



TERM 2 TEAM LETTER

Walking Together as Church - Te Whānau o Te Karaiti

We are called to be people of aroha, learning and leading together in right relationship. We follow Jesus' call to walk with one another in love, faith, and mission, growing as servant leaders who uplift the dignity of all.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches

Matthew 13:31-32

"Let the mustard seed be hidden for a little time, continue to water it with prayer before God, and soon you will see it yield fruit a hundred fold."
Euphrasie Barbier 1863

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to school. This term, our teachers are:

Aroha Years 0-1 - Mrs Lesley Wallace, Mrs Joanna Wilcox, Mrs Jess Knight, Mrs Ashley Clarke, and Mrs Fleur de Farias.

Ako Years 2-3 - Mrs Linda Sokimi, Mrs Jenni Logan, Mrs Estelle Julius, Ms Sheri D'Souza, Mrs Janelle Webster, Mrs Sam Tino and Mrs Natalie Flynn.

Arahi Years 4-6 - Mrs Tiana Farrell, Miss Sophie Pyne, Miss Nicole Sarginson, Mrs Flerinda Valondo, Miss Morgan Jones, Mrs Megan Webster, Mrs Sophie Hartnett, and Mrs Kerri Egelmeer.

ATTENDANCE

Please notify the school every day your child is absent via the eTAP app or by calling the office. Unexplained absences are recorded as truant.

LATENESS

Students should arrive by 8:30am. After 8:45am, they must sign in at the office and collect a pink slip. Late returns after lunch are also recorded.

@SCHOOL APP

Please install the app and enable notifications—this is our main form of communication.

MOBILE PHONES & DEVICES

To meet government regulations, mobile phones and smart watches must not be used during school hours, including breaks. Any phones brought to school must be handed to the kaitiaki teacher for safekeeping until the end of the day. Parents/caregivers needing to contact their child should phone the school office

BOOK WEEK / PERFORMANCE EDUCATION

Week 5 is book week! We are excited to offer various activities and programmes to promote a love of reading. On Thursday, students are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character. On Friday, Perform Education will be presenting the show "Treasure Hunt". You can find out more information at performeducation.com

LIFE EDUCATION

In Weeks 7 and 8, Harold the Giraffe will be visiting our school. Students will take part in health lessons focused on healthy living. A parent session will be available. The date is TBC.

MATARIKI and GRANDPARENTS' DAY

During the final week of term, we will celebrate Matariki with a range of activities for students. The last day of term will be Grandparents' Day—whānau are warmly invited to attend a special liturgy and visit open classrooms.

UNIFORM

Terms 2 & 3

A winter uniform is required.

Girls: blouse with skirt (Y4–6) or pinafore (Y0–3), white socks.

Boys: grey winter shorts, grey socks.

Shoes: plain black leather/waterproof.

Jewellery: stud earrings and a watch only.

Please inform Mrs Hall, the Principal, if your child wears taonga.

Years 3–6: PE uniform (green shorts and school top) to be at school daily.

Please name all clothing.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES:

As we head into winter, our fields can become muddy. Students who choose to play on them should bring a change of old clothes and a small towel to clean their feet.

KICKSTART BREAKFAST

We are very fortunate to have a breakfast programme at school. Students are invited to eat breakfast and chat in the hall kitchen from 8:00 am. Breakfast includes Weetbix and milk, and varied fruit that has been kindly donated.

BIRTHDAYS AND TOYS

As we are a health-promoting school and many of our children have food allergies, we request that no sweets/cakes are brought to school to celebrate birthdays. Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home as they distract from their learning. If they are brought to school and lost, the school will not be responsible.

CONNECTING WITH TEACHERS:

Connecting with families is an important aspect of our work at school. However, speaking to teachers while students are present can be difficult. We are usually available for parent meetings on Wednesday to Friday after school or by prior arrangement. We are also available via email. Please allow appropriate time for a response. If you need an urgent response, please contact the school office.

