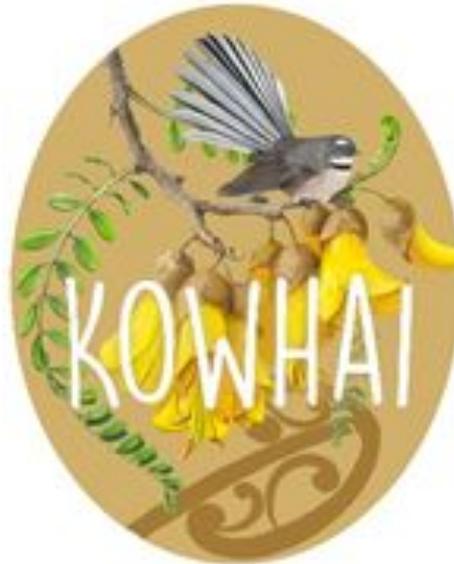


Parent Information 2026

KIA ORA KOUTOU KATOA

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year!

We extend a very warm welcome to our new students and their families and look forward to getting to know you all as your child begins their learning journey with us.



***"The Catholic school is a place where faith, culture and life cross paths."
"It's not just an institution, but a living environment in which the Christian vision permeates every discipline and every interaction."***

Pope Leo XIV.

Meet the Team



Elaine Stewart
Area Leader &
Deputy Principal



Room 1
Suni Abraham
Year 1/2



Room 2
Giana Maroon
New Entrant/
Year 1



Room 3
Bianca De Leon
New Entrant/
Year 1



Room 4
Sarah Tweedie
Year 1



Room 5
Emalyn Jiang
Year 2



Room 6
Laura Rose
Year 2



Irene Gould, Alison Butler, Nicky James and Emma Gill
Part Time Teachers

Communication and Uniform

Uniform

We encourage all students to leave their named sunhat at school throughout Term 1. Classrooms are well ventilated by keeping doors and windows open. Students also have regular breaks outside throughout the day. It is helpful if you send your child to school with their named jersey and a light rain jacket every day.

Please check the school website for clarification on hair accessories, shoes and regulation socks. Nail polish and jewellery (including smart watches) are not permitted with the exception of plain studs in pierced ears. Our friendly team of teachers or Teresa in the uniform shop are also able to help you out with this.

Absences

You can report an absence through our school website or alternatively by calling and leaving a message for our office team.

Getting in touch about your child

Should you have any concerns or want clarification regarding your child, you can call the school office or email either admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz, kowhaial@stpeterpaul.school.nz or deputyprincipal@stpeterpaul.school.nz to set up a phone call or meeting with your child's classroom teacher.

Handy Tips for Successful Learning

1. Create a simple routine

Children learn best when they know what to expect. Regular times for waking up, meals, play, and sleep help them feel safe and ready to learn.

2. Talk, listen, and ask questions

Everyday conversations build language and thinking.

- Ask open questions: "What was your favorite part of today?"
- Give them time to answer – even if it takes a while.

3. Read together every day

Just 10-15 minutes makes a big difference.

- Let your child choose books
- Talk about the pictures
- Ask what they think will happen next

Reading builds vocabulary, imagination, and focus.

4. Praise effort, not just results

Say things like, "You tried really hard!" and "I like how you didn't give up." This helps children feel confident and willing to try new things.

5. Encourage independence

Let your child:

- Put on their shoes
- Pack away toys
- Make simple choices

Doing things on their own builds confidence and problem-solving skills.



Handy Tips for Successful Learning continued

6. Learn through play

Play is how young children learn best.

- Building with blocks
- Drawing and colouring
- Pretend play
- Singing songs and dancing

All of this supports learning in fun ways.



7. Limit screen time and stay involved

Choose quality programmes and watch together when possible. Talk about what they see and relate it to real life.

8. Support healthy habits (A healthy body supports a growing mind)

Good learning starts with:

- Enough sleep
- Healthy food
- Time to move and play outside



9. Stay positive about school

Speak kindly about teachers and learning. Your attitude helps your child feel excited and confident about school.

10. Work together with your child's teacher

Share questions or concerns early. When parents and teachers work as a team, children benefit the most.

Remember

Every child learns at their own pace. Encouragement, love, and consistency matter more than perfection.

DROP OFF & PICK UP

It is so pleasing to see students settled already and showing great independence when arriving and leaving school.

*A reminder that school starts at 8:50am and finishes at 2:50pm. Classrooms are open from 8:15am. Prior to this teachers are busy getting organised for the school day and are therefore unable to supervise children. If you need to drop your child at school before 8:15am, there is a before school care service run by [SKIDS](#). We love to see students arriving by 8:30am as this is their opportunity to settle into their routines and establish their friend groups for the day. If you are running late (after 9am), please remember to come via the school office to sign into **Vistab** and collect a red card for the classroom teacher.*

We understand that traffic and other factors can impact on pick up after school and appreciate your efforts in being punctual. Students not collected by 3pm will be waiting in the walkway for their safety. Please note, we do not allow students to play on the playground after school while they wait for you. All students must be supervised by their own caregiver/adult.

