

COBDEN SCHOOL

Newsletter 23rd May 2025



Kia ora e te whānau,

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks at Cobden School. From vibrant classroom learning to our recent soccer tournament, our tamariki have shown fantastic energy, teamwork, and enthusiasm.

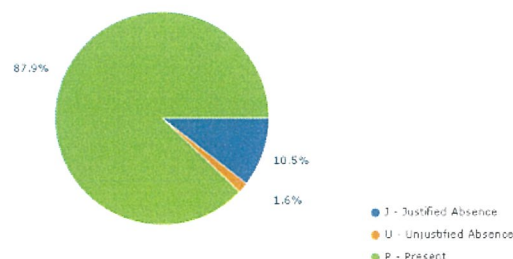
Ka pai to everyone involved!

A reminder to explore our updated school website: www.cobden.school.nz. It's designed to help you stay informed and connected. You'll find important updates including:

- ♦ A direct link to the Ministry of Education's Parent Portal: <https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal>. This portal helps unpack what your child is learning and how you can support them at home.
- ♦ Our revised Attendance Plan clearly outlines how we will support regular attendance and the steps we'll take if attendance becomes a concern. This is part of our commitment to being transparent, proactive, and supportive in working with whānau.

Student reports will be going home in the last week of the term. These will be followed by 3-way learning conferences early in Term 3, where you, your child, and their teacher can celebrate progress and set goals. Keep an eye on Skool Loop for booking details. We encourage every whānau to be part of these valuable conversations.

Ngā mihi nui,
Noula Markham
Principal



Attendance Update:

The very low number of unexplained absences shows that tamariki and their whānau are doing a great job of coming to school regularly and letting us know when they need to be away.

Cobden School

Important Dates 2025 - Also on the Skool Loop Calendar tab

Term 2

Tuesday 27th May
Tuesday 27th May
Friday 30th May
Friday 30th May
Monday 2nd June
Wednesday 4th June
Thursday 5th June
Monday 9th June
Tuesday 10th June
Friday 13th June
Friday 13th June
Thursday 19th June
Thursday 19th June
Friday 20th June
Monday 23rd June
Tuesday 24th June
Tuesday 24th June
Friday 27th June
Friday 27th June
Friday 27th June
Monday 14th July

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 - Whanau can stay for lunch
"Wear Green" for Sunflower Day - Gold Coin Mufti Day for Neurodiversity
Public Holiday - Kings Birthday - School Closed.
West Coast Cross Country at Kumara.
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Scholastic Lucky Book Club issue 4 - Orders Close.
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
"Wear Yellow" for Harold - Gold Coin Mufti Day for Life Education
Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Mokomoko 1 - Whanau can stay for lunch
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Matariki Disco 5pm to 7.30pm - Please bring a plate of food for shared Kai
Public Holiday - Matariki - School Closed.
Teacher Only Day - School Closed.
Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom
"Fluro Friday" for St John Appeal - Gold Coin Mufti Day
Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Kowhai 1 - Whanau can stay for lunch
Last Day of Term 2
Term 3 Begins.



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:

"Mahi Ngatahi - Co-operation"
"Play Fair, Stay Cool, Include All"

Values Card Winners:

Term	Week	Winners
Term 2	Week 3	Alexis, Cam, Baxter & Merania
	Week 4	Jaxon B, Aurora T, Kahu & Nirvana



As tamariki work together to find fair ways to play in the playground—discussing rules that feel right for everyone—we've noticed a real drop in lunchtime referrals. The Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) approach has given children a chance to be heard, helping them come up with shared, respectful solutions. With this CPS approach, it will create a more positive and inclusive playground.



On Tuesday this week 39 Students went to Hokitika on a bus for the **Primary School Football Festival** at Cass Square. Thank you to our Parent Helpers!



Left: Kowhai 2 Rafting - Our Kowhai 2 second rafting group got to complete their postponed rafting trip on the Arnold River last week. Thank you to Tai Poutini Polytech Outdoor Education Course and our amazing Parent Helpers!

Thank you for your support!
Our "Wear Pink" for Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Mufti Day raised \$112.00 for the Mental Health Foundation.



Scholastic Lucky Book Club

Issue 4 is out now!
Every order earns rewards for our school.
Orders close on Monday 9th June.



Prizes have started arriving at school!



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

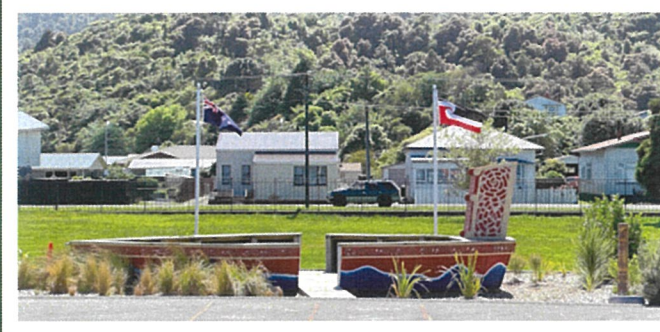
The three harakeke at the stern of the waka were donated by Barrytown School, who has been nurturing them for six years. These harakeke come from the Rene Orchiston Collection at Lincoln.

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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