

Welcome to Term 2, we have an exciting term ahead.

*Dates to remember for Nikau:*

**Week 3, Thursday 15th May - Year 4 - 8 Cross Country at ‘Hutt Rec’**

We will be training in a variety of ways in the lead up to cross country here at school, please ensure your child has their P.E gear and running shoes each day so they can practice comfortably.

**Week 4, Tuesday 20th May - Nikau Liturgy**

We will be having our area liturgy in the church at 9:15am. Our focus will be on Luke’s Gospel

‘The Parable of the Good Samaritan’, showing kindness to all. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Week 6 - Zealandia Trip**

We are very excited to have the opportunity to explore Zealandia. This trip will support our

Inquiry learning where we are learning about the many species in New Zealand's ecosystem and the importance of protecting biodiversity.

Due to our numbers, Nikau’s visits will be split over two days.

* **Rooms 7, 10 and 11** will be visiting on **Wednesday 4th June**
* **Rooms 8 and 9** will be visiting on **Friday 6th June.**

We will need parent helpers to come along and walk with small groups of children in the exploration part of the day. If you are interested in helping please contact Sarah Gilmour at [nikaual@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:nikaual@stpeterpaul.school.nz). Please share your child’s name, their room number, and your name so I can match you to the correct group for the day.

Closer to the week of the trip I will send reminders and outline what the children will need for the day's activity.

**Reducing Rubbish at School**

To support our science learning and school value of stewardship, Nikau is finding ways to reduce rubbish at school. One way we would like help is finding ways to bring less plastic wrapping in our lunchboxes. Consider what food items don’t need to be wrapped or could use reusable containers to keep food in. It would be great to ask your child about ways they can reduce waste too.



**Literacy - Writing**

We are well on our way into our first unit of learning; exploring poetry using similes and metaphors. The children are building their understanding of descriptive language to communicate to the reader about the nikau tree. Our next piece of learning will be connected to our science learning where we will be exploring the features of writing to persuade. The students will be exploring the use of emotive language and writing in structured paragraphs.

**Literacy - Reading**

Through daily teaching of reading strategies the students are exploring texts which support their understanding of new vocabulary, sentence structures, text structure, conventions of print and comprehension skills. Two key focuses for the term are learning to infer using evidence and connecting to respond to texts.

**Literacy - Spelling / Handwriting**

We are continuing to learn spelling patterns through weekly lessons. As the students develop their proficiency in spelling it supports their learning in reading and writing lessons.

**Mathematics**

In the beginning two weeks of this term we have been finishing off our unit of geometry pathways. The children will be bringing home their learning assessments on Thursday 15th May, to share with you.

Throughout the rest of the term the students will be exploring and understanding addition and subtraction of double and triple digit numbers using place value. Further into the term we will be learning about multiplication and division of single and double digit numbers.

**Fitness and Physical Education**

Fitness and P.E is an important part of our daily learning. Being active helps us to explore new skills and increase our focus. Through fitness we are maintaining our strength and agility through obstacle courses and running activities. Our focus for Physical Education is through invasion games. These games support our students to think critically and apply the strategies of teamwork and strategic movement.

**Religious Education**

This term our students will be learning about Jesus and Good News stories from the bible. Though this unit of learning children will be exploring the understanding of Jesus; teaching us messages through stories and learning how the messages help us to know what to do and to be happy.

**Inquiry**

Our students are delving into the Nature of Science by connecting their learning to real-world issues, fostering critical thinking and informed decision-making. In the Living World – Evolution strand, they will explore the diversity of life on Earth, understanding how organisms are grouped and how some species have become extinct over time. This approach will deepen their scientific knowledge and encourage them to participate actively in discussions about science-related topics that impact their daily lives.

**The Arts**

The focus for this term is through music. While we have children participating in Art Splash, the rest of the students will be having a session a fortnight rotating around in groups to work on skills like, making music, creating songs, and exploring instruments.



Nikau students are expected to engage with books for at least 30 minutes a day at home. We want to encourage a love of reading. This can be school reading books, library books or books that you have at home. Encourage an enjoyment of reading by reading to your child or listening to them read to you. Talk about the books you are reading or ask your child about their favourite characters, the story line, the funniest moment etc…

If English is your child’s second language, research shows that having a strong foundation in a first language makes acquiring a second easier. So speak in your first language! You are the best model for your child to develop strong vocabulary, proper grammar, and natural communication skills.

Other ideas to support your child at home:

* Talk with your child and have rich and meaningful conversations.
* Play games such as cards or board games to support your child’s maths learning.
* Encourage outdoor and adventurous play to help develop your child’s gross motor skills
* Help your child manage themselves so they can look after their belongings and become independent learners.



**Learning Conferences -** You will be invited to meetings throughout the year where your child and their teacher will share their learning, goals and successes. The dates are Tuesday 17th June and Thursday 19th June.

**Sharing Learning -** Over the term your child will bring home a number of pieces of learning to share with you. They will talk with you about the learning and share their assessment of their own work. You will receive an email the day prior advising you to expect this. It is an important piece of evidence showing what they have been working on and how they are going. Your engagement and interest in this piece of learning is an important part of the process, helping them to see the value in the learning.

Please chat with your child's classroom teacher if you require any clarification around school related concerns. You can either pop in to make an appointment or contact the classroom teacher through [admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz) or [nikaual@stpeterpaul.school.nz](mailto:nikaual@stpeterpaul.school.nz)



When a conflict situation arises teachers use the structure of restorative conversations. Teachers lead the students through the process of:

* Tell the story (what happened?)
* Listen to all perspectives (Who has been affected and how?)
* Repair the harm (what do we need to do to put things right?)
* Move Forward (How can we make sure this doesn’t happen again?)

Teachers will at times make direct contact with parents and caregivers where it is necessary to discuss ways in which we can work together on supporting their child.

An important way you can support this work is if your child comes home upset about a conflict, please ask them if they have raised it with a teacher so teachers can follow up immediately.

Sometimes, children find it difficult to consider a viewpoint other than their own. Encouraging your child to share all parts of the story will help them to be responsible for their choices and understand there are always events that lead up to the conflict. Teachers spend the time to unpack and investigate the bigger picture; this enables us to understand and help find resolutions with all who are involved.