



Kia ora koutou

Welcome to Term 2! We are all excited to continue the wonderful work that has taken place over the first term. Below you will find an overview of our teaching and learning this term as well as some key dates for the term ahead.

LITERACY

- This term, our writing focus will include creating interview scripts and developing our own plays to perform for an audience. Students will also explore poetry and learn how to use descriptive language to make their writing more engaging.
- Across the syndicate, all classes will continue with a phonics-based spelling programme, which will also be integrated into handwriting practice.

READING

- Teachers will support students to build their reading skills, focusing both on the mechanics of reading and on how to respond to texts to deepen understanding. Reading sessions will include topics that interest students, as well as those connected to our inquiry and writing focus for the term, such as playscripts and poetry.
- Students will work with their teacher to develop fluency and comprehension, while also applying the phonological skills they are learning through their spelling programme.

MATHS

- Our focus this term will be on revisiting addition and subtraction strategies as well as applying knowledge to solving problems in everyday contexts. We will also explore multiplication and division strategies that are relevant to their current needs.
- We will also be exploring statistics, which will look at using data collected from surveys to construct a variety of graphs and analyse the results.
- Basic facts will be consolidated and extended throughout their maths this term, especially through games and activities.

ARTS

- Students will have the opportunity to take part in music and dance through our regular Poly Club and Kapa Haka lessons.
- Dance for Schools will be providing 2 weeks of daily dance lessons with a performance to parents at the end.
- We will also look at a variety of visual art techniques that promote creativity.
- Singing and drama opportunities will be incorporated in our programmes to promote oral language and confidence.
- Later in the term we will explore a variety of art ideas to promote Matariki.

CONCEPTUAL CURRICULUM

To celebrate our school's 50th anniversary, our learning focus will be Whanaungatanga (relationships). We will explore how strong relationships have been the foundation of our school community over the past 50 years and how they continue to help us learn, grow, and thrive. Through reflecting on our journey, students will celebrate our history while also looking ahead to building a strong and connected future together.

Throughout Term 2, students will be learning about the history of our school and the people who have shaped it, both past and present. During this time, we will support students to plan and prepare a range of activities and initiatives leading up to our Student-Led 50th Anniversary Celebration, which will take place in the final weeks of Term 2.

If you are, or know, a past pupil from Discovery School's first 10 years, please let your child's teacher know. We would love to invite them to visit and share what school life was like at Discovery in those early years.

Further information will be shared with families once plans and ideas have been confirmed.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HPE)

- During the first 4 weeks of Term 2 we will focus on cross country. This will be a variety of fun activities to boost their stamina alongside running the course. The school cross country event will take place on Friday 15 May.
- During our class PE sessions, we will 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.
- Throughout the term we will continue to use the bike track and build on the skills and safety knowledge.


HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

Our key areas of focus for parents that would like to help their child/ren at home are Daily Reading basic facts and Mathletics.


Daily Reading


We encourage students to read for at least 15 minutes each day. They can read independently or aloud to a parent or sibling.

Ways to support your child's reading at home:

 Talk about the story – Ask questions like What happened? Who is your favourite character and why? What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?

 Explore new words – Discuss any tricky words and their meanings. Look for words with similar meanings.


 Break down difficult words – Help your child sound out tricky words by breaking them into smaller parts. Writing them down and revisiting them weekly can also help.

 Read a variety of books – Exploring different genres will expand their vocabulary and understanding. Visiting the local library is a great way to find new books!

Mathletics

Teachers will assign problem-solving and revision activities for students to complete at home.

 Completing two-three activities most school nights is ideal.

 Live Maths – This feature helps build quick recall of basic facts. Just 2-3 quick rounds per night (a few minutes) can make a big difference! Teachers can adjust difficulty levels as needed.

Our goal is for students to reach 1,000 points each week to earn a Mathletics certificate. Typically, students earn:

 100 points per activity

 10 points per Live Maths round

Basic facts

Regular practice of basic facts helps build a strong foundation for more complex maths learning and problem-solving.

- Start by practising addition and subtraction facts within 10, then extend to 20.
- Begin developing multiplication and division knowledge with the 2, 3, 4, and 5 times tables. Once these are confident, move on to the remaining facts.

When practising, try a mix of quick oral recall, written activities, and fun games to keep learning engaging. If you would like ideas or examples, please feel free to ask your child's teacher.

REMINDERS

We are continuing with our Hauora Kai. At 10 o'clock each day children have a 5 minute break to eat a delicious small snack (fresh fruit or vegetables only please) and to have a drink of water. Please include an appropriate snack in your child's lunchbox.

During the first 4 weeks of Term 2 we are doing regular cross country training, either on the course or other stamina promoting activities. It would be great if your child wears trainers on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays rather than crocs. They can always have their crocs packed ready to use after their training.

BOOK WEEK

Book Week will take place during week 2 and the theme is "Symphony of Stories." There will be a variety of activities they can take part in such as

- Daily stop, drop and read
- The Window Competition: decorate the classroom windows to reflect the "Symphony of Stories."
- Readathon to raise money for the school and the students
- Buddy reading
- Teachers reading their favourite books to another class
- Whitby Library visit (for some classes)
- Book Character Dress up parade (Friday week 2)



Readathon kicks off the beginning of Term 2 (Monday 20th April) and finishes at the end of Book Week (Friday 1st May). All money and forms will be due by 8th May.

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

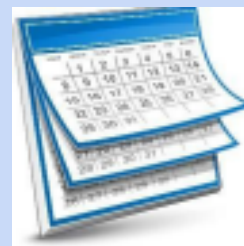
MATHLETICS

The Middle Syndicate will continue to use Mathletics this year (Years 4-6). It has been a huge success having access to Mathletics at school and at home. The teachers have seen an improvement in the students' academic achievement and attitude towards maths in general. Teachers have also noted that the programme reinforces classroom learning in a fun and rewarding way. We have enjoyed seeing many children achieve awards as they work their way through the programme.

We have incorporated Mathletics into the stationery list. It will cost \$26 per child. Without your voluntary contribution we would not be able to offer this programme. If you have not done so, please support the school by making this payment so it can continue in the future.

UPCOMING DATES

Mon 20 Apr	First day of school for students
Mon 20 Apr	Mihi Whakatau - welcoming new students and whānau to our School - 9.15 start
Mon 27 Apr	ANZAC Day-school closed
Tue 28 Apr	Start of Book Week
Fri 1 May	Book Character parade (Book Character theme)
Fri 15 May	School Cross Country event (PP Mon 18 May)
Wed 20 May	Parent Literacy Meeting
Fri 1 June	King's birthday-school closed
Mon 8 June	Start of our Dance for Schools programme (2 weeks)
Mon 29 June	50th anniversary celebration week
Fri 3 July	Last day of term 2



Contact Us

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

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Release Teachers for our Te Koko Team

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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, Te Koko Team Teachers