



## Kia ora Parents and Caregivers, A warm welcome to Term 4

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023. A special welcome to all our new students, families and staff who join us for the first time. Kōwhai welcomes Hannah, Henry, Emery, Benicio, Noelle, Gia, Manishvar, Finnlay, Joseph, Luca, Finn, Matteo, Airene, Aviana, Jaeden, Artin, Erin, Vicente, Zahkiya, Ms Emalyn Jiang and Whaea Sarah (Whaea and Matus are terms used to address teachers in our schools as a term of respect and endearment).

New welcome additions to the Nikau Area are Lorelei, Zavier, Hayden, Norah, Ronan, Felipe, Evana, Jagat, Neha and Mr Ryan Glentworth.

Pohutukawa warmly welcomes Connor, Nattie, Elena, Emily, Max and Fei with a welcome back to Lydia.

As does Rātā to Katsianah, Georgina, Lily, Janaki, Ariella, Isla, Charli, Frankie, Malaya, Emily, Addyson, Olivia, Leena, and Willow with a welcome back to Ailis.

We hope you have all enjoyed your start to school and feel very much at home here.

### Our Te ao Māori journey

This year we continue our Te ao Māori Journey. We enter our third year of teaching Aotearoa NZ Histories with our teachers feeling a greater level of confidence with using this document; gaining insight and understanding of the perspective of Māori.

Last year we were successful with our application to the Ministry of Education for PLD (Professional learning and development). This application is specifically for Cultural Capability and Local Curriculum Design. This PLD is a real asset for our school, as it gives us 200 hours paid for by the Ministry to upskill our teaching staff, which will benefit all our ākonga (students). Our PLD provider is Te Wharewaka o Pōneke, who are part of the Tenth Trust, who are Ahu Whenua, Te Ātiawa. This is giving us direct relationships with Mana Whenua. The expertise of the PLD team of facilitators, comes with Mana Whenua historians, fluent te reo speakers and educators. We spent a most enjoyable and productive day prior to school starting last week, working with our facilitators.

Here at school we are encouraging an increase in the way we all greet one another, using te reo. It would be wonderful if you could support our efforts at home as well. Greetings such as kia ora, mōrena, tēnā koe, Āta mārie. Welcome phrases such as Nau mai, hare mai and Kei te pēhea koe? - How are you? Kei te pai - fine 😊

Our students are also learning the local stories of our mana whenua, some of which will already be familiar to many of you, such as that of Tāne, who performed the brave act of separating his parents - Ranginui and Papatuanuku.

### Important dates for your diary

The teachers' union, NZEI, has called for paid union meetings for teachers across the country. The one for teachers in the Hutt Valley will be held at Walter Nash Stadium on Monday 27 February beginning at 2pm. The vast majority of our teachers will be attending this meeting so there will be limited capacity to supervise children. Therefore it would be ideal if children could be picked up directly from their classrooms between 1.20 and 1.35pm on that day. Any children remaining on site after that time will be moved to the Pōhutukawa space and supervised.

### Monday 24 April - Teachers Only Day

The Ministry of Education has provided two teacher only days for 2023 and 2024 to enable schools to focus on the implementation of the refreshed NZ Curriculum. The first one for this year will be held on Monday 24 April. I understand that both these events are going to involve extra organisation for you but do appreciate your support with this.

### Collecting students during the school day

Could I just give a friendly reminder to everyone about our procedures for all visitors to school. You can find these in full on the SchoolDocs website which you access through the Parent Portal/Contacts. A key requirement is that all visitors on site, except those dropping off or picking up students before and after school, are asked to report to the school office.

There are times when appointments must be made during school time such as specialist, doctors and dental visits. This is totally understandable. It would be most appreciated if other non-urgent appointments could be arranged after school has finished wherever possible. This reduces the need for the office staff to leave the office to collect children from around the school and avoids classroom interruptions. Many thanks for your support with this.

*Kay Tester* Principal

- [OUR WEBSITE](#)
- [PARISH WEBSITE](#)
- [SEASONS FOR GROWTH](#)

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### Events

**Wednesday 26 October**  
Athletics, Year 4 - 8

**Thursday 27 October**  
NZ Shakeout

**Tuesday 1 November**  
All Saints Day (9:15am Mass)  
Yr 6 Girls - Rata Orientation Day

**Wednesday 2 November**  
Individual School Photos

**Friday 4 November**  
Class School Photos

## SPECIAL CHARACTER

How glorious to come back to school with such lovely weather but we keep in our prayers those around the country who have not been so fortunate.

### Beginning School Mass

Friday 10th February, 9:10 am

You are most welcome to join us as we celebrate the beginning of our new school year.

