

# Sevensteps Success Story

## ABOUT

Brookby Primary School is a small rural school situated in the beautiful Brookby Valley in South Auckland, New Zealand.

## RESULTS

**120 students**

introduced to the Seven Steps

**Engagement increased**

particularly with struggling writers

**Writing improved**

in both quality and quantity

*Are you our next success story?*

**Start your Seven Steps  
journey today**



## Unlocking Student Engagement: Brookby Primary School's Writing Revolution



We found students who were disengaged quickly developed a love of writing as we worked our way through the Steps. The ability to just focus on one section at a time had a huge impact on them. They thrived under the specific teaching of skills and strategies to improve parts of their writing and build engaging writing pieces for their audience.

— MEL WEIRSMAN, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, BROOKBY PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW ZEALAND

## OVERVIEW

Faced with declining student engagement and confidence in writing, Mel Wiersma and her team sought a new approach to improve writing outcomes. The introduction of the Seven Steps to Writing Success in 2024, provided a simple framework to make writing fun and achievable for all ability levels.

## CHALLENGE

Brookby Primary School was finding that traditional writing instruction methods were falling flat—students lacked enthusiasm and confidence in writing. Additionally, with New Zealand's refreshed curriculum that focuses on structured literacy there's now even less support for developing creativity in student writing. Brookby were looking for help to ignite a love for writing and boost student outcomes.

## SOLUTION

Mel introduced Seven Steps to Writing Success, a structured approach that breaks down writing into small, manageable steps. She trialed Step 2: Sizzling Starts in her classroom and saw an immediate impact on student engagement. Encouraged by these results, she completed Workshop One (Online) and then used the Narrative Writing Course on Teacher Hub to train staff and roll out the program.

## RESULTS

Students who previously struggled with writing became more engaged and confident, as breaking writing into smaller, manageable chunks reduced the overwhelm.

Teachers also felt more empowered, as the structured approach and wealth of resources gave them a clear roadmap and increased their confidence in teaching writing.



**Read the full story here**

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