Whānau Newsletter

MESSAGE

Welcome to Term 4!

Welcome to the final term of 2026! We hope you had a wonderful holiday break and enjoyed spending time outdoors as the weather began to improve.

We extend a warm welcome to our new students and their whānau in Nests 1 and 2. We're delighted to have you as part of our school community!

We also extend a special welcome to Jusenn Dela Cruz, who has joined our team since our last newsletter. We're excited to have Jusenn on board!

As we begin another exciting term, we encourage all families to read this newsletter carefully and take note of upcoming events, important reminders, and key dates.

WHAT'S INSIDE

02 Curriculum and Inquiry

04 Suggested Home Learning Activities

05 Reminders, Upcoming Dates/Events & Parent Helper's Forms



Please keep this handy and refer to it throughout the term to help your child make the most of the learning opportunities and activities ahead.

With the weather still changeable, please ensure your child brings a lightweight, waterproof jacket to school each day. As we look ahead to warmer days and the approaching summer, we also ask that every child has a sunhat at school for lunchtime and other outdoor activities.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, let's make Term 4 a positive, engaging, and memorable one for all our tamariki. We look forward to sharing the many wonderful moments, learning experiences, and achievements of the term with you!

May God bless you and your whānau always!

Whānau Newsletter

CURRICULUM AND INQUIRY

Religious Education

Our theme in Religious Education this term is on Kia Noho Hahi | Being Church and we will be learning:

- that people in the world are like one big family.
- about ways that children of our age can give our love to people and respond to love we receive from people.
- how the Catholic Church is a special part of God's big family.
- that the parish church is a special holy building where God is present and the Catholic family gather to pray and worship God.
- that there are special things people do when we gather in the church because it is a holy place and a house of prayer.
- about the symbols, words and actions that are used in the Sacrament of Baptism that welcomes people into God's Catholic family

At home, talk about when your child or someone in your family was baptised. Who was there? What happened on the day? How did you celebrate?

Next time you are at your parish church, help your child find some special things such as the Bible, candle, crucifix, statue, tabernacle, altar and lectern. Talk about their meaning and use in the church.

Health Education

Much of our learning in Health this term will take place through the Religious Education (RE) strand of Sexuality Education. Our learning will be grounded in the values of Aroha, Respect and Connection. We will explore the understanding that God is love, that each person is precious and wonderfully made in God's image, and that Jesus calls us to love and care for ourselves and others.

Our learning will help tamariki understand that their bodies are precious gifts from God. They will develop age-appropriate knowledge of body parts, personal hygiene, body safety, emotions, healthy friendships and personal boundaries. They will also learn to respect themselves and others, identify trusted adults, and seek help when they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.



Whānau Newsletter

Mathematics

This term, we will continue to strengthen our number knowledge and basic facts. Results from the Basic Facts assessments and Ministry of Education Maths Checks will soon be shared with you, highlighting your child's achievements and areas where further practice and support may be helpful.

Alongside developing our number knowledge, we will explore key areas of Mathematics, including Geometry (2D and 3D shapes), Algebra (patterns and number sentences), Measurement (time and duration), and Statistics (graphs and data).

There are many opportunities to support your child's mathematical learning at home through everyday experiences, activities, and familiar household items. These practical experiences help reinforce classroom learning and build confidence in Mathematics.

Click on the links below for helpful ideas and activities you can try at home:

- Maths at Home – Year 1
- Maths at Home – Year 2

Physical Education

We will be developing our core strength and motor skills this term as we participate in a range of athletics based activities.

This will culminate, weather dependent, into an afternoon of tabloid sports which we hope you will be able to come along and to and cheer the children on.

Literacy

Reading books with your child is an incredibly powerful way of supporting your child's learning. Reading together has a significant and positive influence on your child's early oral language which forms an important foundation for all later learning.



The Arts

Kōwhai students will explore all four strands of The Arts—Dance, Music, Visual Arts and Drama—developing their creativity and skills in preparation for our end-of-year Christmas sharing.

They will express thoughts and feelings through movement and music, explore musical elements such as rhythm, beat, pitch, tempo and dynamics, create artworks using a variety of materials and natural resources, and bring characters to life through body movements, voice and facial expressions.