Playtime at Ss Peter & Paul School

Prior to morning tea we have 'read and feed'. Students eat their morning tea while the teacher reads a story before they go off to play. It is helpful if you prepare food in such a way as your child can independently manage it. For example, breaking the seal on screw top packaging, manageable portion sizes etc. There is also a 10 minute supervised period for eating at the beginning of lunchtime. All break times are supervised by adults in high visibility vests carrying small medical kits to cover small bumps or scratches. If your child is hurt and requires further attention, they will be taken to the medical room where they will receive the necessary care. You can expect a phone call from our lovely office staff if your child requires further follow up or receives a knock to the head.

We use our school values to promote what it looks like and sounds like when you are being a good friend.

We encourage all of the children to be kind, caring and inclusive.



Curriculum

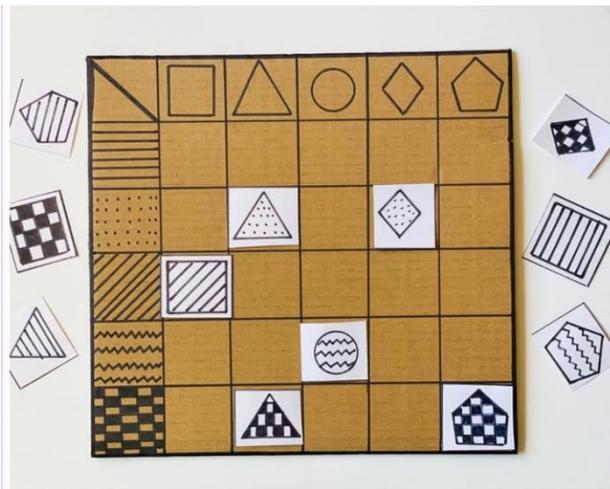
Throughout the year, our school wide universal concept is 'Change'. As we begin to explore this concept, we will support the students in co-constructing three or four big ideas about change to help them understand the concept in a range of contexts and learning experiences. As we develop these big ideas, we will share them with you.

- **Religious Education** - *We will be talking about Ā Tātou Whakapapa Our Story this term. By understanding that we are all God's special thought, Kowhai will be able to explore their own whakapapa as well as their communities, connecting with this past, present and future story in which we all belong.*
- **Health, Technology and Visual Arts** - *Integrating these areas in the curriculum, we will continue to build our knowledge in relation to The Zones of Regulation. This learning supports students to understand and talk about their feelings, look at different perspectives and develop strategies which support them to move through the zones so that they can self regulate with increasing independence. We will be further relating our learning to Sir Mason Durie's Te Whare Tapa Wha, a holistic model of well-being and sun safety to care for our physical health.*



Curriculum *continued*

While these curriculum areas give many opportunities to explore our universal concept of change, we can also find change in other curriculum areas. **Literacy** and **Mathematics** offer many opportunities too through phonics, language and punctuation, place value, addition, subtraction and other mathematical operations. Offering your child experiences at home with things like counting cars as you drive to school, reading recipes and adding together ingredients as you bake or cook give many more opportunities. Always take any opportunity to read and make this an amazing, calming and enriching experience.



1	2	3	1	2	3	1	
7	8	9	7	8	9	7	
6	5	4	6	5	4	6	
6	7	8	6	7	8	6	
2	1	0	2	1	0	2	

Literacy

What is a structured literacy approach?

A structured literacy approach is the explicit and systematic teaching of all the important components of literacy.

- Oral language
- Foundation skills
- Higher level literacy skills

Oral language

- Phonemic awareness
- Sensitivity to speech sounds in oral language
- The ability to manipulate those sounds

Foundational skills

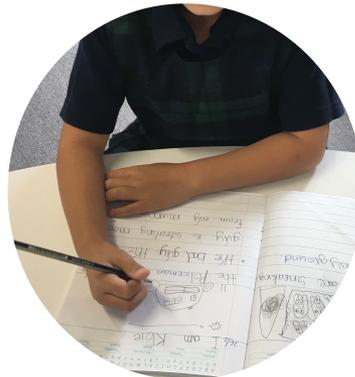
- Reading
- Spelling

Higher level literacy skills

- Reading comprehension
- Written expression

Help your child say sounds correctly and clearly articulate words

[How to make the sounds of NZ English](#)



In Summary

Why we use a
structured literacy
approach?

What will you notice
and how can you
support your child at
home?

