

# New school's principal ready for action

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*Matt Williams says he feels privileged to be the foundation principal for the new Takanini primary school.*  
Anna Loren

Building a new school community is a challenge Matt Williams is looking forward to.

He has been appointed the foundation principal for a new primary school all set to be built at 181-191 Walters Rd in Takanini.

Williams is currently the principal of Rongomai School in Otara and will be taking on his new role in January next year.



*Foundation principal Matt Williams, left, and board of trustees chairman Daniel Newman at the Walters Rd site.*

The school is expected to open on the first day of term in 2017.

Williams says he's looking forward to the "exciting challenge" but it will be "quite sad" saying goodbye to his current students.

"It's been a massive journey for me. All challenges come to an end and it's a new adventure in my career.

"This is such an exciting opportunity for any principal to be part of the design, development and growth of a new school."

He will be focused on "bringing innovative learning environments to life from day one... not only with technology but the way we learn".

"It's like a blank piece of paper and gives you more opportunity to explore and develop and bring things alive."

Williams has also served as deputy principal at Manurewa Intermediate School and Gladstone Primary School and Withycombe Raleigh School in the United Kingdom.

Board of trustees chairman Daniel Newman says he is "absolutely delighted" with Williams' appointment.

"His educational leadership, focus on pastoral care and ability to get the best out of his teaching and senior management team is just what the board is looking for."

Newman says he is looking forward to the first day of school where "Matt will be at the front gate to welcome the children and their mums and dads".

The Ministry of Education has set aside \$20 million for the school, one of three proposed primary schools for the area.

It will cater to up to 700 students from years 1 to 8.

Education Minister Hekia Parata says planning for the new schools was driven by projections showing that the school-aged population in Takanini is expected to increase 4000 by 2020.

"The new school will be a fantastic addition to Takanini and will ease the pressure that current schools in the area would otherwise face," she says.

Enrolments will open in the second half of 2016.