

### 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 papakainga at Wairoa. Many thanks to her son Phil for donating them to Cobden School.

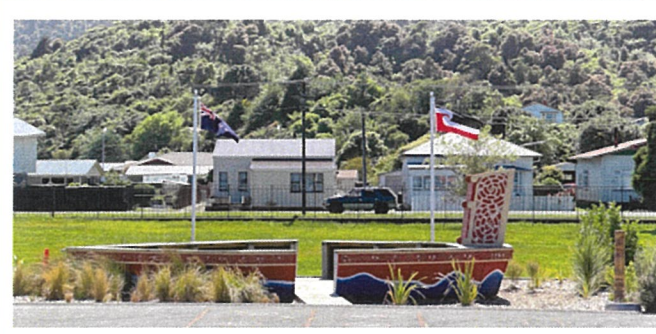
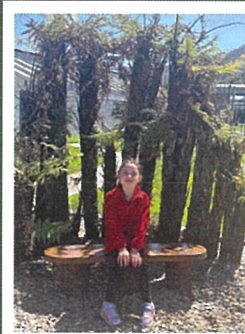
### Native Plants and Trees

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 Tī 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 11th April 2025



Kia ora koutou,

Although the term ended a little earlier than expected with our school closure, there's still so much to celebrate. This term, ākonga have been involved in a wide range of learning activities inside and outside the classroom. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they explored new ideas, built connections, and embraced challenges. Our ākonga and staff have worked incredibly hard and now deserve a well-earned rest over the holiday.

Next term, we look forward to further exploring culture and identity, holding our ANZAC special assembly, and celebrating Matariki as a school community. With our major focus being on literacy and maths, this will continue to underpin our teaching and learning across all areas.

We're also excited for the start of basketball season, rafting adventures for our seniors, and all the opportunities these experiences bring for teamwork, growth, and fun. Planning is also underway for other Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) activities, adding even more rich experiences to our learning programme.

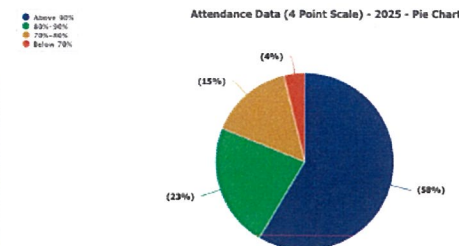
As the seasons are changing, we're pleased to share that our boiler will be up and running to keep everyone warm and comfortable throughout the cooler months. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all our whānau and parents for your ongoing support throughout the term—it truly makes a difference.

Ngā mihi,  
Noula Markham  
Principal



## Why do kids need to be at School?

So they can learn to have a growth mindset and be more independent.  
Leanne, our wonderful cleaner.



## Cobden School

### Important Dates 2025 - Also on the Skool Loop Calendar tab

#### Term 2

Monday 28th April  
Tuesday 29th April  
Thursday 1st May  
Friday 2nd May  
Friday 2nd May  
Friday 2nd May  
Tuesday 6th May  
Thursday 8th May  
Tuesday 13th May  
Friday 16th May  
Friday 16th May  
Thursday 22nd May  
Tuesday 27th May  
Tuesday 27th May  
Friday 30th May  
Monday 2nd June  
Thursday 5th June  
Tuesday 10th June  
Friday 13th June  
Friday 13th June  
Thursday 19th June  
Thursday 19th June  
Friday 20th June  
Tuesday 24th June  
Tuesday 24th June

#### Term 2 Begins

Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
Kowhai 2 - EOTC Rafting - Day 1  
Kowhai 2 - EOTC Rafting - Day 2  
Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Kowhai 1  
Special Cobden School Anzac Service following assembly 12.30pm  
"Wear Blue" for World Asthma Day - Gold Coin Mufti Day  
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
"Wear Pink" for Pink Shirt Day - Gold Coin Mufti Day  
Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Kowhai 2  
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom  
Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Mokomoko 2  
Public Holiday - Kings Birthday - School Closed.  
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
"Wear Yellow" for Harold - Gold Coin Mufti Day  
Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Mokomoko 1  
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
Matariki Disco  
Public Holiday - Matariki - School Closed.  
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus  
Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom

**Disclaimer:** Dates and Times are correct at the time of printing but are subject to change.

## 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 9    Lyric & Reign  
              Week 10    Eleanor & Shailee



Term 1 has seen some encouraging growth in student behaviour. Notably, morning referrals reduced by 63.6% from February to March — a sign that our strengthened routines are having a real impact. As we continue to support emotional regulation and communication skills, we're turning our attention to carry this momentum into Term 2.

**Grey District Athletics** - Cobden School Athletics at ANZAC Park last week was cancelled due to wet weather. From the qualifying competitions held at school on Monday, we had 10 students go through to Grey District Athletics on Wednesday. Congratulations to Emilie B, Emilie M, Ruhi, Brax, Baron, Ruby, Eli, Mac, Tyler and Lucas. Thank you to our parent help and Michelle G for Transport and Supervision.



Ruhi and Tyler went to the West Coast Swimming event in Hokitika last week.

Duffy Book offer 1 arrived just in time for the holidays!



Above: Kowhai 2 have been building bridges.



#### Left: Mokomoko Anzac's.

Thank you to Shantytown who came to visit and talk about the ANZAC's. We will hold a special service following assembly on the 2nd of May at the front gates. All welcome.



**Our Colour Fun Run Fundraiser is finished!** - Due to the wet weather on Colour Fun Run day the venue was changed from the Cobden Lagoon to the school grounds.

Thank you to the **Cobden Fire Brigade** for bringing out the engine,

**Topp Service** for sponsoring the Hydration Station and all our **amazing parent help!**

**Thank you to everyone who signed up and shared their profiles. Together we raised a total of \$6216.00 for Cobden School Education Outside the Classroom Events.**

Congratulations to Brax, winner of the Golden Cape - Top Fundraiser with \$1500 raised, and our other top 3 fundraiser capes went to Kora \$1000, Atticus \$420 and Flynn \$350.

