



NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term 1 2024

Thursday 15 February

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He waka eke noa – we're all in this together
E so'o le fau i le fau – unity is strength

Mai te pene a te Tumuaki | From the Principals' Pen

Kia ora e te whānau

Term 1 is well underway and I trust all the Year 5-8 students are getting all organised for camp next week! Year 4s will also be out and about doing a range of learning activities outside the classroom, so it will be very quiet here at school for the Juniors.

2024 brings a change of focus for policy direction from the government, with 3 key actions within the first 100 days. Having said that, these will not be very different for our school.

- As per my email earlier this year, cell phones and smart watches with communication capabilities are not allowed to be used by students whilst on school grounds. This is no different from our previous procedures (see note later in newsletter for procedures). If students need to get hold of you during the school day or vice versa, communication goes through the office.
- We are keeping abreast of guidance about the 'hour a day' for reading, writing and maths. Teachers at our school are already very focused on making sure reading, writing and maths are taught thoroughly and we work hard to make sure students are secure in their knowledge. It is important to note that authentic learning is important and we try to bring reading, writing and maths to life in real life contexts, integrated into other learning areas. This allows us to provide a balanced, rich, curriculum that supports students develop foundation learning skills and broaden their horizons and understandings.
- The curriculum is already being refreshed and we are continuing with our professional development for teachers on this. The refreshed curriculum is more specific, providing greater clarity about what should be taught at each level. As this is further reviewed, we will continue to learn about and implement new content.

You will have seen my message around road safety in the first week of the term. The Board reviewed some suggested alterations to road markings from the council at our February meeting. There are plans to reduce the speed around the school and we are in conversation with them about how we can work together to improve safety. It is really important that we are all vigilant in order to keep our children safe. A few key messages:

- walk or scooter to school if at all possible
- park and stop legally - pay attention to, and abide with, road signs and markings
- if you drop your child on the opposite side of Spinnaker Drive, we encourage them to use the underpass as this is the safest way to cross the road.

If any parents are keen to volunteer time at pick up or drop off to help encourage safety, please let me know.

Our new school structure seems to be working well so far. There is certainly a happy buzz of learning around the school. I hope you get a sense that your child is settled and enjoying school. Please remember that if you have any questions, concerns or celebrations to share with us, we welcome your communication.

Kia pai te ra (have a great day)!

Kaylene

Attendance

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school. As we enter 2024, every day of school matters. You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent for a day or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure. Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.

If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us! Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school and building a culture that fosters excellent attendance by having:

- ❖ School staff who have strong relationships with students and whānau.
- ❖ A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who they are, where they come from and who they want to be.
- ❖ A school community that does everything to make sure students are at school, and they are participating, and progressing in their education.

Vision Update

This year we are continuing to develop a new school vision that reflects the "why we come to school". We will use the thoughts from our board, and parents' viewpoints from last year as a starting point and begin exploring these key words and ideas with our tamariki. We are excited for where this learning will take us and hope to present some vision statements co-constructed with our learners later in the year. For now, we are looking for any experts in our community who work developing vision statements, taglines, or marketing that would be willing to come in and talk to us about innovative ways to present these words and ideas. If you are interested, please send an email to Andrea Smith as@discovery.school.nz.

Term Dates & Teacher Only Days 2024

	Start Date	End Date	Public Holidays & Teacher Only Days (school closed)	
Term 1	Thursday 1 February	Friday 12 April	Tuesday 6 February Friday 1 March Friday 29 March - Tuesday 2 April	Waitangi Day Teacher Only Day Easter Break
Term 2	Monday 29 April	Friday 5 July	Friday 31 May Monday 3 June Friday 28 June	Teacher Only Day King's Birthday Matariki
Term 3	Monday 22 July	Friday 27 September		
Term 4	Monday 14 October	Wednesday 18 December	Friday 25 October Monday 28 October	Teacher Only Day Labour Day

Please note that school will be **closed on 1 March** for the Teacher Only Day. Staff will be attending a course facilitated by Ngāti Toa, our mana whenua. Please ensure you have made alternative care arrangements for this date. See flyer below for Kelly Club Teacher Only day programme.

