Pohutukawa Area News Term 4 2026









Ready for another term of learning!













Kia ora,

Welcome to Term 4! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday break with your whānau. It is wonderful to see our classrooms full of energy and smiling faces once again as we head into the final term of the school year.

It was fantastic to have so many of you attend our musical performance of Dragon Days at the end of Term 3. The children really enjoyed having the opportunity to share their creative skills with their families and look forward to more opportunities to share their learning this term.

Term 4 is always a fast-paced and vibrant time of year. We have an exciting lineup of engaging indoor and outdoor learning experiences planned, taking full advantage of the warmer weather. From hands-on classroom projects to outdoor sports events and trips, there is so much to look forward to over the coming weeks.

Curriculum

We continue this term with our universal theme of Change. The big ideas we continue to investigate are:



Change can lead to new possibilities
Change is necessary for growth
Change can be positive or negative
Change is inevitable

Through this conceptual approach, we aim to deepen students' capabilities and critical thinking skills, encouraging them to see how small actions can lead to meaningful, positive transformations in our world. This builds directly on our work last term with the World of Waste tour, where students explored the vital importance of reducing, recycling, and reusing waste. To help us take the next step, our waste facilitator will be visiting us again this term to help students put their ideas into action by introducing new sustainability initiatives across our school. We look forward to watching our learners lead the charge in making a real difference!

Religious Education

For Religious Education, our focus is Kia Noho Hāhi Being Church - People of Justice. The children will develop an understanding of what the nine principles of Catholic Social Teaching are, where they come from and how we can apply them to our own daily lives. They will explore concepts and examples of justice, fairness and equality in our school, town or city, and apply the ‘see, judge and act’ process to personal action. Later in the term, we will begin preparation for the liturgical season of Advent by identifying what is being celebrated and why this is significant for Christians.

Bible Reading

As part of our Oral Language and Religious Education learning this term, students have the exciting opportunity to prepare for our School Bible Reading Competition. Children can choose to participate in either a competitive or non-competitive pathway, ensuring everyone can join in at a level that feels right for them. This is a wonderful way for learners to build confidence, strengthen reading fluency, and practice using body language effectively when presenting. Through this focus, students will also learn to project their voice to a large audience while adjusting their tone, volume, and pace to suit the purpose of their reading.



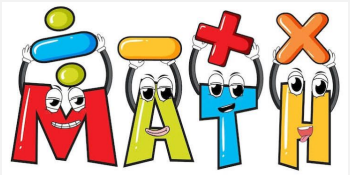
Mathematics

In mathematics this term, students will engage in a rich variety of practical topics, beginning with a continuation of our financial literacy learning. From there, we transition into Measurement, where students will practice reading time, calculating elapsed time, and interpreting real-world timetables. Our focus then shifts to Geometry as learners investigate spatial transformations, including symmetry, reflections, rotations, and translations. Next, in Algebra, children will explore visual and numerical patterns to identify, explain, and apply rules to extend them. We will round out the term with Probability, analysing chance and data outcomes. Underlying all of this learning is an ongoing commitment to strengthening number skills and building speed and accuracy with basic facts recall.

You can support your child at home with improving their number recall by encouraging them to practice their number facts. Here is a link a New Zealand maths site that will support you with doing this at home.

Prototec Maths Practice Select '**Stage 6'** Activities.

NZ maths support site: NZ maths curriculum home maths support site



Literacy

Our literacy focus this term connects directly to our Aotearoa New Zealand Histories learning as students explore the history of Parihaka through the lens of explanatory writing. In writing, students will work on structuring paragraphs, using conjunctions to connect complex ideas, and accurately integrating key historical facts. Alongside this, our reading program will support deeper comprehension as students read a range of articles. They will refine their skills in identifying main ideas, comparing different perspectives, and synthesising information across written texts, images, and photographs to construct new understandings.

Weekly spelling and handwriting lessons also form a part of our literacy programme. You can support your child to develop their literacy skills by encouraging them to take home books from our school library to read and share with you at home.

Arts

Our Arts programme for this term will be focused on dance. The children will learn about different dance elements and use this understanding to explore and create various dance movements as part of a group.



Digital Literacy

Digital literacy and computational thinking continue to be an integral part of our curriculum, empowering our students to become capable, creative, and responsible digital citizens. We intentionally manage device use in a controlled and balanced way, ensuring students spend an appropriate amount of time on screens while still building vital, age-appropriate skills for 9 and 10 year-olds.

This term, students are continuing to develop and refine their core skills using Google Workspace tools, specifically Google Docs, Drive, and Slides. Through guided, purposeful literacy and inquiry tasks, they are learning how to structure documents, collaborate responsibly with peers, and present their findings through creative slide presentations.

Alongside these fundamental tools, students are exploring the basics of computer science in a hands-on environment. They are developing foundational coding concepts by learning to write and debug simple computer commands. To bring their code to life beyond the screen, they are using the BBC micro:bit, a pocket-sized computer that allows them to interact with physical hardware by displaying animated LED patterns, building simple sensors, and creating interactive games.



Education Outside the Classroom

This term, our students will be getting outside the classroom to explore local and broader Wellington venues. We have three exciting trips planned:

1. Dowse Art Museum: Warwick Freeman Exhibition Our first visit to the Dowse Art Museum will focus on the *Warwick Freeman: Hook Hand Heart Star* exhibition. Warwick Freeman's jewellery explores cultural symbols, such as the hook, heart, and star, to convey meaning. This trip connects directly to our study of Parihaka, examining how symbols communicate who we are and how we have lived.

2. Dowse Art Museum: Craft Workshop Our second visit to the Dowse will feature a hands-on craft workshop, where students will create their own Christmas themed items.

3. Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre (Wainuiomata) Students will spend a full day at the camp participating in a variety of outdoor physical challenges. This trip is a wonderful opportunity for students to push themselves, work together, and support their classmates.

Like all trips beyond the classroom we will need additional adult volunteers to assist us with our trip to Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre. Further information regarding this trip will be shared as the date approaches.

Coming up this Term:

School Athletics
Tuesday, 20 October

St. Bernard's College Orientation Day
(For those boys enrolled for 2027) Friday, 13 November

Dowse Art Museum Trips
Tuesday, 27 October, Wednesday, 28 October, The Warwick Freeman: Hook Hand Heart Star exhibition
Tuesday, 24 November, Wednesday, 25 November, Christmas craft workshops

Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre Trip
Thursday, 3 December, postponement day Friday, 4 December

Senior End of Year Celebration
Wednesday, 2 December

Reminders

Students who bring a smart watch, mobile phone or other items for safekeeping to school are required to put them in the minding box as soon as they arrive at school. This box is located in Room 14.

School sports uniform is required at school every day for daily physical fitness and skills programmes. We encourage the children to bring their sports uniform at the beginning of the week and take it home at the end of the week.

The partnership between home and school is critical to the success of our learning community and the quality of learning experiences. If you need to communicate with your child's classroom teacher please contact them through admin@stpeterpaul.school.nz or pohutukawaal@stpeterpaul.school.nz

Ngā mihi,

Sinéad Senek, Hugh Watson, Whaea Sarah, Shanann O'Sullivan Glynn, Andrea Spink

Pohutukawa Area Teachers