

Term 1 2026

Team Reports

Week 9

Piwakawaka Report



Week 9, Term 1

Home Learning Projects

Last week, aakonga did a fantastic job presenting their Taonga Boxes to their class. It was wonderful to see the courage and confidence they showed as they stood up to share items that are meaningful and special to them. Each presentation offered a unique glimpse into their lives, whaanau, and personal stories, helping to strengthen our sense of connection and belonging within the classroom. We are incredibly proud of the way students spoke clearly, listened respectfully, and supported one another throughout this experience. These presentations were a powerful celebration of identity, whakawhanaungatanga, and the many treasures that make each of our learners unique.



Science

Our aakonga have been deeply engaged in learning about bugs and insects as part of our inquiry. They have loved heading outdoors for bug hunts, carefully exploring our school environment to discover the many creatures that live around us. Students have been building their understanding of habitats and why these small creatures are so important to our ecosystem. Applying their learning, aakonga have designed and created their own skink and bug houses, showing creativity and thoughtful planning. It has been especially exciting to see this learning naturally transfer into their free play, where students have continued constructing bug homes, searching for insects, and sharing their discoveries with one another. The curiosity, teamwork, and enthusiasm shown throughout this learning has been wonderful to see.



Franklin Bats Visit

Our aakonga were lucky to welcome the passionate team from Franklin Finding Bats into our school. They shared their expert knowledge about New Zealand's native bats (pekapeka), showing fascinating photos and helping us learn more about these unique and special creatures. Our tamariki asked thoughtful questions and were excited to deepen their understanding. They took us for a walk around our junior playground, exploring our trees and wondering whether bats might be living nearby. A huge thank you to Franklin Finding Bats for generously giving their time and sharing their knowledge with us. We are so grateful for this special learning opportunity.

KERERU REPORT



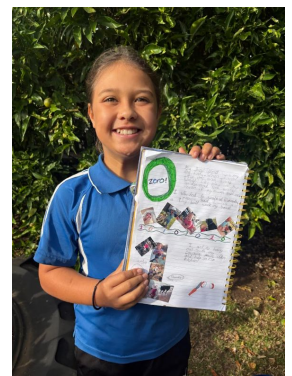
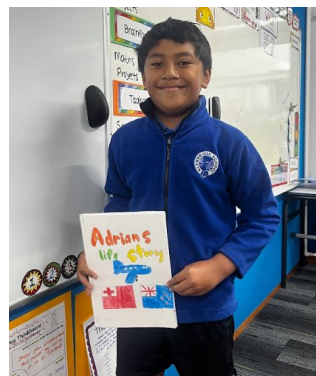
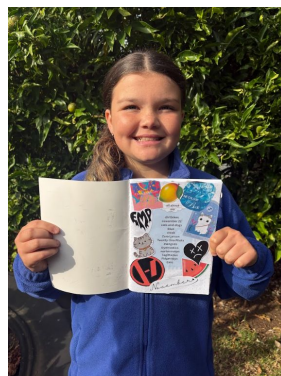
Week 9, Term 1

Home Learning Projects

Last week in Team Kereru was very special as we shared our "Ko wai au? Who am I?" books and celebrated our Term 1 home learning projects together. Students were excited to share with one another, reading their books to the class and proudly sharing their favourite memories, special photos and the stories that make them who they are.

It was wonderful to hear the rich koorero taking place across the team and to see the genuine connections students were making as they discovered shared experiences and learned new things about each other. Across Team Kereru, students showed wonderful respect and care while listening, with lots of "oohs" and "aahs" over the adorable baby photos!

Students were incredibly brave in sharing personal parts of their lives and it was clear how proud they felt of their work. We are so proud of the confidence they showed, as well as the way they supported and encouraged one another throughout the sharing process.



Te Kauri

In Te Kauri, we read about frogs falling from the sky. It was a super interesting and engaging topic that sparked lots of curiosity and discussion. Students were fascinated by this unusual phenomenon and enjoyed sharing their ideas, asking questions and building on each other's thinking. It was great to see such high levels of engagement during our learning.

Te Rakau Nui

In Te Rakau Nui, students experienced great success in Maths learning about parallel and perpendicular lines, showing confidence in identifying and describing them. In Science, we have been exploring how the Earth's orbit and tilt affect our seasons and the amount of sunlight we receive throughout the year. Students enjoyed making simple connections to what we notice in our everyday lives.

Te Moana

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a fantastic session in the garden, where students worked hard replanting and preparing for the winter season. It was great to see their teamwork and care for our school environment.

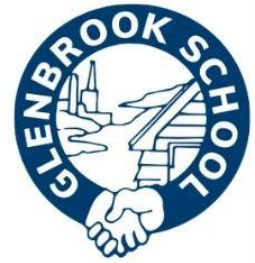
Many students also took part in the Rippa Rugby tournament. After a month of training, it was awesome to see their hard work pay off as they represented our kura with pride and mana, showing great sportsmanship and effort throughout the day.

Te Marama

In Te Marama, we have been writing descriptions about A Moment in Time. Last week, our focus was on capturing the moment of scoring the winning point in a sports game. It was great to see such creativity in students' writing, with many using their senses to bring the moment to life and make their descriptions more detailed and engaging.