**CLASSROOMS WILL BE OPEN EACH DAY
AT 8:30 am**



ENDURING UNDERSTANDING : WE UNDERSTAND HOW WE BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY AND HOW WE CAN BE A PART OF HIS CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This term, our focus strand is *Kia Noho Hāhi - Being Church*, with an emphasis on the question, "I Belong - How Do I Belong?" The students will develop an understanding that they are a part of God's family, and what they do and how they behave towards others is important. The students will recognise that the church has rituals, symbols and holy things, and they can learn what to do and say to be part of them. Throughout the term, we will also explore key events in the Church calendar, including Easter, the Ascension, and Pentecost.

MASSES & LITURGIES: This term we will be attending some Friday morning Masses. There will also be a special School-Assisted Mass on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, 24 May at 10 am, and it would be wonderful to have our families there to celebrate together. We finish our term with Grandparents' Day and will have a Liturgy at school. All of our assemblies open with a liturgy. You are invited to all of the assemblies, liturgies and Masses. Check the term dates for more information.

ENGLISH: Our Literacy programme focuses on learning letter names and sounds (phonics), mastering correct letter formation and beginning to decode words as students learn to read and write. We implement this through a structured literacy approach. From Monday to Thursday, your child will bring home their book bag, which includes a home/school book. They will also have some form of literacy homework. This may consist of a reader, a letter/sound book, a cut-up sentence, a poem, handwriting practice, or a book for you to read to them. Please note that your child will not be able to take a reader home if their book bag is not at school. Daily reading (adult to child, together, or child to adult), learning of letters and the sounds they make as well as correct formation of letters (handwriting) is vital for your child's learning progress in all areas of Literacy.

MATHEMATICS: Our topics this term are Shape and Spatial reasoning (2D and 3D shapes), Number Structure and Algebra (recognising repeated patterns).

SCIENCE: Our Biological Science unit this term is "Organism Diversity: Discovering Life." In this unit, students will explore the variety of living things in our world. We will focus on identifying the observable features of plants and animals and discovering how these traits help them survive in their specific environments.

SOCIAL SCIENCE: Our topic for Social Science is "Past and Present". The students will explore how life has changed—and stayed the same—over time.

THE ARTS: We will have a focus on Drama this term. The students will be diving into the world of imagination and storytelling to help students build confidence and express themselves.

PE/HEALTH: In Health and Physical Education, students will be using choreographed movement to develop mobility, strength and flexibility. We will also be working with the Life Education Trust to learn how about where our food comes from. Students will explore the sources of the foods that we eat, and relate this to their own nutrition and the need for a balanced diet.

HOME LEARNING: Our students all have a Home School Book in their book bag which will include their home learning tasks. Please refer to the above statement in English. Any notices from your child's teacher will be included in this book and whanau can add notes for their teacher as well.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.**

This term, our Religious Education theme is *Kia Noho Hāhi – Being Church*.

In Year 2, students will explore the focus “I Belong: How do I belong?” They will learn about being part of God’s Catholic community, making positive choices, and finding ways to care for and support others.

In Year 3, the focus is “My Spiritual Journey: Where am I going?” and “Sacraments: Help for my hikoi.” Through this learning, students will begin to understand how they can live their best lives guided by the Good News of Jesus’ teachings. They will also develop an awareness of Catholic tradition and teaching, and reflect on God’s call in their lives.

Throughout the term, we will also explore key events in the Church calendar, including Easter, the Ascension, and Pentecost.

MASSES & LITURGIES: We will be attending several Friday morning Masses throughout the term, and we warmly invite you to join us whenever you are able. There will also be a special School-Assisted Mass on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, 24 May at 10 am, and it would be wonderful to have our families there to celebrate together.

All of our assemblies begin with a liturgy, and you are always very welcome to come along and share in these special moments with us. Please check the term dates for further details.

ENGLISH: This term, our literacy learning includes reading, writing, spelling, and handwriting. As part of our daily structured literacy, children will regularly practise both spelling and handwriting to build their confidence and skills.

In writing, children will be creating texts to entertain, while learning to think about their audience and choosing the right words.

In reading, we will be developing understanding skills so students can make sense of what they read. Your child will also bring home a reader or decodable book to practise their reading at home. Please make sure they bring a book bag each day so books can travel safely between school and home.

