



SENIOR TEAM NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2026

Curriculum Focus

LITERACY

This year we will continue to teach using a structured approach. This means well structured lessons in a sequence of what needs to be taught/learned first. We will use IDEAL as our spelling program, and Writer's Toolbox as a tool to support our writing development. This year the senior students will be set up with an account on Spellcaster - an online structured literacy program which can be done at school and at home. We will continue to develop our reading in whole class reading sessions which will be linked to our inquiry topic of Kō wai Au - Who am I?

MATHS

This year we have chosen to use the Prime Maths program to support our teaching of the NZ Curriculum. Prior to the term starting we undertook some professional development around how to implement the program and the best way to incorporate it into our daily teaching of maths. Students will have their own 'practice' books which they will complete set tasks in. We will begin the year focusing on Number Knowledge.

HEALTH & PE

This term we will take part in swimming fitness - this will be 2 or 3 times per week. Please ensure your child has their togs each day (they must have a cap).

We have our school swimming sports in week 4 and then our school TRYathlon in the last week of the term. Students will be given time to train for this prior to the event. The TRYathlon is more about giving it a go and having fun, rather than a focus on winning.

Garden to Table will be on a Thursday this year.

HOMEWORK

The senior school will be sending weekly homework sheets home on a Monday - there is an expectation that these are done and returned back to school to be marked on Friday.

Completing set homework is a great way to revisit the learning from the day which does help to retain more information.

CAMPS

Please check your emails for any camp forms - these must be filled asap so we can confirm what parents are going.



What's New

WELCOME TO THE SENIOR TEAM

Welcome to Josh Proud who will be teaching in Kuaka (Room 2) this year. Josh has moved from Ruakaka and previously at Mangawhai where he taught year 7 & 8 students.

Mrs Herbet and Whaea Ainslea will be teaching in Kōtuku (Room 1) this year. Mrs Hoddle and Mrs Smith will be teaching in Tōrea (Room 3) again.

This year Maree Smith will be team leader of the Senior School as Jordan McDonald will be focusing on his DP role.

Reminders

- **HEADPHONES:** all students need a pair of headphones for their online learning. This is not on the stationery list - however is a requirement - we have hooks in the class to hang them up - please make sure they are named.
- **Swimming caps** are required for swimming
- We encourage children to drink water during class time, so please send them with a **water bottle**.
- Term 1 & 4 students are required to wear **hats** when outside.
- **Correct uniform** from day 1 please.
- Children will need their **stationery** straight away so please make sure you have ordered this.

Upcoming Dates

- 9th Feb Students return to school
- 9th Feb Family Picnic 5.30pm
- 10th Feb Watersafe lessons begin
- 10th Feb PTA meeting
- 12th Feb Mihi Whakatau (Welcome)
- 13th Feb PTA Mufti Day
- 23rd Feb 2.45pm Senior Camp meeting
- 4th March Bee Keeping
- 6th March Senior School Swimming sports
- 11th - 13th March Rm 1 Kōtuku Camp
- 18th - 20th March Rm 2 Kuaka Camp
- 25th - 27th March Rm 3 Tōrea Camp
- 25th March EPRo8 Finals
- 25th March Bee Keeping
- 31st March TRYathlon
- 3rd April Good Friday (school holidays begin)