



Pohutukawa Area News Term 3 2025

Kia ora,

Welcome back to Term 3. We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. It was great to have the opportunity to meet with you last term to share and discuss your child's learning. The children worked with energy and enthusiasm throughout the term, and it was wonderful to see how confident so many of them were when explaining what they had learned and what their next learning steps are at their conference. We look forward to sharing more examples of their learning with you this term.

This week, we had the final session with the Pedal Ready Team. It was fantastic to see a group of students working hard to learn how to ride a bike independently. It's a worthwhile skill that they will have for life and are eager to continue improving, too!



We begin this term with a health focus on children identifying factors that affect their personal, physical, social, and emotional growth, the positives of these changes, as well as skills they can develop to manage these changes. This learning will be supported by two sessions in the Life Education mobile classroom.

Below is a link to a video that explains the work of the Life Education Trust.

[About Life Education Trust](#)

Later in the term, we will focus on Tō Mātou Taonga: Remembering the Past. This is a social science based inquiry. We will explore the big idea of how people remember and record the past in different ways, depending on culture, purpose, and perspective. These ways shape identity, heritage, and our understanding of history. Towards the end of this inquiry, the children will put together a presentation that reflects how their families or communities record and remember the past. You can look forward to them asking questions about this at home. This also provides an opportunity for us to visit The Dowse Art Museum, to learn about our local taonga, the pātaka whakairo (carved storehouse).

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 Rongopai Good News. The children will explore and learn the stories of the Old Testament. They will understand that the books and stories of the Old Testament were already in existence when Jesus was growing up. The children will develop an understanding of the social, historical, and geographical context of that time. They will also explore how these stories help us imagine God and understand how to live in relationship with God and with each other.

On Friday, 5 September, we will have an area liturgy with the theme of 'Caring for Our Earth.' This links to our school value of stewardship and our focus on developing sustainable practices throughout our school community.

Curriculum Programmes

Mathematics - We have begun the term with a focus on fractions. The children are learning about the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percentages. They are ordering, comparing, and converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions. Later in the term, we will progress to measuring the area and volume of shapes, adding, and subtracting fractions, and using their multiplication facts to find the fractions of a whole number. We finish the term by providing opportunities for the children to explore probability by engaging in chance-based investigations, including those with not equally likely outcomes.

You can support your child at home by encouraging them to practice their number facts and finding opportunities where they can be involved in measuring quantities that are not whole units, such as reading measuring equipment while cooking.

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 persuasive writing, such as introducing a topic, clearly taking a position on it, and using emotive language and rhetorical questions to persuade others. The children will continue to build their literacy skills by understanding different sentence types, forming paragraphs, and editing their writing by correcting aspects of their punctuation and spelling.

At the moment, the children are busy preparing for our school Bible reading competition. They have chosen a scripture passage to read and are working on developing their skills in projecting their voices, reading at an appropriate pace, and conveying the message in the scripture respectfully.

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 with a focus on developing our critical analysis skills by identifying explicit and implicit perspectives in the different texts we read.

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 - This term, we continue to explore ideas about how music serves various purposes and functions in our lives and communities. Our enthusiastic Artsplash singers are still preparing for their concert next month, while the other children enjoy learning a repertoire of songs from the Kiwi Kids Songs collection. It is wonderful to hear all the lovely singing around the area.

Digital Technologies - The children will be working with different apps throughout the term, such as Green Screen, Google Slides, and iMovie. They will explore how to use these apps as creative and communication tools. We hope to be able to share these with you towards the end of the term.

We continue to encourage the children to develop their coding skills by using the free coding site on Scratch. A link to this site is here: [Scratch Coding for kids](#)

Coming up this Term:

Life Education Visit to school 28 July - 8 August

Area Liturgy Friday 5 September (12 pm in Rooms 13 & 14)

Winter Book Festival in the Library 11 - 15 August

Feast of the Assumption Mass Friday 15 August

Dowse Art Museum visits Tuesday 19 August - Wednesday 20 August

Artsplash Concert Wednesday 27 August

Learning Conferences Thursday 4 September and Wednesday 10 September

Sharing of Learning this term – Evidence of Learning will be shared with you at Learning Conferences this term. Throughout the term the children will also bring home learning to share with you.

Te Wiki o Te Reo Week 15 -19 September

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,

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Pohutukawa Area Teachers