



Waka –Ngā Hauora Tamariki

At Te Kura o Cobden, we are all in the same waka (canoe).

The rauawa around the sides of the waka, are decorated with manaia, to symbolise everyone working together. The taurapa (stern) steers and stabilises the waka, featuring a takarangi design that represents the balance between Papatūānuku (the earth) and Rangi (sky).

The spirals in the design show movement, with the centre representing the solid space of Papatūānuku.

At Cobden School, we experience Ngā Hau e Whā (the four winds): Te Hau Rāwhiti (eastly), Te Hau-ā-uru (westerly), Te Hau Tonga (southerly), and Te Hau Raki (northerly). Which is blowing today?

In our māra and on our waka, brings awareness to each of these winds and their effects. It is just as well we have a strong taurapa (stern) and tau ihu (bow) to guide us. You can see the blue of Te Tai o Poutini as the waka carries our ākonga forward on their journey.



Pou Tiaki

Pou Tiaki is at the back of the waka, watching over the school and its whānau. Pou Tiaki stands guard and protects the māra, reminding us to respect its environment.

Te Tipunga o te Tamaiti

Te Tipunga o te Tamaiti is a pou to the west of the garden. The piko symbolises the growth of our children and all living things in our māra.

Rongomātane, the atua of peace and cultivated foods is in this pou and nurtures our space.



Te Taiao o Te Kura o Cobden - Our Environment

Whakapapa of Harakeke

The three harakeke at the stern of the waka were donated by Barrytown School, who has been nurturing them for six years. These harakeke come from the Rene Orchiston Collection at Lincoln.

The harakeke at the bow of the waka is from the late Nana Hariata Murphy's collection on Bright Street. She brought these special weaving harakeke from her papakāinga at Wairoa. Many thanks to her son Phil for donating them to Cobden School.

Native Plants and Trees

We are grateful for the living koha from rangatahi at Papa Taiao, Trees for Change. They provided and helped us plant 80 native plants which they had raised from seedlings. These include Horoeka (Lancewood); Tarata (Pittosporum); Kahikatea; Kawakawa; Harakeke (Flax); and Ti Kōuka (Cabbage Tree).



Reflection Bench

The wooden bench at Cobden School is shaped into a three-dimensional oval complemented by additional pieces carved into a prism-like circle. It is anchored in concrete with pounamu touch stones, adding a meaningful element to its design. Surrounded by Ponga, it feels like it's in the ngahere (forest). Students can relax there during breaks, enjoying the nearby field and greenery, feeling the breeze and warmth of the sun.



Why Does Cobden School Have Two Flags?

Cobden School proudly displays two flags to celebrate our unity and heritage. This tradition began with Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi), an important 1840 agreement between Māori and the United Kingdom.

The flag of New Zealand, Aotearoa is represented by blue for the Pacific Ocean and sky, stars for the Southern Cross, and the Union Jack, recognising New Zealand's place in the Commonwealth. More recently, Linda Munn designed the Tino Rangatiratanga flag in 1989. It has black for Ranginui (sky father) and red for Papatūānuku (earth mother).

At Cobden School, these flags are positioned at the stern and bow of our waka in the hauora garden, symbolising our shared journey and values. They remind us of the pride and strong sense of belonging we feel as a community. Though New Zealand may be small, it is truly amazing!

COBDEN SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Caring, Co operation, Communication
Manaakitanga, Mahi Ngatahi, Korero Mai



A community of learners where wellbeing and relationships encourage ākonga to be confident, engaged and caring critical thinkers.

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COBDEN SCHOOL

Newsletter 14th March 2025



Kia ora koutou,

Cobden School has been a hive of activity over the past couple of weeks! A huge congratulations to the students who competed in the Grey District Swimming event, which is an incredible achievement. Tyler and Ruhi qualified to go through to the West Coast Swimming event in Hokitika next week. Our fun Cobden School swimming event is also coming up later this month, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone participate.

