

Nīkau Newsletter



Welcome to Nīkau for Term One 2026

The Nīkau Team is excited and ready for 2026, and we're looking forward to working alongside your children. It has been wonderful to welcome them back into the block, excited and ready to learn. This year we have four classroom teachers, as well as Tania Bourke, who will be working across all four classrooms to cover CRT release. She will be in Room 4 on Thursdays while I am on Senior Teacher release. We are also very fortunate to have Andrea Matheson working with us. She will be based in the gallery, working with different groups of students across the three main curriculum areas from 9:00am to 1:00pm each day.

- Amy Churchill (R5)
- Toni-Marie Bennett (R4)
- Solé du Plessis (R3)
- Richard McQueen (R2)



What We Are Learning

Over the past two weeks, each teacher has been getting to know your children, their strengths, interests, and learning needs, while also establishing strong routines and clear expectations. Building these foundations early helps create a positive, settled learning environment where all students can thrive.

In Nīkau, we begin each day with a karakia and pepeha, fostering a sense of belonging and connection within our classrooms. We then move into our structured literacy programme, followed by numeracy. These core learning blocks are a key priority and are delivered through explicit teaching, targeted group work, and purposeful practice.

During the final block of the day, students engage in other curriculum areas such as Inquiry, Art, and Physical Education. Every Friday, we hold a Discovery session, where students engage in various play based activities.

Animal Inquiry

This year, our overarching Inquiry concept will be based around animals, which links to an exciting opportunity ahead - our Zoo Sleepover in Term 4. Throughout the year, students will explore animal classification, habitats, adaptations, life cycles, and ecosystems. They will investigate how animals are grouped, how they survive in different environments, and the relationships between living things and their habitats. This rich context provides meaningful opportunities to integrate literacy, science, social science and technology.

Homework

We are introducing a new homework system that offers optional literacy and numeracy practice that's aligned with classroom learning. Students will be responsible for returning folders and collecting new sheets. Further details will be shared on HERO once classroom routines are established.