



Pohutukawa Area News Term 4 2025

Kia ora,

Welcome to Term 4!

It was great to finish Term 3 on such a high note, with our talented group of Artsplash singers delivering a fantastic performance at the Michael Fowler Centre. A huge thanks to Miss O'Sullivan Glynn and Whaea Sarah for their work and leadership in this area.

A busy last term lies ahead with lots of different opportunities for learning inside and outside the classroom. This term, we began with a focus on simple machines in science. The children are developing their understanding of how simple machines function and that they allow us to do the same amount of work by applying a smaller amount of force. Building on this, the children will participate in various STEMM activities that enable them to apply their knowledge of simple machines. We will complete our learning in this area by having a fun STEMM challenge afternoon where the children will collaborate in a team to tackle a STEMM challenge. We look forward to you being able to join us for this enjoyable afternoon.

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



Here are some examples of how we will investigate patterns in different aspects of our learning this term. In maths we will look at patterns in the statistical information we are reading, patterns when working with numbers, patterns we can develop in our dance presentations, and patterns we identify in the narratives of the Old Testament. We then encourage the children to make a connection to the big ideas we have about patterns. You can encourage this thinking at home by posing questions like, "Have you noticed any patterns in this book?" "What are the typical patterns of story structure found in narrative writing?" "What patterns do you observe in the multiplication tables?"

Religious Education

For Religious Education, the children are continuing to learn about stories from the Old Testament and how they teach us to be in good relationships. We will then move on to learning about the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how they come from Jesus' teachings. The children will then explore how they can live these teachings in their lives. Later in the term, we will begin preparation for the liturgical season of Advent by identifying what is being celebrated and why this is significant for Christians.

Mathematics

We have begun the term with a focus on statistics. Alongside this, the children will continue to build their number skills of estimating, rounding, and recalling number facts. Following on from this, the children will explore pathways in our geometry focus. They will investigate different types of maps, explain pathways using directional language, and learn how compass points connect to turns and angles. This learning will be useful for the orientation task they will be doing as part of our EOTC activities later in the term. We finish the term off with a number focus linked to financial maths.

You can support your child at home with improving their number recall by encouraging them to practice their number facts. Here is a link a New Zealand maths site that will support you with doing this at home.

[Prototec Maths Practice](#) Select '**Stage 6**' Activities.

Literacy

For writing, our focus is on writing to entertain in the form of short stories. They will explore the components of narrative writing including setting, character, problem, and resolution. They will continue to develop their literacy abilities in planning, choosing particular language elements, and editing their short stories before publishing. You can look forward to them bringing a story home to share with you and entertain you, too.

The weekly literacy programme involves the children developing their understanding of text structures through comprehension, vocabulary and sentence structure activities. The texts we read often align with our writing focus so the children can see the connections between the two literacy skills. 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 will be focused on dance. The children will learn about different dance elements and use this understanding to explore and create various dance movements as part of a group.

Education Outside the Classroom

This term provides the opportunity to get outside the classroom and explore our local and broader Wellington area. We have three trips planned for this term. Our first trip will be to the Dowse Art Museum to view the textiles exhibition and to create a Christmas craft using textiles. For our second trip, we will head to the Ākau Tangi Sports Centre in Kilbirnie, where the children will be able to engage in various team sports, including Pickleball and Ki-o-Rahi. Finally, we've organised an outing to Williams Park in Days Bay, Eastbourne, for a day filled with fun and challenges. This will include kayaking, water safety, bushwalking, and orienteering. Like all trips beyond the classroom we will need additional adult volunteers to assist us on that day. Further information regarding each trip will be shared as the date approaches.

Coming up this Term:

Pohutukawa and Rata liturgy Monday 3 November

STEMM Challenge Afternoon Friday 7 November

Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, Kilbirnie visit Monday 17 November

St Bernard's College Orientation Day (For those boys enrolled for 2026) Friday 21 November

Dowse Art Museum Christmas Craft sessions Tuesday 25 November and Wednesday 26 November

Williams Park, Days Bay, Eastbourne EOTC Trip Friday 28 November postponement day Thursday 4 December

Sharing of Learning this term – Children will be taking home examples of their work throughout the term to share with their families

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 programmes. 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, Whaea Sarah, Shanann O'Sullivan Glynn, Andrea Spink

Pohutukawa Area Teachers