medical incident, or students leaving the venue, or experiencing difficulty in the water (although this would be very unlikely),** and while they can be maintained to acceptable levels, they cannot be totally eliminated. If you wish to see our safety management systems or have any questions, feel free to contact Miriam.

As this is a water based activity we will require lots of parent help. Parents will be required to be in the water as supervisors. Parent helpers will need to be confident swimmers, fit, and healthy. Wetsuits and snorkel gear will be provided for parent helpers, though you are welcome to bring your own if you'd prefer.

Permission & Consent Form

Please complete and return this section to school.

Student Name: _____ Room: _____

Parent/Caregiver Consent:

- I give permission for my child to participate in the Snorkelling Trip on 26 February 2026
YES / NO
- My child can swim (**please circle one**) 50m / 100m / 200m independently / my child is not a confident swimmer
- **Medical Update:** Please list any medications that your child may require

Transport & Help:

- I can provide transport for _____ students (including my own) with over shoulder seat belts.
- I am a fully licensed driver and my car has a current WOF and Registration. **YES / NO**
- I am available to attend and provide 1:1 or small group support in the water **YES / NO**
- I can attend the morning session, afternoon session or either session (**circle one**)

Media Release:

I give permission for EMR and sponsors to use work, images and/or video footage produced as a result of participation in the EMR programme for educational purposes and the promotion of the EMR programme, on internet, social media programme websites, resources, newspapers and publications. **YES / NO**

Signature: _____ Date: _____