



10 February 2025

Kakariki Team Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to a new school year in the Kakariki team for 2025. We are excited to see our Year 6 children step up as the leaders of the school in their last year at St Joseph's, and we are looking forward to getting to know, and working with our Year 5 children.

A special welcome to Eden, Candace, Ardra, William, Nathan, Alek, Faith, Alex and their families who are new to the Kakariki Team and the St Joseph's School Community.

The Kakariki Team is made up of 6 Home Groups. The teachers will be collaborating together to create a fun and engaging learning programme accessible to all children. There will be opportunities throughout the week to work on activities within their own Home Groups, in Pods and as a whole Kakariki Team.

Kakariki Teachers:

Pod 1	Pod 2
HG1 - Miss Nellie Chapman (nelliec@sj.school.nz) HG2 - Mr Stephen Rae (stephenr@sj.school.nz) HG3 - Ms Gemma Strother (gemma@sj.school.nz)	HG4 - Ms Ingrid Young (ingridy@sj.school.nz) HG5 - Mrs Kelly-Anne Fulmizi (kelly-annef@sj.school.nz) HG6 - Miss Laura Bateman (laurab@sj.school.nz) HG6 - Ms Francisca Knottenbelt (franck@sj.school.nz)

Here is some information about how things work in the Kakariki team

Morning Routine: From 8:15am, the children can unload their school bag and hang it on the bag trolleys in the Kakariki Space. They can then play outside or complete a quiet activity in their own home group space. The school day begins at 8:50am and it would be great if the children can be organised and ready for learning by then.

Prayers: We start each day with prayers in our own Home Groups. We do prayers with our Pods every Thursday, Kakariki Team prayers every three weeks on a Thursday (Weeks 3, 6 & 9) and school prayers every Friday. You are welcome to join us for any of these prayer sessions.

Possessions: We encourage children to take ownership of their possessions, and to treat all property with respect and care. All clothing, stationery, shoes, hats and bags that are clearly named will be more likely to be returned to the owners. Lost property is located downstairs outside the Kakapo Classrooms.

Trips: There will be a variety of trips throughout the year which will require parental support. We thank you in advance for volunteering your time, these trips cannot happen without extra adult support.

Camp & Waterwise: Year 6 Camp this year is in Term 2, **Term 2, Week 2: Monday 5 - Wednesday 7 May**. All information regarding these programmes has already been sent out - please return permission forms as soon as possible.

Brain Food: Children will have an opportunity to eat a fruit or vegetable snack during the first block if they are hungry. e.g. carrot sticks, cucumber sticks or sliced apples.

Leadership: A big part of the Kakariki team is developing the leadership capability and skills in all Year 5 and 6 students. There will be many opportunities throughout the year for students to step up and be role models for others. Please encourage your child to develop their independence and make good choices as they become the leaders at St Joseph's and prepare to head off to their next level of education.

Scholastic Book Orders: These pamphlets are sent home throughout the year. Parents can order books **ONLINE** if you wish - this is a great way to promote reading at home.

Devices: From Week 5, children will be able to bring in their own device to school. We recommend getting a Google Chromebook rather than an iPad or other Windows device as they will be using the Google suite and these are the simplest device types to use and most cost effective devices. It is NOT compulsory and all children will have access to school devices when these are needed for their learning. If you do decide your child is ready to look after their own device, please remind them to bring these to school charged everyday as we don't have the facilities to charge them at school. We will be working on digital citizenship and how to be safe online - it is good to reinforce these messages at home as well and monitor what your child has access to. Children need to bring their own earbuds or headphones to keep at school even if they don't bring in their own device.

Communication: All newsletter alerts, notices, teacher and team emails are sent to the parent email addresses on the school records. Please make sure these contact details are correct so that you receive the relevant information.

Important dates and events: You can find these on the calendar on the school website www.sj.school.nz

Important Dates for the Kakariki Team

<p>Week 1: 3-5 Feb Mon: Term 1 Starts Thurs: Waitangi Day Fri: Teacher Only Day</p>	<p>Week 2: 10-14 Feb Fri: School Mass</p>	<p>Week 3: 17-21 Feb Fri: Year 5 Waterwise Training at the Millennium Fri: Back to School Picnic 5:30pm</p>	<p>Week 4: 24 - 28 Feb Fri: School Picnic Saver Day</p>	<p>Week 5: 3 -7 March Wed: Ash Wednesday Liturgy</p>
<p>Week 6: 10 - 14 March</p>	<p>Week 7: 17 -21 March</p>	<p>Week 8: 24 - 28 March Tues: Cluster Swimming Fri: Cluster Swimming Saver Day Fri: Colour Run - TBC</p>	<p>Week 9: 31 March - 4 April Fri: Colour Run Saver Day</p>	<p>Week 10: 7 - 11 April Tues-Fri: Sharing the Learning 8:15-8:45</p>

***These dates are subject to change, please check the school calendar and the Principal's Message for further updates.*

Home Learning

*Home Learning will begin in **Week 3** - everything your child needs will be in their home learning folders*

Home Learning Challenges: These challenges are designed to encourage creative problem solving and we expect students to complete a minimum of 2 per term. The emphasis is on quality, rich, creative work and most projects will take 1-2 hours to do really well. It is a wonderful opportunity for family discussions and to share your child's innovative ideas. We understand that some students have lots of extracurricular commitments and need time to rest as well, so please bear in mind that these challenges are not a competition.