### Sacramental Programme

For families who were involved in the Sacramental Programme last year, please take note of the following dates

**Aurea Casino** Director of Religious Studies

- First Reconciliation March 2023**
- Parent Meeting Tuesday 14 February, 7:30pm, in the Chapel
  - 9am Mass/session 1 Sunday 26th February
  - 9am Mass/session 2/practice Sunday 12th March
  - First Reconciliation March 26th, at 2pm in the Church
- First Communion June 2023**
- Parent Meeting Tuesday 2nd May, 7:30pm, in the Chapel
  - 9am Mass/session 1 Sunday 14th May
  - 9am Mass/session 2/practice Sunday 28th May
  - First Communion Masses 9am and 5:30pm Sunday 11th June 2023

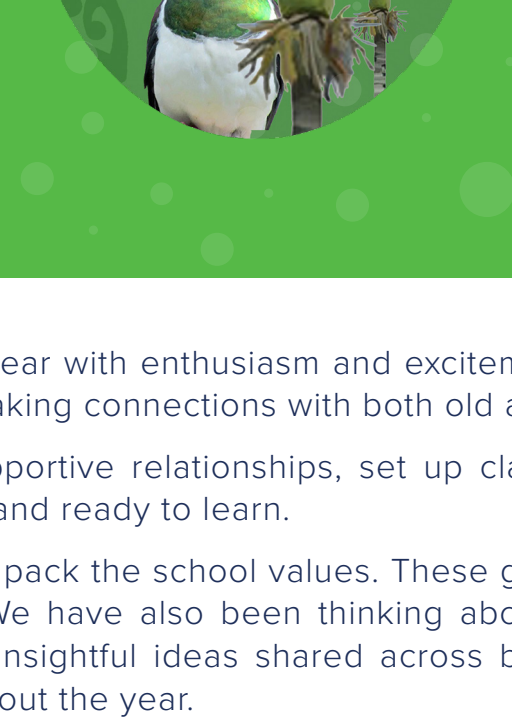


Kowhai started to explore the schoolwide universal theme of Power. We have been brainstorming what we know already and have started some immersion activities which help us discover other ideas about power. Your child may have talked to you about our investigation in making bubbles! This was a fun, hands on activity enjoyed by all. This experiment helped us think about our theme in a deep and engaging way. Have a look at Kowhai in action...

- From our initial brainstormers:
- "I think that it's really powerful that our brains can do so much!"  
**Gabriel**
  - "When we learn we become more powerful, like superheroes!"  
**Athena**
  - "Elephants are so strong they have power"  
**Hebe**
  - "Electricity is power, we all have to charge our iPads with it, batteries have electricity (power) too!"  
**Harry and Darren**

Some of the ideas about power from our first immersion activity:

- The power of the bubbles not to pop on the ground
- The power of blowing
- The power of the wind



In Nikau we have started the new year with enthusiasm and excitement. We have been so delighted to see how the students have been making connections with both old and new friends.

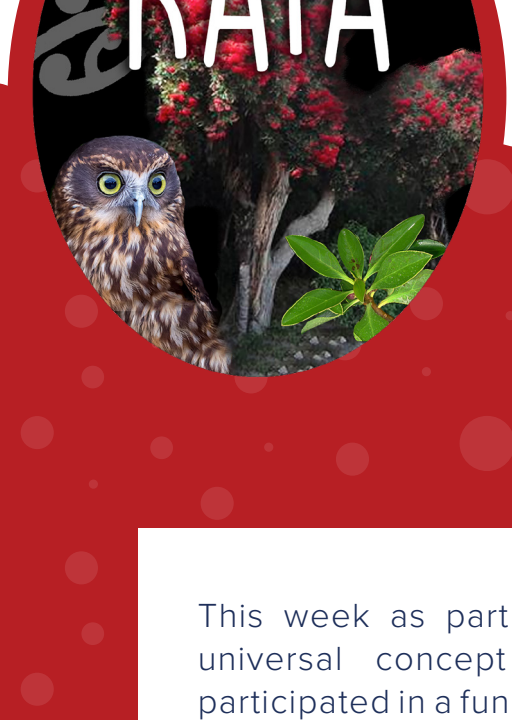
Our focus this term is to build supportive relationships, set up classroom routines and to ensure all students feel connected, confident and ready to learn.

We began our year by starting to unpack the school values. These guide us with how we act, treat each other and treat our environment. We have also been thinking about the schoolwide universal theme of Power. There have been many insightful ideas shared across both topics and we look forward to continuing to explore these throughout the year.



