



Kōwhai Area News

DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Kia ora koutou katoa

Welcome to the final term of 2025! We hope you had a great holiday break and were able to spend some time outdoors with the improving weather. Included in this newsletter are a few of the things we will be involved in this term. To our new students and their families, we extend a warm welcome to our school community. With the weather still not quite settled, we ask that all children continue to bring a light and waterproof jacket each day. Being a summer term, we do recognise that we will have some hotter days also, so a reminder that your child will need to keep their sunhat at school to wear at lunchtimes for their safety and protection from the sun. For further information 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 our Father created everyone, so we are brothers and sisters
- what rituals are and how they are part of our everyday life
- that our Church has rituals that we use when we pray
- that Baptisms are holy celebrations we call Sacraments that all of God's Catholic family participate in so they can be part of the Catholic Church
- that a special holy time God's family gathers in the Church is when we give God thanks and praise together
- what we mean by holy times and what we can do to be part of them
- that when we pray our prayer joins with that of the whole Church - especially at Eucharist.

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

Talk about how you can be holy people in your family and spend some time praying about this together. Share with each other ideas about:

- some habits you have at home (picking up toys when we are finished with them, saying prayers at the end of the day etc.) and choose a habit you would like to get better at and work on it
- some of the ways you pray at home, school and church that are part of our Catholic traditions
- things you might see, hear and feel when you go to church
- different types of holy times and plan a special way to celebrate a feast day in your family to make it holy

The Arts

Kowhai students will be exploring the different areas of The Arts. They will experience all strands - Dance, Music, Visual Arts and Drama and use the skills they have learned for our end of year Christmas sharing. These are the areas of focus within each strand:

- Dance - improvise and explore movements to a range of music and learn to reflect on their movements and express their thoughts and feelings
- Music - explore how sound is made and respond to the elements of music - beat, rhythm, pitch, tempo and dynamics; explore and express sounds and musical ideas using their personal experiences and imagination
- Visual Arts - communicate messages through portraits made from different materials and objects; and use natural resources to create art pieces
- Drama - how our body, voice and facial expressions can project a character and help the audience understand the character

Physical Education and Fitness

We will be developing our core strength and motor skills this term as we participate in a range of athletics based activities. This will culminate, weather dependent, into an afternoon of tabloid sports which we hope you will be able to come along and to and cheer the children on.

By helping your child to get active, you help their body to develop, and this in turn supports all areas of learning and development. You may wonder what you can do to support this area of development at home? A tip from this term's newsletter is to play with a ball! Sport NZ say:

Young children love throwing, catching, kicking, bouncing and rolling balls. They especially love to have fun learning and playing with family and friends.

Playing with balls helps develop:

- 'hand-eye' or 'foot-eye' coordination (when our eyes work together with our hands or feet)
- A good sense of timing (this helps when learning to cross the road)
- Balance

Sport can be fun but let your children tell you the rules.

- Encourage your child to participate at their level. Young children can find organised sport difficult to understand and can become frustrated.
- Encourage your child to play simple games that develop ball skills before playing organised sport.
- There are lots of fun ball activities that you or the whānau can enjoy with your young child.

Activities for Young Children

These activities can also be done with toddlers. All of the activities use equipment that is found in most homes. Be creative with what you already have!

- Chase bubbles. Try jumping, kicking, clapping, flicking bubbles. Try catching a bubble on his shoe, toe, knee, elbow, finger etc.
- Stack empty boxes one on top of the other. Kick the boxes over.
- Roll up a pair of socks. Ask your child to throw the socks into the washing basket. Stand further back for older children.
- Roll a ball to your child. Ask them to trap the ball with different body parts e.g. knee, foot, head etc.
- Roll a ball into and through different things e.g. into a cardboard box, through a hoop, under the table, between the chairs, into a bucket etc.

Understanding the Curriculum

Mathematics

In Mathematics this term we will cover aspects of Probability (chance-based situations), Statistics, Geometry (shape, position and symmetry), Algebra (patterns, following instructions using algorithmic thinking), Measurement (area 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

- 28 October (Tuesday) - Class Photos
- 31 October (Friday) - Sibling/Individual Photos
- 13 November (Thursday) - School Cultural Day
- 21 November (Friday) 9:15am - New Entrant Blessing and Welcome
- 2 December (Tuesday) - End of Year School Mass and Helpers Morning Tea
- 11 December (Thursday) 1:45pm - Kowhai Christmas Sharing
- 12 December (Friday) - End of Year School Assembly

Dates to be confirmed - Kowhai visiting the Dowse Art Museum

Sharing of Learning this term – Mathematics (Basic Facts and Number Structure), PE/Athletics, 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!