Whānau Newsletter

HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Supporting Early Mathematics

As we continue working towards our learning goals, here are some fun and practical ways whānau can support early Mathematics at home for Years 1–3:

- **Counting and Number Games**: Count everyday objects, practise counting forwards and backwards, and play card or dice games to build number knowledge and basic facts.
- **Sorting, Patterns and Shapes**: Sort household items, create repeating patterns, and identify 2D and 3D shapes while building with blocks or recycled boxes.
- **Maths in Everyday Routines**: Count ingredients, share food equally, read calendars and clocks, and solve simple problems together.
- **Money Matters**: Let your child help count coins, compare prices, set up a pretend shop, or work out how much change is needed.
- **Collecting and Graphing**: Survey family members about their favourite foods or colours and record the results in a simple graph.

Remember:

- 5–10 minutes of daily maths make a huge difference.
- Keep maths fun, short and playful.
- Encourage tamariki to explain their thinking.
- Use everyday activities to practise maths.
- Celebrate effort and problem-solving.

Supporting Early Literacy

Here are some fun and practical ways whānau can support early literacy for Years 1–3:

- **Read Together**: Share a book daily, take turns reading, and talk about the characters, events and pictures.
- **Practise Sounds and Words**: Play rhyming games, identify beginning sounds, and practise letter sounds and familiar words.
- **Make Writing Meaningful**: Encourage tamariki to write shopping lists, birthday cards, labels, messages or simple stories.
- **Talk and Tell Stories**: Share daily experiences, retell favourite stories, and encourage children to explain their ideas.
- **Explore Words Everywhere**: Read signs, menus, recipes and labels while out and about.
- **Build Fine Motor Skills**: Draw, colour, trace, cut and use playdough to strengthen little hands for writing.

Remember:

- Keep activities short, relaxed and enjoyable.
- Praise effort and encourage your children to have a go.
- Let tamariki choose books and topics that interest them.
- Make reading and writing part of everyday family life.

Even 10–15 minutes of reading together each day can help build confidence, vocabulary and a love of books!

Whānau Newsletter

COMING UP. . .

28 Oct	Rm 3 and Nest 1 Midday Mass
30 Oct	All Saints' Day Liturgy
4 Nov	Rms 4 and 1 Midday Mass
6 Nov	Junior Athletics
9 Nov	Nests 1 and 2 Dowse Trips
10 Nov	Rms 1 and 2 Dowse Trips
11 Nov	Rms 3 and 4 Dowse Trips
11 Nov	Room 5 Midday Mass
13 Nov	Rms 5 and 6 Dowse Trips
18 Nov	Room 6 Midday Mass
19 Nov	Cultural Day
10 Dec	Kōwhai Nativity Show
14 Dec	Kōwhai EOY Picnic
16 Dec	EOY School Mass
16 Dec	Last Day of 2026

Parent Helpers

If you are available for any of our trips and activities, please sign up using the following links.

Dowse Trip
Christmas Costumes
Kōwhai End of Year Picnic



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Uniforms
Please ensure your tamariki come to school in the correct summer uniform. Sun hats are essential for outdoor activities and lunchtime. Please also check that socks meet school uniform requirements and that jewellery complies with our school uniform policy.

Kindly ensure all clothing and personal belongings are clearly labelled to help prevent items from being lost.

Healthy and Litter-Free Snacks and Lunches
Please continue to provide your tamariki with healthy, balanced lunchboxes and their own individual water bottles to keep them fuelled and hydrated throughout the school day.

Help us reduce waste by choosing litter-less lunches using reusable containers and wraps instead of single-use plastic packaging.

Toys and Key Chains
Please remind your tamariki to leave toys and key chains at home, as these can be distracting during learning time or become lost or damaged.

Communication
Reach out through admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz or kowhaial@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Ngā mihi nui

Natalie Thomson, Paulo Abella, Suni Abraham, Giana Maroon, Bianca de Leon, Sarah Tweedie, Emalyn Jiang, and Laura Rose
Kōwhai Teachers

Irene Gould, Nicky James, Alison Butler, Emma Gill
Kōwhai Part-time Teachers