

# Kōwhai Syndicate Newsletter

## Term Four, 2024



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the final term of the year! We always consider Term 4 to be the 'fun term' though we do continue our mahi right until the end of the term.

### Term 4 Key learning foci in Rooms 8, 9 and 10

Yo, ho, ho and a bottle of rum...no don't worry, we will NOT be encouraging rum drinking this term, but don't be surprised if your child comes home acting or talking like a pirate!! Sadly we missed the official "Talk Like A Pirate Day" on September 19th, but in Kōwhai we feel like any day is appropriate to be talking like a pirate. We cannot wait to get stuck into our **Writing** foci about pirate ships, treasure and more! We will endeavour to inspire the **Adventure Way** trait **Creativity** through this theme by encouraging children to explore a range of opportunities, use their imagination and take original ideas from concept to completion. Within the pirate theme we intend to explore map making through **Mathematics**; Geometric Thinking: Position and Orientation. We will also be adapting parts of our gross motor **Physical Education** programme to have a bit of a piratey spin.



The children (and perhaps some parents?) may be disappointed to know it won't be all pirates, pirates, pirates this term. Last term we learnt a lot about some of our native animals, insects and 'creatures' that we have in New Zealand (ie. Tūi, Wētā, taniwha, stick insects). The tamariki really enjoyed these non-fiction themes so we are hoping that for part of the term we will be able to continue with these similar topics: penguins, tuatara and kiwi. **Literacy** and the **Arts** (visual art and drama) will be covered under these themes.

In the last few weeks of term, there will be a heavy focus on Christmas: crafts, carol singing and writing to Santa. Kōwhai always has end of year Education Outside the Classroom events, and this information will be out shortly.

Please let these pirates know if you have any questions; Captain Nadine Bones Amorangi, One Eye Whaea Tania and Pieces of Eight St.Clair.

### Term 4 Key learning foci in Rooms 13, 14 and 15

"Twit twit twoo" from Year 1 and 2!! Our theme this term is on **New Zealand Native Birds**. We are going to weave this theme into lots of curriculum areas including Science (Living World), Visual Art, Writing, Reading and Te Reo. We will swoop in and learn about many native birds, mainly focusing on Tūi, Piwakawaka, Weka and Kereru. Each class may choose to learn about different birds. Our tamariki will have opportunities to read fiction and non-fiction books and watch video clips to learn interesting, wingy facts. They may write information reports as well as imaginative stories about ngā manu (birds), even design their own New Zealand bird and give it a name (bringing in our **Creativity** Adventure Way trait). This will be a fabulous feathery lead into our **Education Outside the Classroom** day when we visit Ngā Manu Reserve and Marine Gardens in December. Information about this trip will be flying out to you this week.



For **PE and Sport** this term our focus is on **Athletics**. We will cover the following events: Sprinting, Hurdles, Long Jump, Shot Put, Vortex and Quoits to be ready for Week 7 when Year 2-4's have an **Athletics Day** at Adventure Park.

Our **Maths 'Time'** will fly by fast with a focus on days of the week, months of the year, reading and showing o'clock, half past and quarter past/to times. We will also have a beady eyed look at **probability**, with the chance of events/things happening (certain, possible, impossible, likely, unlikely). The remainder of the term will be revising the children's skills on place value knowledge, basic facts and addition/subtraction strategies.

Many thanks from your awesome Kōwhai team,

Rebecca St Clair, Nadine Amorangi, Tania Sibley, Vanessa Burn, Cathy Murray, Vanessa Clark and Amanda-Lee Lemmon