Policy Review

We use School Docs to house our school policies. This system ensures we are complying with legislation and also allows for parents and staff to have input into board policy review. This term, we are reviewing the policies listed below

• Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Board review
• Board Responsibility	Board review
• Parent Involvement	
• Communicating with Parents	
• Community Conduct Expectations	
• Documentation and Self-Review Policy	Board review
• School Planning and Reporting	
• Reporting to Parents on Student Progress and Achievement	

School Docs enables parents to log in and give feedback on policies that are then considered when they are up for review. Please log into the system and use the review tab/comment function to send us your feedback. Log in details can be found on our school website:

<https://www.discovery.school.nz/board-of-trustees/school-docs-policies-and-procedures>

Exciting News: Discovery School's 50th Anniversary in 2026! 🎉

We have something truly special on the horizon – our school's 50th anniversary in 2026! 🥳

To make this milestone an unforgettable celebration, we're looking to assemble a dedicated team of individuals who are passionate about our school's history and future.

We would like to invite anyone from our community who shares our enthusiasm for this event to join us in planning and executing an incredible celebration.

Are you excited about our school's history and future? Do you have creative ideas, event planning skills, or just a burning desire to make this anniversary unforgettable? We want to hear from you!

If this sounds like you, please contact jubilee@discovery.school.nz to register your interest. 🎊

Phones & Electronic Messaging Devices

Just a reminder that while students can bring their phones to school, they do so at their own risk and they are not to be used during the school day. In rare instances you need to contact your child during the day or vice versa, all communication goes through the office. We have noted an increased number of children with smart watches - the same applies and any messaging capability should be turned off during the day. If students use devices, they will be taken off them, given to Kaylene and given back at the end of the day. If use is repeated, the device will be held at school for collection by parents.

Sunhats/pōtae

Being sun smart at Discovery School is very important. All children need to wear a sunhat everyday in term 1 and term 4. We encourage each child to keep a named sunhat either in their school bag or tote tray so that they can be outside during school hours safely. We advise parents to apply sunscreen to their children before school, and then ask your child to reapply it at lunchtime as the weather can be hot at this time of the year.

Nut Free

We have some children with allergies to nuts and nut products. For these children their allergies are life threatening, therefore we ask that **all** nut products are left out of school lunches. Please pay attention to this when purchasing items for school lunches and when filling your child's lunchbox. Your consideration of this is greatly appreciated.

Punctuality

We understand that mornings can be very busy for all families and getting to school can be, at times, a major undertaking. The beginning of the day is an important time aimed at helping students settle in, therefore it is important to ensure your child arrives at school between 8.30 am and 8:55 am each day. By arriving in plenty of time, children have the opportunity to connect with their peers and teacher and to get themselves organised for the day ahead. When students arrive late, they take longer to settle into the classroom and disrupt the learning that is taking place.

Can you please ensure your child has everything they need for the day in their bag. While we do understand that from time to time, things get forgotten, we have a large number of students at school and it is not possible for the office staff to deliver items to the classrooms if they have been forgotten.

Parking, Drop off and Pick up

Please ensure you are obeying all parking signs and regulations when you drop off and collect your children from school. A reminder that on both Spinnaker Drive and The Companionway, there are parking restrictions, particularly around pick up and drop off times. All parents and caregivers are legally obliged to follow the rules around parking, which are in place to keep everyone safe.

Annual Charges/Donations/Emergency Contact Details

The annual charges, donations have been added to the Musac Edge portal. You can either pay through the portal using a credit card (surcharge applies) or pay directly into the school bank account (account details are on the stationery lists).

Emergency Contact Details/Medication

Please check your child's caregiver and emergency contact details in the Musac Edge portal. If you have any changes please email contactupdates@discovery.school.nz. Click on this link if you need instructions on how to download the app. [Musac Edge portal instructions](#) Please check that your child's medication has not expired, eg asthma inhalers, epi pens etc. If you are unsure please contact the office.

Musac Edge App - New Feature - Absences (preferred option)

Have you downloaded the EDGE app for parents?

You can now inform the office of absences via the app and it is super easy. We really encourage parents to use the app for absence notification if you can as it logs directly into the attendance register, which will assist with efficiency and accuracy at our end!