Spelling: Based on their weekly spelling list for 'The Code' spelling programme. Some ideas are: write a short story using as many of your spelling words as possible/ use a thesaurus to make a list of synonyms for each of your spelling words.

Reading: Students read their own books for a minimum of 20 minutes each day, including weekends.
 The children can also get books out from the school library from once it is open for the term.

Maths: Mathletics is used to support the knowledge and strategies that the children are working on at school. They are assigned weekly tasks at their individual learning levels (approx 30 mins across the week).

We also encourage working on basic facts and times tables at home so that your child becomes confident with recalling these.

Talk with them about maths in everyday life (at the supermarket, petrol station, cooking dinner, driving to school etc).

Learning is a partnership between home and school. If there is a question about your child's progress or a problem that you have experienced, we ask that you always approach your child's class teacher first. Most of the time they will be able to work with you to find a solution. If you require further follow up, your next point of call is Ms Gemma Strother or Miss Nellie Chapman

Kind regards

The Kakariki Teachers

St Joseph's Catholic School, 2 Taharoto Road, Takapuna, North Shore City 0622, Auckland.
 Phone 09 489 4994 Email: office@sj.school.nz

Kakariki Term 1 Learning

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Religious Education is an important part of our teaching and learning programme. The children will have opportunities to lead weekly prayers in their Home Groups, pods and the wider Kakariki Team.

This term, we will be learning learn about:

- **Te Atua - God**
- **Ash Wednesday**
- **Lent**
- **Holy Week/Easter**

We continue to focus on how we can show our Mercy Values in our daily school lives: Tika – Justice, Pono – Truth, Aroha – Compassion, Manaakitanga – Hospitality and Tapu - Respect

Key Competencies

During our learning and teaching programmes, we place an emphasis on developing the Key Competencies:

Thinking, Relating to Others, Understanding Symbols and Texts, Managing Self, Participating and Contributing.

Inquiry

With Inquiry learning, students construct their own learning and meanings through curiosity, discovery and collaboration. This term we will be focusing on the following Inquiry units:

Whakawhanaunga - Building Relationships: Children will complete a range of activities so that we can get to know each other and create a positive learning environment. We will be exploring the School Values & Motto and discussing ways that we can be the best person we can be. We will be building cooperation skills through a range of areas and helping the children to develop a growth mindset and positivity towards their learning.

Ocean Explorers: Children will explore facts about Aotearoa - New Zealand's moana (sea). They will develop their ability to become Kaitiakitanga (stewards of our environment) as they look into issues facing our ocean and seas and hear inspiring stories of people making a difference in our world.

Literacy

In Year 5 and 6, children read and write for a range of purposes. We will cover different types of texts over the term based around the inquiry focus.

The texts will be differentiated to cater for different learners in our classes and the children will have an element of choice with their follow-up tasks.

Reading & writing:

Letter writing & Diary Entries: the children will learn the different features of a letter and put these into action by writing a letter to their new class teacher.

Non-Chronological Reports and Leaflets: The children will identify and discuss the features of Non-Chronological reports and leaflets. They will present their Inquiry findings in this format to educate others.

Spelling:

This is part of the weekly Literacy programme based around 'The Code' spelling programme.

Mathematics

We will cover a range of mathematical concepts over the year, including problem solving activities based around real life contexts. The work is differentiated to cater for the class needs.

Week 2-5: Basic Facts Blitz

Building children's knowledge of times tables, place value and basic addition and subtraction knowledge through a range of different activities.

Strand focus: Weeks 1 - 5: Statistics

Carrying out a statistical investigation that involves forming a question, gathering data, displaying and analysing the data to form conclusions.

Weeks 6-10: Addition & Subtraction

Working through a range of problems related to addition & subtraction, as well as practicing their knowledge and strategies in this area.

Strand focus: Weeks 6-10: Probability

Engage, evaluate and explain outcomes and statements in chance-based investigations.

The Arts

Visual Art - A variety of techniques will be used when we are creating our About Me and Personality Art.

Languages

Te Reo and tikanga will be integrated into our programmes throughout the term, as well as being used in our daily greetings and commands.

PE & Health

This term we will be covering the following areas as part of our PE & Health programme:

- Waterwise - Year 5 pool session
- Team Games Rotation across the whole of the Kakariki Team, incorporating different skills.