



# Middle Team



## Kia ora koutou

We hope you've all enjoyed your break and had some quality time with whānau. It is hard to believe we are already half way through the school year.

## OUR LEARNING PROGRAMME

### LITERACY

- As part of our writing programme this term, students in Years 4–6 will be focusing on narrative writing. They will learn how to plan and structure a story with strong characters, setting, and plot, and will be encouraged to use descriptive language and dialogue to engage the reader.
- Oral language remains a key focus, with opportunities for students to share and discuss their ideas, supporting both their confidence and communication skills—important aspects of the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA).
- In literacy, all classes will continue with a structured phonics-based spelling programme, deepening their understanding of phoneme–grapheme relationships (how sounds match to letters and letter patterns) and the different prefixes and suffixes used to build on words. These skills will also be reinforced through handwriting practice, supporting spelling accuracy and writing fluency.

### READING

- In reading, students will focus on developing fluency and expression, helping them read aloud with confidence and understanding. They will continue to build and apply a range of decoding strategies to tackle unfamiliar words, including using phonics knowledge, identifying chunks and patterns, and recognising prefixes and suffixes.
- Alongside this, we will be placing a strong emphasis on building comprehension strategies. Students will be supported to make predictions, summarise key ideas, ask and answer questions, infer meaning, and make connections between texts and their own experiences.

### ARTS

- Visual arts will be woven through our inquiry topics, giving students a creative outlet to explore themes and express ideas.
- All students have the opportunity to take part in regular **music and dance** sessions through **Poly Club** and **Kapa Haka**.
- These will be part of classroom learning to encourage **oral language**, creativity, and **confidence in performance**.
- Students will try different art styles and media. They'll also select a finished piece to be used for our **Calendar Art fundraiser** early this term.

# MATHS

- This term, our school is using the Oxford Maths programme to support students' maths learning. While this is a new resource, we will continue to use other resources to ensure the delivery of an effective maths programme.
- The programme has three main parts:

## 1. Student Book

Not every child will complete every page in this book. Each topic includes tasks at different levels—Guided, Independent, and Extended—so students can work at the level that's right for them. After doing a pre-test and some hands-on learning, students are supported to choose the right practice activity to help their understanding. Teachers will guide students and help with reading where needed.

## 2. Teacher Dashboard

This is a tool used by teachers. It includes lesson plans, assessment tasks, extension and mastery activities, and interactive resources. It also lets teachers display Student Book pages to the class.

## 3. Student Dashboard

This is a digital resource for students, where they can access their Student Book pages, activity sheets, and tests.

- If you have any questions, feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher.

# TOPIC

- This term, our ākonga will embark on an exciting journey exploring the **places, people, and taonga** that are special and significant to Porirua. We'll be delving into the rich history of our city, including the invaluable contributions of important **Ngāti Toa Rangatira** who have shaped Porirua.
- To bring this learning to life, we'll be organizing a **community treasure hunt** around Porirua, exploring these significant places and taonga firsthand. Keep an eye out for a notice coming home early this term, as we'll be seeking **parent helpers** for transport to make this educational adventure possible!

# MATHS WEEK

Maths Week will take place during week 5 (11-15 August). There will be a variety of activities they can take part in such as

- Daily quiz and problem solving
- Whole school maths event-estimating and calculating averages
- Buddy time-explore maths
- Marvellous Maths Morning on Friday-whānau can come into their child's class and play some maths games and other fun activities (8.30-9.30am on 15th August)

More information about the different activities will come out in the school newsletter and weekly teacher emails.

# HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HPE)

- Swimming Programme (Weeks 1–4)

Students will attend swimming lessons at Cannons Creek Pool, focusing on stroke development, water confidence, and basic swimming skills.

- Water Safety at Coastlands Aquatic Centre (Weeks 7–9)

Each year group will attend one session at Coastlands in Kapiti to build essential water safety skills.

- Gymnastics (Mid-Term 3)

During this time, students will take part in gymnastics sessions in the school hall, focusing on:

- Balance and coordination
- Safe movement and body control
- Rolling, jumping, and landing skills
- Using equipment like mats, benches, and small apparatus
- Creating short movement sequences and routines

These activities support students' physical development, confidence, and teamwork. If you have any questions or are interested in helping out during sessions or trips, please contact your child's teacher.