MATHEMATICS: This term in Maths, Year 3 students will begin by building their skills in multiplication and division, before exploring algebra and measurement. They will finish the term by collecting and making sense of data in a statistics unit.

Year 2 students will strengthen their understanding of addition and subtraction, including solving simple word problems. They will also explore numbers up to 100, investigate shapes, and learn how to measure length in practical ways.

OTHER LEARNING AREAS:

This term, our learning is full of exciting discoveries! In Social Studies, we are exploring global history. Year 2 students will step back in time to discover what life was like in the Stone Age, while Year 3 students will uncover the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt.

In Science, Year 2 will investigate forces and motion, experimenting with magnets and how they work. Year 3 will explore Earth and Space, learning about the Sun and the important role it plays in our everyday lives.

In Health and Physical Education, students will be building their movement skills through fun striking and fielding games. We will also be working with the Life Education Trust to learn how food fuels our bodies and helps us stay healthy and active.

HOME LEARNING

All Year 2–3 students have access to Reading Eggs and Mathseeds at home using the same login (see your child’s home learning book for details).

Home learning is sent out on Mondays and due back on Fridays. It includes a short worksheet covering spelling, writing, and maths.

Students will also bring home a reader or library book to share with a parent—please read together and sign the home learning book. Some books may be kept for several nights or a full week.

OHO AKE - INSPIRED: WE UNDERSTAND THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLES AND HOW WE CAN LIVE THESE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This term, our focus is “Being Church.” This theme explores how we are called to live meaningful and purposeful lives grounded in the Good News and teachings of Jesus. Students will continue to deepen their understanding of Catholic tradition and teaching, as well as reflect on God’s call in their lives. Throughout the term, students will be encouraged to reflect on their personal choices, the direction of their lives, and the impact their decisions have on others. They will be introduced to Catholic Social Teaching (CST), gaining an understanding of its key principles and how these can be applied in their everyday lives.

MASSES & LITURGIES: We will be taking turns in our year groups to attend Mass on Friday mornings. Arahi Year 6 will attend Friday Mass alongside Aroha Y0/1. Arahi Year 5 will attend Mass with Year 2. Arahi Year 4 will attend Mass with Year 3. We will have whole-school Masses throughout the year. All are welcome to attend Mass, and we will keep you updated on when they will occur. This can also be found on the school calendar.

ENGLISH: This term in English, our focus will be on developing persuasive writing skills. In addition, handwriting and spelling will continue to be explicitly taught each term to support students’ overall literacy development. We will continue to utilise the Writer’s Toolbox programme, enabling students to progress along their individual writing pathways while receiving timely and relevant feedback. Whole-class and small-group reading instruction will also remain an integral part of our literacy programme. Students are encouraged to borrow books from the school library each week to further support their reading development and foster a love of reading.

MATHEMATICS: Our team will continue to use the Maths No Problem resource to support the implementation of the new Mathematics curriculum. This term, students will explore a range of topics, including number (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), fractions, and statistics. There will also be an ongoing focus on the development of basic facts to strengthen mathematical fluency. We encourage families to support their child’s learning at home by practising these basic facts regularly. Students are also expected to engage with Maths-Whizz as part of their independent learning.

SOCIAL SCIENCE: Year 6 students will explore Geography through urbanisation and climate change, including their impacts in New Zealand and the Pacific. Year 5 students will study the Shang Dynasty within Ancient and Imperial China, examining daily life, leadership, beliefs, and innovations. Year 4 students will investigate Ancient Greece and Rome, focusing on government, society, culture, and their lasting legacies.

SCIENCE: Year 6 students will study Matter Interactions and Energy through simple circuits. Year 5 students will explore Materials, Forces, Simple Machines, and Fluid Properties, while Year 4 students will focus on Motion and Forces, as well as Earth and Space through a unit on Matariki.

PE: Students will develop their movement skills through a range of activities, including balance, strength, and flexibility in gymnastics and dance. They will also participate in a variety of games, such as net and wall games, striking and fielding, and invasion games.

HOME LEARNING: Students will be expected to complete four Math-Whizz progressions and read for 15–20 minutes per night. Students are expected to complete homework every week.