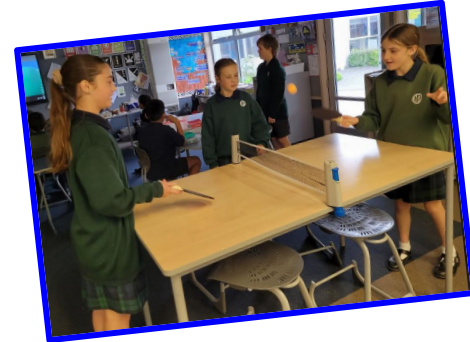




Pohutukawa Area News Term 2 2025

Kia ora,

What a great start to Term 2! The children have settled quickly and smoothly back into their class routines. It has been lovely to see them engaging enthusiastically in their learning and playing well with each other during their break times, especially during the stormy weather in the first week of school that kept us all indoors.



Our inquiry focus for the term is science-based. The students will learn about forces in nature—Rū Te Whenua—with an emphasis on earthquakes and volcanoes. We have many hands-on activities to engage them in thinking about how these forces shape our planet, especially here in Wellington. We also explore Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge)—produced over a time span of 1000 years, it offers the longest record of New Zealand earthquakes available. Alongside this learning, we aim to build the children's capabilities in thinking and acting in a scientific manner. You can look forward to having fascinating conversations at home about the Earth's layers, tectonic plates, and fault lines.

Encouraging the children to make sustainable choices is one way we can put our school values into action. We achieve this by providing opportunities for the children to participate in caring for our school Te Mara Kai and by composting some of their food scraps. This term, we aim to inspire them further by exploring ways they can bring less packaging to school in their lunch boxes. You could discuss with your child at home how they can accomplish this by using reusable containers and alternatives to plastic wrap.

Curriculum

We continue this term with our universal theme of Patterns.

Through this conceptual approach we aim to develop the students' capabilities and critical thinking skills.

The big ideas we continue to investigate are:

- Patterns have sequences that repeat
- Patterns allow for prediction
- Patterns are everywhere
- Patterns can stop and change

Religious Education

For Religious Education, our theme is Te Atua God. We will learn about what a saint is and what is meant by the communion of saints. We will also explore people who, because of their faith, have stood up for justice and truth (whānau, school, national identities–volunteers, social justice, environmental activity).

The children will learn about how we celebrate feast days of saints in our Church's Liturgical year and how saints can encourage and inspire us to respond to God's call. At the end of this term, we celebrate our school and parish feast day on June 29, which is a wonderful way to connect to our learning about saints.

Curriculum Programmes

Mathematics - We have begun the term with a focus on improving our recall of multiplication and division facts, as well as solving word problems involving these operations. We will then move on to learning about the differences between parallel and perpendicular lines and how this connects to polygons. The children will also learn to identify, name, and measure different angles using a protractor. Later in the term, we will progress to algebra, learning about linear patterns and rules.

You can support your child at home by encouraging them to practice their number facts. Here are some links to maths sites that will support you with doing this at home.

[Prototec maths](#) free online activities and practice sheets.

[NZ maths curriculum home maths support site](#)

Literacy

Our focus this term for writing is on learning about the different features of figurative language that we can use in our creative writing pieces, such as adjectives, personification, similes, and metaphors. At the moment, the children are busy writing a descriptive piece about a place to which they feel connected. They will then move on to exploring poetry and the specific language features and word choices that poets use.

The weekly literacy programme involves the children developing their understanding of text structures through comprehension, vocabulary and sentence structure activities as part of their daily reading sessions.

For reading, we have begun exploring different texts and making connections among them. As we move into our poetry writing, we will focus on reading poems and developing our comprehension skills in inferring and supporting our understanding of what we read with evidence from the text.

Weekly spelling and handwriting lessons also form a part of our literacy programme.

You can support your child to develop their literacy skills by encouraging them to take home books from our school library to read and share with you at home.

Arts - Our arts programme for this term is based on exploring ideas about how music serves various purposes and functions in our lives and communities. We have a large group of enthusiastic singers who will learn songs as part of their contribution and participation in the school-wide Artsplash choir. The other children will learn about music in different cultural contexts and how it is included in community celebrations.

Digital Technologies - The children have begun lessons on computational thinking by learning about binary numbers and systems. As part of these lessons, we are encouraging the children to try to think like a 'computer scientist.' This means representing solutions in a way that a computer can execute them, being able to present them as a step-by-step process—an algorithm. The children then have the opportunity to put their computational thinking into action by coding and creating a game or a story on the Scratch coding site. This is a free online platform designed for kids. It is something they can do at home if they want to further develop their coding skills. A link to this site is here: [Scratch Coding for kids](#)

Coming up this Term:

St Bernard's College Open Day Saturday 24 May 2025 from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

Catholic Schools Day Wednesday 28 May

Kings' Birthday Monday 2 June

Learning Conferences Tuesday 17 June and Thursday 19 June

Matariki Friday 20 June

Sharing of Learning this term – Evidence of Learning will be shared with you at Learning Conferences this term. The children will also bring home their descriptive writing and a maths assessment to share with you on Friday, May 23.

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.

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.

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 them through admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz or pohutukawaal@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Ngā mihi,

Sinéad Senek, Hugh Watson, Shanann O'Sullivan Glynn, Whaea Sarah, Andrea Spink

Pohutukawa Area Teachers