



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.

LITERACY

- This term, our learning theme is Sustainability to Thrive and Grow. Through our conceptual curriculum mahi, students will explore how people can make choices that help care for our environment, especially our Te Koko and waterways, and create a more sustainable future.
- In writing, students will focus on report writing and explanations. They will research sustainability-related topics, learn how to organise information clearly, and develop their ability to explain ideas, processes, and concepts using accurate facts and detailed information.
- 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 on how to respond to texts to deepen understanding. Reading sessions will include a range of fiction and non-fiction texts connected to our sustainability inquiry, helping students explore environmental issues, conservation, and ways people can make a positive difference in their communities.
- Students will work with their teacher to develop fluency and comprehension, while also applying the phonological skills they are learning through their spelling programme. They will be encouraged to think critically about what they read and make connections between texts and our learning about sustainability.

MATHS

- Our focus this term will be on developing students' understanding of multiplication and division strategies and applying these skills to solve real-life problems. We will also be exploring fractions, helping students build confidence in understanding, comparing, and using fractions in meaningful contexts.

- Students will be introduced to financial literacy concepts, including budgeting, saving, spending, and making informed financial decisions. They will apply their mathematical thinking to authentic situations involving money and everyday financial choices.
- Students will revisit and strengthen their understanding of statistics, geometry, and measurement concepts before extending their learning into new areas. They will collect, display, and interpret data, explore the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, and develop their measurement skills through practical, real-world investigations involving length, area, perimeter, volume, mass, and time.
- Basic facts knowledge will continue to be consolidated and extended throughout the term, with a particular focus on multiplication and division facts through games, rich tasks, and engaging learning activities.

ARTS

- Visual arts will be woven through our conceptual curriculum, 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.

CONCEPTUAL CURRICULUM

This term, our conceptual curriculum focus is Sustainability to thrive and grow, with a particular emphasis on being kaitiaki (guardians) of our local environment. Students will explore what it means to care for the people, places, and resources around us, and how our actions can help create a sustainable future for our community. Our tamariki will explore our Te Koko (inlet) and how our new team names are interlinked. Through inquiry, discussion, and hands-on learning, students will investigate ways they can make a positive difference in their school, local area, and wider world.

Throughout the term, students will learn about environmental sustainability and explore how individuals and communities can work together to protect and enhance the places we value. They will engage in a range of learning experiences that encourage them to think critically about environmental challenges, develop solutions, and take meaningful action as kaitiaki of our school and local area.

As part of this learning, students will participate in projects and activities that help them understand the importance of caring for our environment, reducing waste, conserving resources, and contributing positively to their community. This will require whānau support in the form of supervision on our planned trips.

Further information will be shared with families as our learning evolves, with students playing an active role in shaping the direction of our inquiries, projects, and actions throughout the term.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HPE)

- **Swimming Programme (Weeks 1–3)**

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

- 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.
- Later in the term we will start our athletics training as our school event takes place early in Term 4.

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.

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:

Browns Bay Environmental Walk

As part of our sustainability learning, students will walk to Browns Bay to explore the local environment and explore our Te Koko (inlet). They will observe natural features, identify ways people impact the area, and consider how we can be kaitiaki of our local community and environment.

Date to be confirmed—it will be early in the term.

Swimming Lessons at Cannons Creek Pool

Date: Week 1-3

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!

Swimming Sports

Date: Wednesday 19 August

Year 4-6 students in Te Koko will travel to Cannons Creek Pool by bus (small number by car) to take part in our annual swimming sports. Parents are welcome to come along to watch.

Te Papa Trip for Rooms 11-14

Each Year 4/5 class will have time to explore selected areas of Te Papa and also attend a 1 hour workshop with Te Papa staff around Te Taiao | Nature through a sustainability lens.

Date: Monday 17 August

Room 11 and 12 9.05am-12.45pm

Room 13 and 14 11.05am-2.45pm

Pataka Visit- Mutumutu ki Mukukai Programme

As part of our sustainability inquiry, students will visit Pataka to explore the Mutumutu ki Mukukai exhibition. Guided by a Ngāti Toa Rangatira host, students will learn about our local waterways, history, and taonga. The visit will conclude with a hands-on art activity, including marbling and tuna (eel) drawing, to reinforce their learning.

Date:

Monday 31 August - Room 11 & 13

Wednesday 2 September - Room 12 & 14

Thursday 3 September - Room 21

Monday 7 September - Room 22 & 23

MATHS WEEK

Maths Week will take place during week 4 (10-14 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 games
- Treasurehunt involving a maths theme
- Measurement challenges

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

MATHLETICS

Te Koko 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.

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 14-21 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.

At Discovery School, our commitment to te reo Māori extends well beyond this special week. As part of our regular classroom programme, students use te reo Māori every day through greetings, instructions, classroom conversations, waiata, karakia, and the learning of new kupu (vocabulary). We encourage students to use these kupu confidently throughout the school day, helping to strengthen their language skills and celebrate the unique culture and identity of Aotearoa.

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

On Tuesday 28 July and Wednesday 29 July (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 as they will be leading the first part.

UPCOMING DATES

Mon 20 July	First day of school for students
Mon 20 July	Mihi Whakatau - welcoming new students and whānau
Tue 21 July	Swimming lessons start
Mon 27 July	Book Fair opens in the library
Tues 28 July	Learning Conversations
Wed 29 July	Learning Conversations
Mon 3 August	Start of Cook Island Language Week
Mon 10 August	Start of Maths Week
Mon 17 August	Rooms 11-14 visiting Te Papa
Wed 19 August	Year 4-6 Swimming Sports
Mon 24 August	Curriculum Day (School Closed)
Week 7	Class Trips to Pataka
Mon 7 September	Room 22 & 23 trip to Pataka
Wed 9 September	Year 3-6 Girls Futsal Tournament
Mon 14 September	Start of Maori Language Week
Fri 25 September	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