



Newsletter

14 March 2025

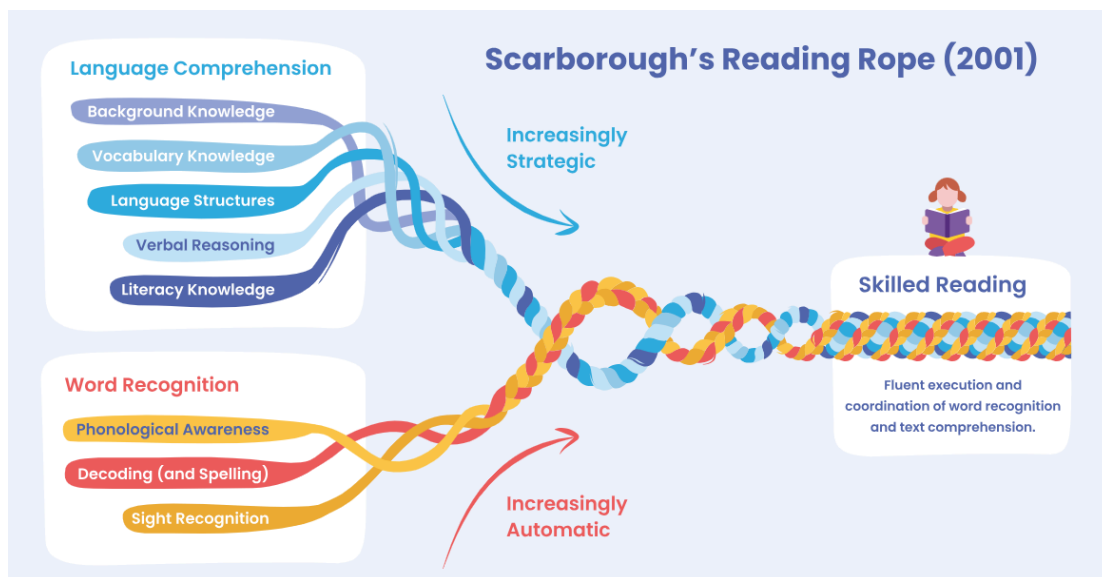
*Ahakoā he iti he pounamu
Although it is small, it is a treasure*

Kia Ora ē te whānau

We are so very lucky to have a kura (school) full of taonga (treasures), your tamariki are truly what make this place as special as it is. We have had many visitors to the school over the past week or so and nearly all have commented about the polite and respectful children we have in our classrooms. Thank you to all of our students for being the amazing young people that they are.

We are also very lucky to have such hard working and dedicated teachers and support staff working with our tamariki. Teachers are experiencing a lot of rapid change as far as curriculum is concerned. The amount of requirements, pace of change and the aspects of the 'unknown' puts a lot of extra pressure on, over and above our 'normal' working week. I thank all of our staff for the long hours and preparation they put in to cater for the diverse needs of our students. You are all outstanding and our ākonga (students) are very lucky to have you all.

You would have heard a lot in the media about the Science of Learning and structured teaching approaches. Below is a wee explanation and graphic about this as far as literacy is concerned. **Science of Reading** refers to the knowledge about reading which has built up over 5 decades of research and best practice. See Scarborough's Reading Rope (2001) below. **Structured literacy** is a teaching approach which applies that knowledge in a way which is systematic, cumulative, diagnostic and explicit.



STEPS Web, the application that our generous Board is funding for all students, follows the Structured Literacy Process. This programme also adjusts to individual needs, it builds on existing knowledge and supports the development of working memory. We see great progress in literacy when students consistently work on this app, we use it in class and everyone has access to it at home. 10-15 minutes every day will see increased achievement in their literacy learning. This programme is supported in class with other learning opportunities and explicit and directed teaching. *At the end of 2024, 75% of our students were reading at or above their curriculum expectation.*

Interviews:

Due to the rapid change of expectations as far as teaching and assessments are concerned, as well as the huge amount of Professional Development that teachers are experiencing this year, we have decided to push interviews back to the beginning of term two. This will allow teachers to implement new assessment requirements and gather information to give quality feedback about achievement and next learning steps. We have also reflected on feedback and will extend times to 15 minutes. During this time, we will discuss academic achievement and set goals to work on as a team, forming the base of our written mid year report.

Of course you do not need to wait for interview times to discuss your child's achievement, please reach out to our classroom teachers whenever suits you.

We will have two nights in week 2 of next term.

Watch this space for more information.

Celebrating our Superstars

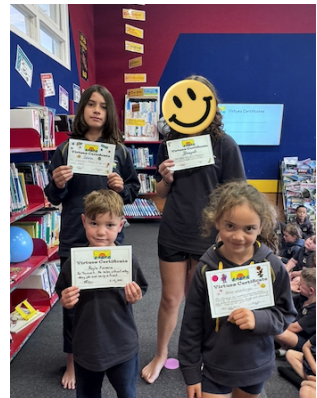
Class Certificates: Yraneil, Nellie, Eli, Lox, Azariah, Hunter, Noah, Pippa

Virtues: Galatea, Aleeyah, Royle, Khloe

Bus Certificates: Olivia and Hunter

PB4L Voucher: Julia

Principal Award: Kui - *What an amazing young learner you are. You are always on the hunt for the next challenge. You work well independently and support your peers where you can. You are developing great leadership skills and your determination to strive for your own excellence is a true credit to your positive attitude. Keep up the fantastic efforts Kui!*



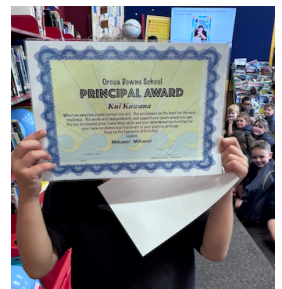
Thank
you 

Massive thanks to everyone that came out to support our swimmers last week.

Congratulations to Mrs B, Fizzy, Rodger and Stu for taking out the relay!

Upcoming events

- 21 March - Tough Kids Event @ Mt Biggs School
- 24-26 March - Rooms 4 & 5 on camp
- 28 March - TeKawau Triathlon @ Sanson
- 4 April - TeKawau Junior Tabloids - hosted by our amazing students
- 10 April - School Photos
- 11 April - Last day of Term



Tarnz and Team Awesome