



Kōwhai Area News

DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Kia ora koutou katoa

We trust that you are keeping warm and well, and are all geared up for this exciting and busy new term! To our new families, we extend a warm welcome to our school community. We also welcome Bianca de Leon to our teaching team and Nicky James. Bianca has been working in our school as a reliever and has experience in both Primary and Early Childhood settings. She is the main teacher for Room 3a, our newest New Entrant class, working Monday to Thursday. Nicky will continue her part time work across Kowhai and will also be the teacher of Room 3a each Friday.

It feels that we have had a reasonably mild winter, as we look forward now to the arrival of spring! With the seasonal changes in mind and a number of trips and outdoor activities planned, we ask that all children come to school with a jacket each day.

A reminder about our school uniform that for cold winter days, we encourage the girls to wear woollen tights with their winter pinafore. We do not have leggings as an option. To find out more about our School Uniform options including hair accessories and jewellery, please refer to our uniform brochure. You can find the link [here](#). We thank you for your support in helping us to promote pride in how our students wear their uniform.

CURRICULUM AND INQUIRY

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

- Patterns repeat
- Patterns are everywhere
- Patterns can be created

Religious Education

Our key learning in Religious Education explores:

- that God is our Father because God is the creator who cares lovingly for us all and creation.
- that there are images and words to help us know Jesus.
- how God is present in the world in creation.
- ways to appreciate God's creation that show God we are grateful for it.
- what holiness is.
- what makes some objects holy so they remind us of God's holiness.
- how we can use different names and images for God when we talk about God and when we pray to God.
- what it means to be just and fair.
- how talking to people helps us build friendship.

Here are some ways you can support your child's learning in RE at home:

Talk about the creation story as a family and read it in your family Bible. Share with each other ideas about:

- what your favourite place God created is.
- what your favourite animal God created is.
- any weird and wonderful creatures you know of.

Take time to pray with your child allowing your child opportunities to share their own prayers of thanks and hope.

Find some holy items around your home. They could be things like a crucifix, a bible, a candle, rosary beads. These things are holy because they connect us with God. Share stories about these items (gifts from baptisms, rosary beads that belonged to a grandparent etc).

Go for a walk in nature to add to your holy items, shells and other items can be great reminders of how much God loves us. Use these items during your family prayer time.

Health

Our Big Idea in health this term is that by understanding our bodies and how to care for them, we can be Healthy Heroes.

With the support of the Life Education Trust and our classroom programmes, the children will learn to understand what it means to be a healthy hero and why we need to look after our body, mind and the people around us. Through this learning they will:

- Develop an understanding of nutrition, exercise and personal well-being
- Identify their own feelings and express their own personal needs and wants
- Set personal goals that encourage good health and well-being

Physical Education and Fitness

We will be developing our movement skills this term through Folk Dance and Gymnastics. Developing core strength and motor skills are fundamental to all learning areas. The following ideas can support your child's development in these areas:

- Hop Scotch for hopping, or other games that encourage direct task/skill practice.
 - Simon Says for body awareness and movement planning (praxis).
 - Wheelbarrow walking races for upper body strength and postural or trunk control.
 - Unstable surfaces: Walking/climbing over unstable surfaces (e.g. large pillows) as it requires a lot of effort and increases overall body strength.
 - Catching and balancing: Standing with one foot on a ball while catching another ball (encourages balance while practicing catching and throwing).
 - Large balls: Begin catching with a large ball/balloon and only after the skill is mastered, move to a smaller sized ball.
 - Obstacle courses: to combine lots of gross motor skills together into one practice.
 - Playground climbing and swinging.
 - Swimming
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Understanding the Curriculum

Mathematics

In Mathematics this term we will cover aspects of Statistics, Geometry (shape, position and symmetry), Algebra (patterns, following instructions using algorithmic thinking), Measurement (length, mass, capacity and time) alongside building on our knowledge of numbers. There are many ways you can use everyday experiences and equipment at home to explore Mathematics which will support your child's learning at school.

Click here to find out more for [Year 1](#) and [Year 2](#)

Literacy

Please send your child's book bag to school every day.

Children love to copy you (as their favourite person in the world) and if you read often, they begin to see it as a great thing to do too.

- [Here is a useful link](#) with ideas on how to support your child at home in Literacy.



Over the term the children will have opportunities to write on a range of topics through many different experiences. As they do this they will be learning about how letters represent sounds, are put together to make words (reading) and that sounds can also be pulled apart (spelling and writing). Children will practise forming their letters (handwriting) using consistent language and starting points. If you are interested in supporting your child with letter formations, please see their classroom teacher for ideas and guidance.

We welcome you to come in and allow your child to chat about and show you their learning in and around the classroom. This is also a good opportunity to find out a little more about the learning from the classroom teacher.

Coming up this term

Tuesday 22 July (Year 1) and Thursday 24 July - Kowhai Trip to Te Papa

Thursday 21 August Kowhai Fun Day at Walter Nash Stadium

If you are able to help with either of these trips, please advise your child's classroom teacher or email kowhaial@stpeterpaul.school.nz,

deputyprincipal@stpeterpaul.school.nz, admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz, or phone the office on 04 569 5759

Learning Conferences - Thursday 4 September and Wednesday 10 September

Sharing of Learning this term – Evidence of Health and Technology, Mathematics (Statistics) and Writing will be sent home throughout the term. Please keep a look out for this special piece of work that is evidence of how your child is going at school. An email will be sent closer to the time to remind you to look out for this work.

School PTA Facebook Page

Join the Ss Peter & Paul School PTA Facebook page to hear news about upcoming PTA events, how to support the school community and connect with school parents.

Simply search for “Ss Peter & Paul School PTA” and add yourself to the group. It’s a closed group so there are security questions (name of your child’s teacher etc.) so we can make sure it’s a safe community school page.

Any questions please email pta@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Have you joined the PTA Facebook group yet? Stay up-to-date with school community events by joining our page!

