



Kōkako Pānui

Term 2: 2025

Kia ora whanau o Kōkako,
greetings to the families of Kōkako.

I would like to begin by saying how wonderful it is to be back with your children for **Term 2, 2025**.

We are going to be learning some amazing things this term and this newsletter will provide you with an overview of what this will look like.

Topic - Solar System This term we will be learning about the Solar System and the world around us. We will also be reflecting on Anzac Day and the importance of the service of animals throughout history during wartime.

Blue Team Sports - Cross Country This term we have begun our cross country training. Children need appropriate footwear or bare feet plus clothing that supports them to run as we are running in a cow field.

The Cross Country Run will be held on the **28th of May**. Please lock this date into your calendar.

We will also be running our Fun Run on **23rd of May** so look at our School Facebook page for updates on this event. There will also be a newsletter coming home for whanau with information about this event.

Writing - This term we will be learning how to write a Factual Report about the

Solar System and at the end of the term we will be learning how to write a Cryptic Poem about Matariki.

Reading - Our class will continue to work with the structured literacy program BSLA. Some of you may remember this in Kiwi and Takahē. Our class will be working on Taumata 5 which strengthens children's understanding of language features such as Onomatopoeia, Contractions, Simile and Adjectives. In addition, your child will continue to read a Guided Reader from Monday to Wednesday each week. If you would like to know more about the BSLA program please check out the following link:
<https://www.betterstartapproach.com/>

Structured Maths - In Kokako we are using the Numicon Program to develop and strengthen Numeracy skills. This term we will look at Number Structure, Measurement, Calculation and Geometry.

Mindfulness - Pause, Breathe, Smile. Our School is implementing this Mindfulness into our daily program. This is a great program that will equip tamariki with skills to self-regulate their emotions and navigate the ups and downs of everyday life. If you would like to know more about this program and its benefits please check out the link
<https://pausebreathesmile.nz/about-us/>

LEAD - Learning with Purpose, Engaging with Kindness, Acting with Respect and Daring to Dream.

We will be working with Korimako this term and focusing on **Learning with Purpose**.

Home Learning - Kōkako will have Home Learning from **Monday to Wednesday** each week. Home Learning is about supporting the learning that is happening in our classroom. ***Please help your child to remember their Home Pack each day.***

This term your child will bring home a spelling list to practise with you. They will all have practised these words in class and have all been tested to start at an appropriate stage that is not too easy but has some challenges. Friday is test day.

In class we use the following process to learn new words; Say it, Spell it with your eyes open, now try with eyes closed. This process is about building confidence to spell and if a child is incorrect then we give them another try with their eyes open.

NOTE: If your child has sports or other after school activities such as music lessons on any of these days, then sport and other activities are considered to take priority over their Home Learning.

Coast Care Planting - We have been invited to the annual Dune Planting Project

Collecting your child - If you are collecting your child you are now asked to collect them from the front of the school unless it is raining in which you may collect them from our class.

This is to ensure that everyone is kept safe in our carpark during this very busy time. Children will not be allowed to walk out of the gates to your car, you must come in to collect your child. Teachers

will wait with children at the front of the school until their class is collected.

Sensory Garden - Over the next 2 terms Kōkako and Korimako will be creating a school wide Sensory Garden. In order to start this project we are going to need some parent support to achieve the aspirations and ideas of your children.

The children have asked to make a garden that is centred around 'Smell and Touch'. Therefore, we are looking for donations of bricks, top soil, smelly and textured herbs and seasonal flowers.

We would also like to create a log stepping path. For this we need man/lady power and a chainsaw.

If you think that you can contribute, can you please touch base with me, I hope to get this project underway by Week 3 T2.

Camp Update - At this stage our camp has been confirmed for the **5th to the 7th of November** at Tui Ridge in Rotorua. I will create a short note next week to give you an estimate of the costs for this and the fundraisers we will be doing to help with this cost.

Communication - If you have any questions about your child's learning please do not hesitate to contact me either via email or face to face. The first point of contact is always with myself. My email address is emma@otakiri.school.nz

Naku Noa / Thank you for your time, Whaea Emma.