Last week, Mr. Baillie took our rugby league teams to a tournament, and it was fantastic to see so many of our girls giving it a go and representing Cobden. We were also lucky to have the Jets team visit as part of the Westside Blitz — perfect timing as we head into basketball season!

This week, our 2025 Manukura leaders took part in a training day focused on physical activity and leadership. They are excited to start running lunchtime games for our tamariki.

We're also pleased to share that our attendance rates have increased, and there has been a noticeable decrease in unjustified absences. This is great progress, and we encourage everyone to keep up the momentum — let's make every day count by having our kids turn up every day and get the most out of school.

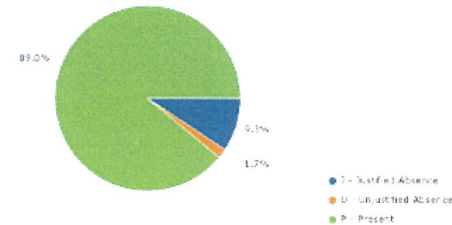
It's now been six weeks since we started trialling our new maths resources that align with the refreshed curriculum. I do hope your children are sharing their learning at home and talking about some of the new mathematical strategies they are using in class. It's been great to see so many of our tamariki growing in confidence with maths!

Lastly, our 2025 Annual Implementation Plan is now live on our school website, so feel free to check it out to see our key goals and focus areas for the year ahead.

Ngā mihi,
Noula Markham
Principal

Why do kids need to be at School?

So they can learn and make progress in their writing, spelling and maths.
Mac Maclean Year 7



Cobden School

Important Dates 2025 - Also on the Skool Loop Calendar tab

Term 1

Tuesday 18th March	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Wednesday 19th March	Cans For Good Greymouth Food Bank - Bring a can and wear Mufti.
Friday 21st March	Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Mokokoko 1
Wednesday 26th March	Cobden School Fun Swimming Sports
Thursday 27th March	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Thursday 27th March	Scholastic Book Club issue 2 - Orders Close
Tuesday 1st April	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Tuesday 1st April	Duffy Role Model Assembly for Students
Wednesday 2nd April	Cobden School Athletics - Anzac Park - We are going on Buses.
Wednesday 2nd April	2pm Cobden School Colour Run Fundraiser - Cobden Tip head
Friday 4th April	Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Mokokoko 2
Tuesday 8th April	Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom
Wednesday 9th April	Grey District Athletics
Thursday 10th April	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Friday 11th April	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 28th April	Term 2 Begins

Disclaimer: Dates and Times are correct at the time of printing but are subject to change. Please check our Skool Loop Calendar.

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

Caring, Co-operation, Communication

This terms focus:

“Korero Mai - Communication”
“Words Matter - Choose Kindness”

Values Card Winners:

Term 1	Week 5	Ruby, Reign & Lexie
	Week 6	Ruhi, Tyler, Kora & Mason K.



Our manukura are learning how to be positive leaders in our school. Demonstrating kindness makes the world happier! Their leadership will boost confidence, happiness and optimism while inspiring others to do the same, creating a more positive community.



Cobden Manukura attended PAL'S Training at the Westland Recreation Centre.



This year Cobden had 3 teams in the West Coast Rugby League Festival competing for the Trevor Kilkelly Memorial Trophy at Wingham Park. Well done everyone for giving it a go!



Thank you and well done to our Grey District Swim competitors. Congratulations to Ruhi and Tyler who have qualified for the West Coast Swimming in Hokitika next week.



The Jets Basketball team visited Cobden School as part of the Westside Blitz . They were very tall! Taller than Mr Baillie!



Amount raised to date \$6000

Our Colour Fun Run Fundraiser update - Thank you for your support. Keep sharing your child's fundraising profile on your socials and text. The teachers have been slimed and Mokokoko 1 & 2 enjoyed their Juicies Ice Blocks on Friday. The colouring competition is being judged by our Mural Artist, Stacey, and the winners will be announced at Assembly next Friday at 12pm.