- *it promotes closer attention to the spelling and speech sounds in words*
 - *it develops attention to the letter sequence in words which is fundamental for developing good decoding (reading words) skills*
 - *it ensures explicit teaching of the foundational skills for both spelling and decoding - teaching is clear, systematic and unambiguous to the learner*
 - *children learn to pay attention to larger patterns in words*
 - *it allows children to practise applying these skills while reading*
 - *it can be very engaging to the struggling learner when they know they are having success*
-
- *read books to your child, and be sensitive to whether they are listening and engaged*
 - *encourage and support your child's love of reading*
 - *take an interest in the books they bring home*
 - *have books available at home that follow their interests.*

Mathematics

In their first few years at school children learn to count forwards and backwards with numbers up to 20, 100 and then up to 1000, and know the number before and the number after any given number. They will be learning to solve mathematics problems. Your child will explore patterns, shapes and measurement, organise and share objects. They work on solving realistic problems using their growing understanding of number, algebra, geometry, measurement and statistics.

Here are some things you can do to help at home

- ✓ *Ask me to help with the shopping by comparing the prices of the items.*
- ✓ *Teach me a new card game we can play together.*
- ✓ *Let me show you my favourite app with some maths in it.*
- ✓ *Talk to my teacher about how I'm doing in maths and things we can do together so I can get even better.*
- ✓ *Help me practise the facts I'm trying to memorise at the moment - for example, forwards and backwards from 100, doubling and halving numbers up to 10 and then 20, basic facts to 10.*



Here are some things you can do to help at home - continued

- ✓ *Ask me to help prepare dinner and talk to me about any maths involved - for example, halves, quarters, litres, grams, temperatures, etc. and get me to do any measuring or weighing needed.*
- ✓ *Teach me one of the games you played when you were young.*
- ✓ *Have a traditional games night at home where the whole family plays a board game like Monopoly together.*
- ✓ *Keep playing with me, and encouraging me, in the hard games I'm learning, for example, chess, backgammon or mah-jong, even though I'm not very good yet.*
- ✓ *Talk to me about the maths you use every day and at work.*
- ✓ *When we are driving or walking, play Launchpad with me. Spot a number, then use it as a launch pad for seeing how many combinations we can make that number make. For example, there's a 12 on a letterbox, that's $10+2$, 1 group of ten and 2 ones, 11 comes before, 13 comes after, double 6 is 12 etc.*



HOME LEARNING

Share in a wide range of activities such as family walks, a train ride into the city, preparing a family meal together etc. These activities and experiences support your child's developing curiosity and language acquisition. 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, correct grammar, and natural communication skills. If one parent's first language is English, then speak English to your child whilst the other parent speaks his/her first language so that both languages are being developed equally. Sing songs, tell stories and share books in your first language. Watch TV or movies in your first language and talk about them.

We encourage you to read to and with your child every day in a range of ways to help foster their love of reading. This may be school reading books, library books or books that you have at home. On Fridays, your child will bring home their poetry book. Please read the poems together and your child will improve their reading skills as they enjoy the rhyme and rhythm of words. When engaged in reading experiences, children can have fun and develop their reading skills.

You can support your child's acquisition of mathematical concepts through the suggestions covered under Mathematics in this document. Please come and chat with us if you would like further information or ideas.

Coming up this term

Tuesday 17 February, 11:00 am

Lent Pancake Making

Please see your child's classroom teacher if you are able to help with this experience or to advise of any allergies your child may have. Thank you.

Wednesday 18 February, 2:15 pm

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

We warmly invite you to join us for this liturgy in the shared space rooms 2 and 3.

Thursday 5 March

Kowhai Trip to The Zoo

Join us for an education programme where the children will be learning about animal adaptations and how they too are sun smart just like us. This is an all day event. More detailed information pertaining to this trip will come out separately, closer to the time of the trip.

Friday 19 March, 9:15 am

Welcoming of students new to school

We invite you to come along to this special liturgy where we celebrate and bless the students beginning their learning journey at Ss Peter and Paul School. You are welcome to bring other family members to share in this special occasion and join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit afterwards.



How is school going for your child?



Parent meetings and Sharing of growth and development

You will be invited to Learning Conversations in Terms 1, 2 and 3. This is an opportunity for your child to share their learning, goals and successes. Teachers will also take this opportunity to share what your child's next learning steps are and possibilities for how you can support at home. Mid Year and End of Year Reports will also be a way of us sharing your child's growth and development at school.

Working in partnership

Please chat with your child's classroom teacher if you require any clarification around school related concerns and celebrations. You can either pop in to make an appointment or contact the classroom teacher via admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz, kowhaial@stpeterpaul.school.nz or deputyprincipal@stpeterpaul.school.nz

