



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 (easterly), 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.



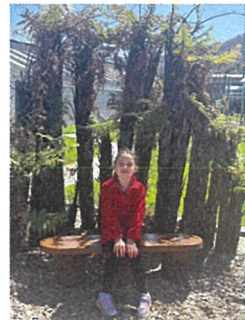
Native Plants and Trees

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 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 28th March 2025



Kia ora koutou,

With the fabulous weather continuing, it's been wonderful to see our new school leaders, Manukura, stepping up and running games during lunchtimes—fostering fun, teamwork, and leadership across the school.

We're also thrilled to share that our Term 1 attendance rates are the highest they've been in over five years! 64% of our students have maintained attendance above 90%—a huge jump from 49% at the same time last year. This is a fantastic reflection of our tamariki's growing engagement and whanau commitment to consistent learning.

Our Swimming Fun Sports Day was another highlight of the term. It was a fantastic event full of energy and smiles. A big thank you to the many whānau who came along to support us—it meant so much to the students. The day was all about giving it a go, and every student had the opportunity to shine.

Our final event for the term is our Athletics and Colour Fun Run Day—we hope to see you all there! The fundraising efforts for the Colour Fun Run have been extraordinary. Thanks to your incredible support, we now have the funds to give our students access to a raft of exciting experiences throughout the year.

Ngā mihi,
Noula Markham
Principal



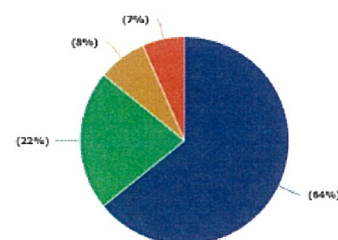
Why do kids need to be at School?

We should come to school every day so we can learn, become smarter and grow up to do important jobs like being a mechanic. School helps us get the skills we need for the future.

Mokomoko1 Students

● Above 90%
● 80%-90%
● 70%-80%
● Below 70%

Attendance Data (4 Point Scale) - 2025 - Pie Chart



Cobden School

Important Dates 2025 - Also on the Skool Loop Calendar tab

Term 1

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	1.30pm Cobden School Colour Run Fundraiser - Cobden Tip head
Friday 4th April	Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Mokomoko 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

Term 2

Monday 28th April	Term 2 Begins
Tuesday 6th May	World Asthma Day - Gold Coin Mufti Day
Friday 16th May	Pink Shirt Day - Gold Coin Mufti Day
Tuesday 27th May	Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom
Friday 13th June	Wear Yellow for Harold - Gold Coin Mufti Day
Tuesday 24th June	Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom
Friday 27th June	Fluro Friday for St Johns - Gold Coin Mufti Day
Friday 27th June	Last Day of Term 2

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 7	Petra, Shailee & Sadie
	Week 8	Brax, Baron, Eli, Maliah & Sadie



Our school has embraced the Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS) approach, and it's already making a big difference — we've seen a 62.5% drop in incidents. Staff and students work together to solve problems by talking things through, giving students time to pause and reflect, and finding solutions everyone agrees on.



Our 2025 Manakura Senior Leaders - Eli, Ruhi, Emilie M, Lyric, Daisha, Indie-Lee, Mac & Hunter have all completed their Training and received their badges. Amongst other duties they are keeping the students busy at lunchtime with organised games outside. Congratulations!



Fun was had by all at the **Cobden School Swimming Sports** on Wednesday. Thank you to all our parent helpers and everyone who came to support our Tamariki.

The winning house team this year was: **Kakariki by 1 point!**

Our Colour Fun Run Fundraiser update - Thank you for your support. Keep sharing your child's fundraising profile on your socials and text. Congratulations to all the winners of the Colouring competition who were awarded their prizes at the last Assembly. The last Colour Fun Run activity is - Our top 3 Fundraisers on the day of the run will be awarded Fundraiser Superstar Capes to wear in the Fun Run. **Everyone is welcome to come and watch the Fun Run at the Cobden Lagoon on Wednesday 2nd April at around 1.30pm.**

**SCHOOL
FUN
RUN**

Amount raised
to date \$6000

