

Pōhutukawa Area

Rooms 12-15



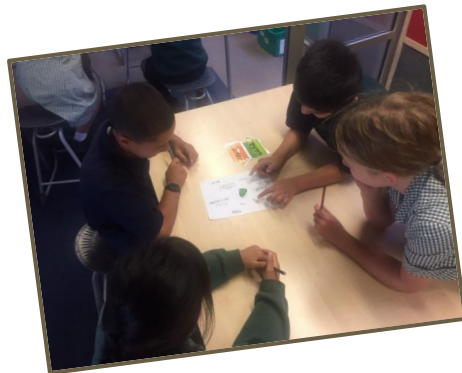
Ka whāngaia, ka whakatipu, ka puawai

**That which is nurtured blossoms and
grows**

Ka nui nga mihi ki a koutou, a warm welcome to the new school year.

We are pleased to say that the children and teachers have settled very quickly and with ease back into our school routines. It has been wonderful to see the children so well organised with their books and pencils ready to start the new school year.

It's great to welcome a number of families who are new to our school, those who are new to this area of the school, and to welcome back some familiar faces. We are very much enjoying getting to know each other.



Classroom Teachers

Room 12 Sarah Gilmour Years 5 & 6

Room 13 Hugh Watson Years 5 & 6

Room 14 Sinéad Senek Years 5 & 6

Room 15 Janine O'Styke Years 5 & 6

Support teachers: Andrea Spink, Charlotte Kelly

Area Leader: Sinéad Senek



In Pōhutukawa, the teachers work collaboratively to plan and deliver the learning programmes for their students.

We also offer flexibility in the classroom environments we provide.

Rooms 13 and 14 operate in an open learning environment.

Rooms 12 and 15 are single cell classrooms.

Curriculum

Our learning throughout the year will be around the universal theme of **Exploration**.

Through this conceptual approach we aim to develop the students' capabilities and critical thinking skills. It will form the basis of cross-curricular learning for the year. The big ideas we will be investigating are:

- Exploration is when we are challenged by the unknown
- Exploration may result in 'new findings' or confirm what I know
- Exploration encourages us to question ideas and see new perspectives

To help generate their thinking around this concept we have begun the term with a variety of activities that engage them in discussions about Exploration.

Linking Learning

Our learning programme follows the New Zealand Curriculum. We aim to make links within and across learning areas so the children can see how their skills in different curriculum areas are transferable, for example, using their writing and mathematics skills while working on a science topic.

Localised learning is a key component of our inquiry work and helps the children learn about their community and connect to it too. This term our inquiry will focus on a New Zealand Histories topic about migration. The children will learn about stories of people who have migrated to Wellington during different periods in our history. We will be learning about their reasons for and experiences of migration. This is also a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore their family history of migration to New Zealand. Depth and complexity tools are used in each class by teachers and students. The tools take students of any age deeper into a study of any content area. Each of the prompts acts as a different lens, prompting students to look at a topic in a new way. The tools are displayed in class and used each day during our learning.



Religious Education

The children participate in daily classroom karakia and as the term progresses they are encouraged to prepare and help lead it. We have begun the year with a focus on our school values and what these look like in action at school and at home. The children will then move on to a study of how we celebrate in our Church. They will be exploring the different ways in which we worship through prayer, listening to the Word and through the Sacraments. Alongside this we are also learning about the importance of the liturgical season of Lent and Easter.



Curriculum programmes

Mathematics - We have begun the term with a focus on place value and additive thinking. Alongside this we are also having fun learning about statistics by investigating models of multivariate datasets.

Literacy - Each class has been exploring a shared text together and responding to this in different ways. Later in the term, our writing and reading focus will be linked to our New Zealand History topic. Weekly spelling skills and handwriting lessons also form part of our literacy programme.

Arts Programme - Over the course of four terms we cover the different aspects of the Arts curriculum: visual, music, dance and drama. This term we will do a drama focus on the Maori legend (purakau) of Tara. This tells the story of the first migration of Maori to Wellington and the meaning behind the names of local landmarks. Each Friday afternoon the Year 6 girls from Room 17, along with their teacher Mrs Rose, will join the other students in Pōhutukawa for our Arts programme.

Kapa haka - Mrs Spink has been leading us in our wonderful programme, we are continuing to learn new songs and integrate te reo into our daily programme.

Curriculum programmes

Physical Education - Students in our area take part in a daily physical activity programme. Our Physical Education focus for the term is on developing basketball skills. This is being supported by the team from Capital Basketball. We will also be working on our swimming skills and improving our general fitness levels. Our learning is based on the SportStart programme that aims to improve young people's physical literacy. This philosophy is based on developing fundamental movement and sports skills in tandem with critical thinking and communication skills. Below is the link to their site if you would like further information about this initiative that is partnered with the Ministries of Health and Education.

<https://www.sportcanterbury.org.nz/Home-1/Home-2/Home-2>

Enriching Local Curriculum (ELC)- Over the course of the year the students will go on trips outside of school. These are opportunities to draw on local resources and expertise, to provide our tamariki with authentic, hands-on/minds-on learning experiences that complement the New Zealand Curriculum.