It's super easy to download the app (<https://www.discovery.school.nz/parentcaregiver-portal>)

Access to the edge caregiver portal and app uses the existing email address that Discovery School has on record. This App allows you to view school information about your child(ren), notify the school of absences and view and pay school bills online (note there is a small surcharge for credit card payments). It gives you quick and easy access to the information for students in your household. Once you are in, click on 'notify school of absence' and follow the prompts. If your child is away sick, we do need the type of illness/reason noted. If you have any questions, please contact the office. You can also check your contact details and emergency contacts on the App. Please let the office know of any changes by emailing contactupdates@discovery.school.nz

Discovery School Facebook page



Please join our [school Facebook page](#). This has regular updates, reminders and notices as well as photos of school events. You need to state your child's full name and class to be accepted into this closed group. Please note that students won't be accepted to this page and commenting is always turned off on posts. Private messages to administrators will not be answered, please contact your child's teacher or the school office via email if you have questions about school programmes and/or events.

Community Notices

For information on activities in our community click on this link, these will be updated as we receive information regarding events in the community. [Community Notices](#).

Kelly Club Before and After School Care

Click on this link for more information about our before and after school care.

<https://www.discovery.school.nz/about-us/kelly-club-before-and-after-school-care>

Kelly Club Teacher Only Day Programme - Friday 1 March

A promotional poster for the Kelly Club Teacher Only Day Programme. The top half features a photograph of three smiling children (two girls and one boy) looking at the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting. The text is overlaid on the image and a dark blue background at the bottom. The Kelly Club logo is in the top left. The text 'A FUN PROGRAMME THAT KIDS LOVE!' is in the top right. The date 'Friday 1st March' and the title 'TEACHER ONLY DAY PROGRAMME' are prominently displayed in the center. A circular badge on the right mentions 'OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!'. The bottom section, on a dark blue background, provides details about the programme, including activities, booking information, and contact details.

KELLY CLUB

A FUN PROGRAMME THAT KIDS LOVE!

Friday 1st March
TEACHER ONLY DAY PROGRAMME

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!
*Conditions apply

DISCOVERY SCHOOL

We've got an amazing programme planned including baking, crafts, games and more!
Book online now for our fun-filled one day holiday programme. See you there!

Full Day: \$52 7am-6pm	School Day: \$42 8:30am-3pm	Half Day: \$32 7am-12:30pm or 12:30pm-6pm
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Contact: Julie England
Phone: 027 321 2112

Email: discovery@kellyclub.co.nz
Facebook: @KellyClubDiscoveryWhitby

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

Scholastic Lucky Book Club Issue 1 (no cash payments)

Issue 1 flyers will come home this week and orders will close on Friday 5 April 2024. Orders need to be done via the Loop App. Click on the icon below.

ORDER ON THE LOOP APP



Pasifika Parents Group At Discovery School

Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Taloha Ni, Nisa bula vinaka and warm Pacific greetings everyone.

This group was established in September 2013 with the vision of including some of our Pasifika cultures, languages, songs and contexts into the learning environments at Discovery School.

We are a group of parents/grandparents who want to work with the school's staff and leadership/management to support them to understand, strengthen and maintain the identities, languages and cultures of the Pasifika students and families of Discovery school.

We welcome any and everyone who has an interest in supporting our Pasifika children and families at Discovery school. There are many opportunities for you to be involved and information about these opportunities will be on the school website and in the school newsletters.

Meitaki maata, Fa'afetai tele lava

Join the Facebook page [Pasifika Facebook page](#)

Māori Parents Group At Discovery School

Discovery School's Whānau Group is made up of whānau Māori within the school community who like to meet termly to celebrate Te Aō Māori and learn more about it.

The Whānau Group is a space for our whānau Māori to develop their understanding of our culture and identity through celebrations, Māori traditions and practices, kai and a space for other whānau to meet and form relationships. We acknowledge the importance of identity in our taura (students) and how it contributes towards our tamariki enjoying and achieving education success.

We meet once a term and welcome the involvement of all Māori students and their whānau

Join the Facebook page [Whānau group facebook page](#)

DSPTA - Discovery School Parent Teacher Association



It's a new year and the Discovery School PTA is looking for helpers to assist in a variety of ways, including; planning fundraisers, helping with school lunches & BBQ's, discos or school activities, becoming new committee members or embracing sponsorship opportunities through their own company connections. If you are keen to get involved in any way that suits you please join us for a meeting, follow our DSPTA Facebook page or join our DSPTA Helpers page.

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. We met some lovely new school families at our Mihi Whakatau early this term, who we'd love to have involved in any way possible. You can make contact with us at dspta@discovery.school.nz or you can join us here facebook.com/discovery_school_pta or facebook.com/groups/dsptahelpers/

