



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year. We are looking forward to the term ahead.

This term our 6th Kōwhai classroom officially starts in Room 10 with Mrs St. Clair and they will learn in collaboration with Rooms 8 and 9.

Term 3 Themes

In Kōwhai, we will continue to build knowledge of the world through explicit teaching and exploration opportunities within student-led learning time.

Rooms 8, 9 and 10 will have an overarching theme of Māori Myths and Legends. Experiences will be designed to help them understand Māori are tangata whenua; they were the first people of this land and have stories about their origins and arrival. The Adventure Way trait of curiosity will be integral within this focus and tamariki will be encouraged to respond with wonderings, questions and experimentation. Self-awareness will also continue to be developed.

Rooms 13, 14 and 15 will focus on The Summer Olympic Games with Self Awareness, Collaboration and Creativity explicitly taught and reinforced. There will be a spotlight on knowing and expressing their own emotions and acknowledging them in others. The tamariki will be learning ways they can build positive relationships through having an awareness of what they say and do around others. The importance of a Growth Mindset will also be reinforced and children will be encouraged to persevere when faced with challenges.

Literacy

In all classes, tamariki have daily whole class literacy sessions that include spelling, handwriting, vocabulary development, sentence structure, and comprehension skills. In addition, they take part in small group sessions that are specifically targeted to their individual needs.

In Year 1, our spelling programme aims to develop strong automatic recall of the common sounds for each letter of the alphabet and early digraphs (sh, ch, the, ng). In the second year at school the focus is on more advanced vowel patterns e.g. long vowel patterns such as magic e and r controlled patterns e.g. ar, er, or

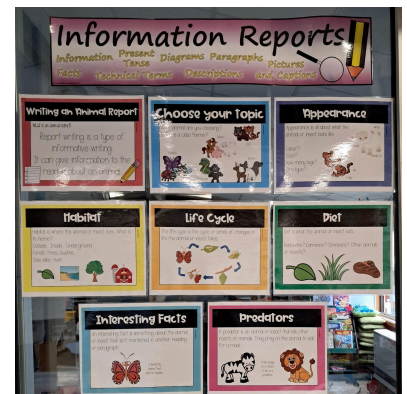
Across the school we follow the same scope and sequence for writing with a focus on building strong transcription skills first.



Tamariki are initially taught to write in grammatically correct sentences that have correct layout and accurate punctuation. A clear purpose for writing is developed from the beginning and gradually the children learn more and more features of the different text types.

Most children in Rooms 8 and 9 are now ready to move from dictated sentences to crafting their own stories. The context for this will be Maori Myths and Legends and they will be exploring the Maori Gods and other characters.

In Rooms 13, 14 and 15 tamariki will focus on factual writing and learn about information reports and instructional writing. Their first context will be animals e.g. writing about their classification, appearance, diet, habitat, life cycle, prey or predators. The children will also write facts about the Olympics to tie in with their inquiry.



Mathematics

Our Tamariki also have whole class and small group learning as part of mathematics.

Last term all students in Rooms 8, 9 and 10 participated in 'Number Fun' lessons as an addition to their regular maths learning. It is a structured approach with an emphasis on Place Value - an essential concept for children to understand. Number Fun will continue this term. Rooms 8, 9 and 10 will also be covering Statistics and Measurement (length, weight, area), additive and multiplicative thinking. Tamariki will be using the number knowledge they have built so far to solve addition, subtraction, multiplicative and division problems.

Rooms 13, 14 and 15 will be continuing to consolidate skills for solving addition and subtraction problems and also diving into multiplicative thinking (using skip-counting, repeated addition and making groups to solve word problems). They will learn about fractions of shapes and sets of objects as well as look at geometric thinking - naming 2D and 3D shapes and using mathematical language to describe them. Lots to cover!!

The Arts and PE

We will continue with our Arts rotations. For Physical Education, Year 2 will go swimming and Year 1 students will focus on building a range of skills: Manipulation (throwing and catching), Locomotor (walking and running) and Stability (balance).

Many thanks from your awesome Kōwhai team,

Rebecca St Clair, Nadine Amorangi, Tania Sibley, Vanessa Burn, Cathy Murray and Amanda-Lee Lemmon