

Kōwhai Area News

DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

A very warm welcome to our new students and their families who have joined our school community, it is lovely to have you as part of our school community.

The new school term is now well underway and the children are busy and involved in a wide range of learning experiences. A big thank you to all of our parent helpers for their support with our swimming programme last term. The walking safely to and from school, and help with changing is extremely valuable. We look forward to more opportunities where you can join us in our learning.



CURRICULUM AND INQUIRY

We will continue this term with our overarching concept of 'Power'. A reminder that the 'Big Ideas' we have been relating our learning to are:

- There is power in learning
- Power can be good or bad
- Power is everywhere

Religious Education

Through a range of learning and exploration, the children will begin to understand that the Holy Spirit is present and affects everyone and everything around us. We will help the children to develop an understanding that the Holy Spirit is God, and they will start to identify this in their everyday lives. Some key ideas that the children will be able to identify are how people's actions show the power of the Holy Spirit in and around us as well as how we can all experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our relationships with others.

We are also going to explore the importance of the church in our community and as a Holy place. The children will learn that we all belong, celebrate and are part of a wide community of people who belong to the church. They will be able to identify why it is an important place and how we show appreciation and follow Jesus within it.

Health

We will continue to build our knowledge and put into practice The Zones of Regulation. Our learning in this area supports students to understand and talk about their feelings, look at perspectives and develop strategies which support them to move through the zones so that they become increasingly independent in self-regulating and navigating their feelings and emotions.

Science

Our science focus this term is Rubbish: how do we deal with it? The children will explore the science concepts that underpin how we classify and sort materials that are no longer useful to us. We have had many discussions already about what rubbish actually is and will be investigating it further through scientific experiments. As we engage in this learning at school, it will allow the children to have discussions with you at home about rubbish, connecting it to their own homes and communities.

Social Sciences

Following on from our science learning, in the second half of the term we will take a look at stewardship and the power we have as kaitiaki of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

We will be working on how we can make an impact on the planet and its future through taking care of the rubbish we do have. This will be demonstrated at school and at home so please work with your child to make even a small change that will impact Our Common Home.

Understanding the Curriculum

Key Competencies - what are they and how we teach them?

Key competencies are the capabilities people have, and need to develop, to live and learn today and in the future. Key competencies matter because they support dispositions that will enable young people to learn well now, and to go on learning throughout their lives.

Click [here](#) to find out more

Ideas to help with reading, writing and maths

Find useful information by following this [link](#).

Here is a reminder from some recent correspondence we sent out about how you can support foundation skills in literacy with your child:

As we progress with our Structured Literacy approach, we would like to introduce some tools which will allow you to be more involved in our learning. Your child will bring home a bookmark with instructions or goals that they are working on in class. This is not home learning, but rather an opportunity for you to share the joy of reading together and should always be an enjoyable experience. It could be a reading experience before bed or an addition to your before or after school routine (no more than 15 minutes would be ideal).

Your child will not always be able to read the books we send home but would love to hear you read to and with them just as much. We would also like to stress the importance of returning these books each week as they are a school resource. Please ensure your child has their book bag (see image) at school every day.



Coming up this term

River Walk - caring for our environment, Tuesday 16 of May at 11.15am (postponement date Thursday 18)

Friday 19 May, 2pm - we invite you to join us for a Kowhai Assembly

The Dowse - 23, 24 and 26 May

23 10:30 - 11:30 Room 5, 1:00 - 2:30 Room 7

24 10:30 - 11:30 Room 6, 1:00 - 2:30 Room 1

26 10:30 - 11:30 Room 3, 1:00 - 2:30 Room 2

Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you are able to help with this trip. Please note: Adult spaces are limited for this trip

New Entrant Blessing - date to be confirmed

Sharing of Learning this term - please check your child's book bag for the learning they will be sharing with you this term. You can expect to see evidence of Maths in week 3 and Writing in week 5. You will receive an email closer to the time to remind you to look out for these pieces of work.

Your child will also share examples of their learning in Science and Social Sciences during their learning conversation later in the term.