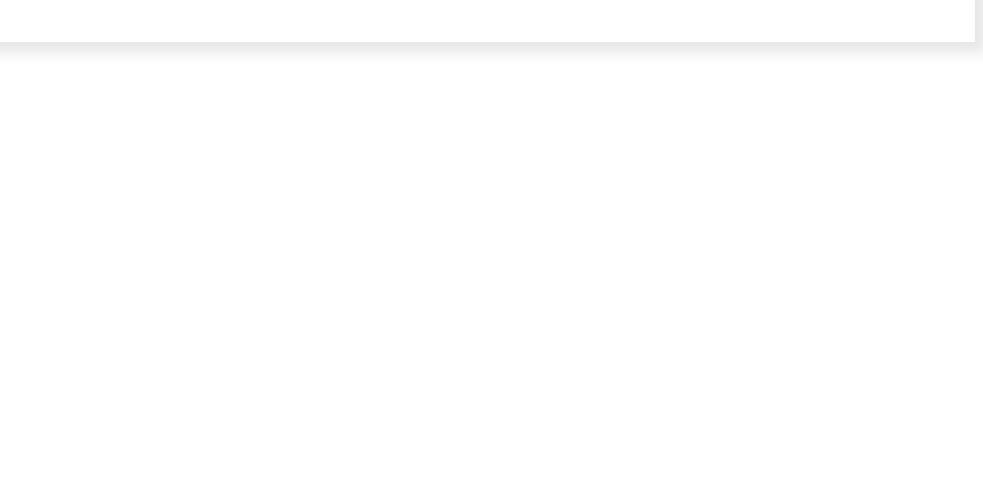
Pohutukawa students have had a great start to their school year. They have been busy reconnecting with their friends and making new ones too. Each class has completed fun activities that have helped them get to know one another. The children have also started exploring and thinking about our school wide universal theme of - Power. They brainstormed all they knew about power then they looked at a range of different images and identified the theme of power contained within them. Some classes did a cooperative activity that required the children to think about different aspects of power as they worked together in teams to complete it.

- "Lots of things relate to power"  
**Lincoln**
- "Ideas are powerful"  
**Hudson**
- "There are lots of elements to power"  
**Archie**
- "There are lots of different meanings related to power"  
**DeAndre and Harper**
- "Sometimes you can't be a certain type of power"  
**Emily**
- "Power must be treated with respect"  
**Neha**



This week as part of our introduction to this year's universal concept of Power, Rata area students participated in a fun STEM challenge. We explored some key ideas around ways to make a strong tower that was structurally sound. We spent time considering and discussing the power of triangles, strong foundations and most importantly the power of teamwork and cooperation. It was fun to see the wide variety of towers that were created and great to see the students enjoying getting to know new classmates.

Well done to everyone!



## SPORT NEWS

**Touch, Term 1**  
Thanks to all those who have registered for Touch this term and to those who volunteered to help out. Teams have been notified today (Tuesday).  
Games for Year 7, 8 at Fraser Park begin Thursday 16th February and Years 1 to 6 start on Friday 17th February.

Bags and Player of the Year certificates will be sent out by Monday 13th.

**Netball, Term 1 - Years 1 to 4**  
The registration forms were sent out on Friday 3rd. Please note that registrations are due Friday 10th with payments due by 3pm that day.

Just a reminder that Year 1, 2 play in teams of 4 with a focus on building ball skills and Year 3, 4 play in teams of 5 with a similar emphasis.

All teams need a Star helper who will need to attend training before the sessions begin. This is provided free with all information on the registration form.

*NOTE: Year 5 to 8 Netball will be out later this month*

**Smart Devices**

A friendly reminder to please follow the below procedures if your child is bringing a Cellphone or Smartwatch to school.

- They must be put in the classroom minding box on arrival at school and will be returned to the student at the end of the school day
- Failure to follow these procedures will mean the device is removed from the student, sent to the office and parents will be rung to collect the item at their convenience.

Should the school need to contact parents for any reason during

the school day you will receive a phone call from the office about this. This very simple process has worked effectively for many decades now and allows parents to feel confident that their child is well looked after during the school day. The widespread use of cell phones has certainly meant schools can more quickly communicate with parents should anything arise. As you can imagine, the main reason for contacting parents during the school day is due to illness or an injury on the playground.

**VisTab**

A friendly reminder that if you are running late and have reported this through the website or telephone, your child will still need to sign-in (on the tablet) at the office and take a red card before going to their classroom.

**Uniform**

If anyone has an excess of paper bags from the supermarket that they don't want or need, I would love them for the uniform shop.

Thanks in advance,  
Teresa

**Parking Reminder**

Could we please remind our parent community to avoid making use of the Church carpark for parking or as a drive through for drop offs and pickups.

Many thanks.

**Road Safety**

Please set a good example for our children by making sure to use the nearest crossing when leaving and arriving to school. These three crossings are situated outside the front gate on Myrtle Street, on Bloomfield Terrace and at the lights on Knights Road. The crossings are monitored by students and teachers to ensure safety of our community. U-turns are an unsafe practice in school zones, particularly by our Myrtle Street crossing. Our road patrol monitors would be grateful if these are abstained.