- Other PE activities

We will also be doing more work around developing the correct techniques with larger balls such as football, rugby and netball. This will involve skills around catching, passing, striking and shooting.

## MĀORI LANGUAGE WEEK

Each year Māori Language Week is held across New Zealand to promote the Māori language and to celebrate Māori culture. We will be taking part in this celebration through some fun activities. This year Māori Language Week is from 15–19 September (week 10). More information can be found at:

<https://nationaltoday.com/maori-language-week>

All classes will continue to focus on using as much te reo māori throughout the school day.

## LEARNING CONVERSATIONS AND REPORTS

On Tuesday July 22nd and Wednesday July 23rd (Week 2) there will be an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their learning. This will be a 15 minute time slot with individual families where students will share work and then have time to discuss progress and next steps in their learning journey. It is important that your child attends this.

# PARENT HELP FOR EOTC

This term, we have some exciting learning experiences planned outside the classroom—and we'll need your support to help make them happen!

Throughout Term 3, we'll be sending home notices with more details about each activity and the opportunity to help out. If you're available to assist with transport or supervision on one or more of these trips, we'd love to have you join us. Your help is essential to ensure these events run smoothly and safely.

Here's a quick overview of the upcoming activities and when they'll be happening:

## Swimming Lessons at Cannons Creek Pool

You have already received a notice about this. Thank you to those who have already offered to help with transport and supervision. These lessons provide important swimming skills for our tamariki, and your support is much appreciated!

## Swim Safety Programme – Coastlands Aquatic Centre, Kāpiti

In Weeks 7–9, our Middle Team students will take part in a water safety programme at the Coastlands Aquatic Centre. This includes lessons in lifesaving, water survival, life jacket use, water polo, and snorkelling.

Each year group will attend one session, with transport leaving school at 10:30am and returning by 2:00pm.

Dates:

Tuesday 26 August – Year 4

Tuesday 2 September – Year 5

Tuesday 9 September – Year 6

A bus has been booked, but we will need parent helpers to assist with transporting a small number of students and providing supervision during the session to meet safety ratios for water-based activities.

## Girls Futsal Tournament – Te Rauparaha Arena

We'll also be taking part in the Year 3/4 and 5/6 Girls Futsal Tournament at Te Rauparaha Arena. Details to come soon, but we will be looking for parent support for transport and sideline encouragement!

## Community Treasure Hunt – Exploring Porirua

As part of our Term 3 Social Science inquiry, each class will be heading out on a Community Treasure Hunt to visit some of Porirua's cultural and historical landmarks. Locations include Gear Homestead, Takapūwāhia Marae, Taupō Swamp, and the Poetry/Art Path.

Each group will travel by car in groups of 3–4 students. They'll receive a booklet with information, a map, and some fun tasks to complete along the way. We'll finish the day with lunch and a play at Aotea Lagoon.

To make this amazing experience possible, we'll need 5–6 parent helpers per class to assist with transport and supervision.

### Class Trip Days:

Thursday 7 August – Rooms 12 & 14

Friday 8 August – Rooms 21, 22 & 23

Tuesday 12 August – Rooms 11 & 13

Postponement Day: Friday 15 August (in case of bad weather)

Thank you so much for your ongoing support. These trips and experiences wouldn't be possible without our amazing parent community!

## UPCOMING DATES

Mon 14 July	School starts for term 3
Mon 14 July	Mihi Whakatau – welcoming new students and whānau
Tue 15 July	Start of our syndicate swimming lessons at Cannons Creek Pool
Tue/Wed 22/23 July	Learning conversations
Week 3	Start of Cook Island Language Week
Week 4	Start of Tongan Language Week
Week 5	Start of Maths Week
Wed 13 Aug	Middle Team swimming sports
Tues 26 Aug	Water safety at Kāpiti pool for all Year 4s
Tues 2 Sept	Water safety at Kāpiti pool for all Year 5s
Tues 9 Sept	Water safety at Kāpiti pool for all Year 6s
Week 10	Māori Language Week
Fri 19 Sept	Last day of term 3

## Contact Us:

Here are our email addresses in case you would like to make contact:

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Please feel free to discuss any issues or concerns with us as it is important that we maintain a collaborative partnership.

Kind regards,

Middle Team Teachers