



# Kōwhai Area News

## DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Kia ora koutou katoa

Welcome to the final term of 2024! 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.

## CURRICULUM AND INQUIRY

We will continue this term with our overarching concept of Exploration.

A reminder that the 'Big Ideas' we have been relating our learning to this year are:

- Exploration is learning
- Exploration is when I wonder
- Exploration opens my eyes



## Religious Education and The Arts

Our focus around Religious education this term will be on the Communion of Saints and Advent. We will be diving into the lives of different saints, with a particular focus on the importance of St Francis and why our Pope has chosen to honour him with his papal name. This will lead into our Catholic social teaching around our common home through the teachings of Laudato Si and how we can leave an inspiring mark on the world as many saints did. We would like to extend an invitation to our parents to come with us on a creation walk around Lower Hutt to really get a sense of what it is Pope Francis would like us to come together to protect.

As we get closer to the Advent season we will look at the story of Jesus' birth and how he was welcomed just like we were. We will look at the important events leading up to the birth of our Saviour and will take part in all aspects of the Advent season. We will end the year with our Kowhai Christmas Story that will further develop our Arts learning from Term 2 as we retell the story of the nativity.

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# Understanding the Curriculum

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## Numeracy

This term we will continue to develop our Number Knowledge as well as look at Measurement, Probability and Fractions. These are practical areas of Mathematics that can be strengthened through your conversations at home. Here is a [link](#) to help you include some fun Mathematical discussion into your bedtime routine.

## Supporting Early Literacy

Reading books with your child is an incredibly powerful way of supporting your child's learning. Reading together has a significant and positive influence on your child's early oral language which forms an important foundation for all later learning.

### How can I help my child get ready for reading?

- sing songs and oriori (lullabies), and say rhymes to them
- talk with your child often – chat about their day, describe what is happening and ask them questions.
- play fun word games such as Simon Says, I Spy – and rhyming words
- sing songs and waiata, say poems and rhymes together
- help them make up their own stories and songs about everyday things.

### Does reading to them help?

Yes, it helps a lot. Your child loves to hear you read to them and this is one of the best things you can do to help them learn about language, learn to read and grow a lifelong love of reading. Here are some tips to make the most of reading to your child:

- start right from birth
- make reading a special quiet time with your child
- read in your own language
- show your baby picture books and read aloud to them often
- talk about what's in the pictures.

They will learn that books, and the words in them can be fun, amusing, comforting and full of excitement and information. Reading – and being read to – is like unlocking a door to learning. It provides access to just about all other knowledge.

### Keep reading together as your child grows

- Have a regular time for reading together and let your child choose their 'favourites' – they'll enjoy hearing you read them again and again
- Talk about the pictures in books and see if they can guess what will happen next
- Praise your child when they make a comment or contribution to the story
- Stop reading when they have had enough – always make reading a fun thing to do
- Get books from lots of different places - libraries, book fairs, second-hand shops or ask friends and whānau if they have any they no longer need
- Show your child how useful reading can be. Point out letters and words everywhere – road signs, shop signs, instructions for toys, party invitations, maps, and bus timetables.

- Be a role model. Let your child see you reading often – newspapers, books, magazines – this helps your child see that reading is important in your family.

#### What can I do to encourage writing?

- Keep pens, felts, crayons, pencils and paper handy for your child
- Make letters of the alphabet out of objects e.g. stones, blocks, buttons, shells, Play-Doh
- Display your child's work. Share it with friends, family and whānau
- Get outside and draw and write with chalk on concrete, use a stick to write in mud, sand or snow. A paint brush with water on the deck is a lot of fun
- Cover your fridge in magnetic letters
- Put labels on important things like the door to their room and their toy box. Or write labels in your first language
- Go on a word hunt. Show your child how to form the first letter of a word they are interested in, then go hunting in your house for other words that start with that letter or sound, or see if they can find them in a book
- Say the letters in their name aloud
- Get them to 'read' their early writing to you
- Write the story they tell you under their drawing
- Let them see you writing – talk about what you are writing about
- Look together for writing everywhere – street names, shop names, writing on cars and trucks

Click [here](#) to find out more about Maths and Literacy at home.

### Kura Ahurea & Purakau in Kōwhai

This term we are exploring two purakau (stories): New entrant and Year 1 are focused on Tāne mahuta and the three baskets of knowledge, as well as learning how to introduce themselves in te reo Māori; Years 2 & 3 are learning about Te Kāhui maunga, and learning how to use and respond to simple classroom language in te reo Māori.

Here is some simple te reo Māori to use at home: Whakarongo – Listening, Mātakitaki – Viewing, Kōrero – Speaking, Pānui – Reading.

## Coming up this term

Teacher Only Day - Tuesday 29 October

School photos – Wednesday 6 November (classes) and Friday 8 November (individual)

All Saint's Day and School Mass – Friday 1 November, 9:15am

Kowhai Local Area Creation Walk - Thursday 7 November 11:00 am - 1:00pm. Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you are able to support us with this experience.

Celebration of Culture – Thursday 14 November

New Entrant Welcome and Blessing – Friday 22 November, 9:15am in the church. This will be our final Blessing for the year.

Kowhai Christmas Story – Tuesday 10 December, 1:40pm. Please join us in the church as Kowhai retells the Christmas Story through the Arts.

**Sharing of Learning this term** – *please check your child's book bag for the learning they will be sharing with you this term. You can expect to see evidence of Writing, Mathematics, Religious Education and The Arts throughout the term. You will receive an email closer to the time to remind you to look out for these pieces of work.*