Technology and Home Learning



All of the students have been given a school gmail account so they can use google docs at school and at home. This year we are continuing the online learning programme Code Avengers. The programme is aligned with the Digital Technologies curriculum and provides the students with the opportunity to learn different aspects of coding. Throughout the year we aim to develop the students' skills in using digital technologies as a creative tool.

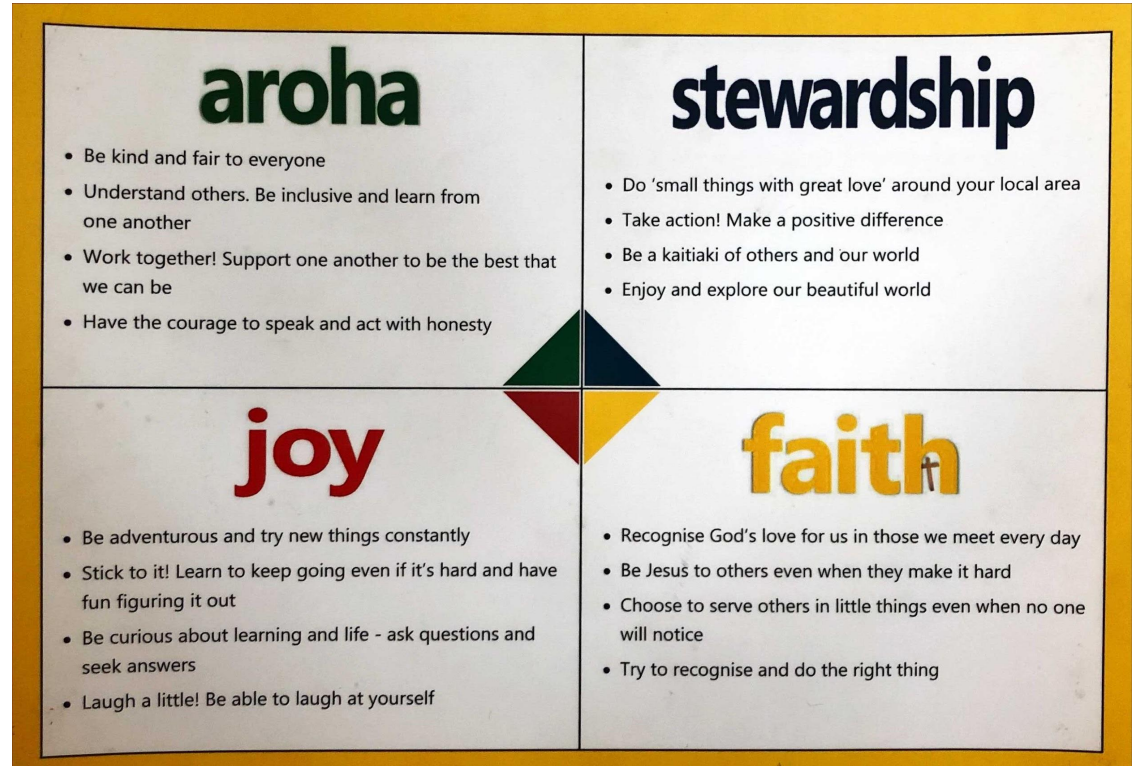
At home we encourage the children to take time to read and discuss the latest book they are reading with you. We also encourage them to get outdoors and explore local walks and recreational facilities. This is a great opportunity for them to both enjoy and learn about their environment.

Here are some other ways your child can continue to develop their skills at home:

- Reading a new chapter book that captures their attention and imagination.
- Your child has access to their google docs, this is where they may want to write a story or collaborate on prayers for the classroom.
- Spending some time on their Code Avengers lessons, these link to our Digital Technologies curriculum, problem solving and mathematical reasoning.

School Values

Our school values of faith, joy, aroha and stewardship continue to provide the foundation of our school community. We continue to build on the students' understanding of these by identifying and putting into practice what they look like in action throughout the school day. We aim to model and encourage the students to see the importance of these values to them and the well-being of our school community.



Guiding our students

Children sometimes need support and guidance to navigate friendships and actions that may impact their learning and relationships here at school.

Across the school we are fostering behaviours which link to our school values, however sometimes we need to work more closely with the students to help them reflect on the choices they have made. In working closely with students we are able to provide opportunities where they can learn how to think about the choices they have made and the impact those choices may have on themselves and others. Teachers will at times make direct contact with parents and caregivers where it is necessary to discuss ways in which they can work together on supporting their child.



Reminders

Students who bring a smart watch, mobile phone or other items for safekeeping to school are required to put them in the minding box as soon as they arrive at school. This box is located in Room 14.

Sunhats are compulsory in Term 1 for all outdoor play and lessons.

School sports uniform is required at school every day for daily physical fitness and skills programme. We encourage the children to bring their sports uniform at the beginning of the week and take it home at the end of the week.

School swimming programme

Monday - Thursday 11, 12, 13, 14 March.

Monday - Thursday 18, 19, 20, 21 March.

Specific class times will be notified closer to the dates.

The partnership between home and school is critical to the success of our learning community and the quality of learning experiences. If you need to communicate with your child's classroom teacher please contact the School Office.

Ngā mihi,

Sinéad Senek, Hugh Watson, Sarah Gilmour, Janine O'Styke, Andrea Spink
Pohutukawa Area Teachers