Pouakai Report

Week 9, Term 1

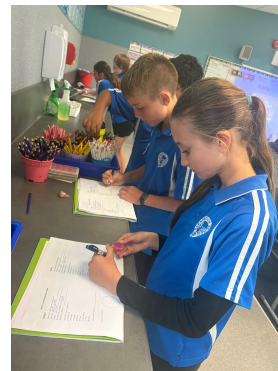
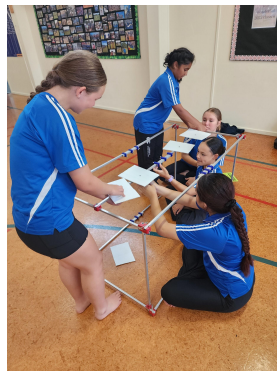


Year 8

Our students presented their Whakawhanaungatanga poster projects this week. Students demonstrated bravery when they stood up in front of their peers to present a part of their poster. It was fantastic to see the high standard of presentation and thought that went into these posters. We loved learning something new about each other.

Year 8's enjoyed having a chance to participate in some ePro8 challenges with Mr Green. Having to work together, problem solve and be creative was a great way to end our Thursday.

In Maths, students have been working within Geometry and Shape, focusing on reflection and translation within a coordinate plane. They have also been calculating angles within triangles and proving that angles in a triangle add up to 180° .



Year 7

In our learning this week, we have begun exploring different types of graphs and how to interpret them. Students have been learning about the key features of bar graphs, line graphs, dot plots, and pie graphs, and how each one can be used to present information clearly. They are developing their skills in reading data and explaining what the information shows.

In reading, we have continued our study of the Wahine Disaster. Students have been making thoughtful connections between the novel and real-life events, with a focus on how communities come together to support one another during natural disasters.



Reminders:

It is important students are remembering to bring their devices each day. We are also reminding students to bring their diaries each day to encourage organisational skills.

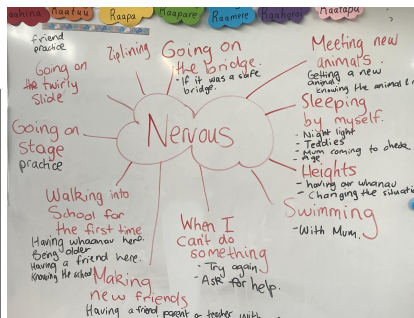
Sports Camp: We are lucky enough to have secured the opportunity for all Year 7&8 students to attend Sports Camp this year. All details are on Hero and the Student Contracts have been sent home to please complete and return to the office.

Week 8

Piwakawaka Report



Week 8, Term 1



Parekereke

Last week, aakonga were exploring the big world of emotions. Through thoughtful discussions, they identified situations that can give us “butterflies” or make us feel nervous. Most importantly, students have been learning simple strategies to reframe these feelings—transforming nervous energy into excitement and positivity. It has been inspiring to see aakonga building emotional awareness and bravery, one step at a time.

Te Whenua

On Wednesday and Friday, Te Whenua were thrilled to return to Parekereke, where aakonga engaged in a range of exciting activities designed to strengthen teamwork, communication, and connections with one another. Working collaboratively, students took on a creative problem-solving challenge—designing and building bridges to help animals safely cross a river. Aakonga also contributed to a vibrant shared sea mural inspired by their science learning about Aotearoa’s tuna (eels). The Whakawhanaungatanga students displayed was incredible and we loved reconnecting.

Tirohanga

Last week in Maths, aakonga were developing their number knowledge by learning how to locate and place numbers on a number line up to 40. Through hands-on learning and rich discussions, students developed confidence in recognising where numbers belong and how they relate to one another. Aakonga have also been strengthening their addition skills by practising to count on within 20. They are learning to start from the largest number and count forward, using tools such as number lines to support their thinking. It has been fantastic to see students confidently explain their strategies and share their mathematical thinking with others.

The Takapuu (Australasian Gannet)

A Takapuu or Australasian gannet is a wonderful type of sea bird that lives in New Zealand.

Appearance

The Takapuu has waterproof feathers and webbed feet. It has waterproof feathers because when it dives in the water it does not get wet. Takapu have a bright yellow head. Also, it has long wings to help it fly.

Behaviour

A Takapuu makes their nest with seaweed and guano (bird droppings). After they make a nest the female Takapu lays only one egg in September and they take turns incubating the egg. Takapu dive in the water about 145km per hour to catch fish to eat.

Habitat

The Takapuu habitat in New Zealand is Muriwai, Farewell spit and Cape Kidnappers. These 3 places have big colonies of Takapu on bare cliffs and dry land. When they are young chicks, they fly to the east coast Australia and live there for 2-3 years. It takes them more than 2000 km and 8 - 14 days to reach there.

Written by Anahera Dickson

Uenuku

Last week, our class dived into the fascinating world of the takapuu (Australasian gannet). Aakonga were highly engaged as they explored this incredible seabird through reading an informative article and watching a short video, helping to build their knowledge and curiosity. Using what they had learned, students then created their own detailed information reports. It was fantastic to see them applying their new vocabulary and facts to explain where takapū live, what they eat, and the amazing way they dive into the ocean to catch fish.

In Maths, we have been learning to solve multiplication questions by making equal groups and arrays. Under the refreshed 2026 New Zealand Curriculum, Year 3 students are now expected to understand multiplication (such as equal groups and arrays), and memorise multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10 times tables, whereas the focus in the 2007 Curriculum was mainly on using strategies, with most students typically learning only the 2, 5, and 10 times tables.

KERERU REPORT



Week 8, Term 1

Massive mahi by our Kapa Haka students this week. They took part in two days of waananga, building their skills, confidence and connection, before delivering an incredible performance at the Franklin Multicultural Festival on Saturday. We are so proud of all our Kereru students who were involved - your passion, energy and mana shone on stage.

While our Kapa Haka students were at their waananga, the rest of Kereru enjoyed a day of rotation activities on Friday. Students had a fantastic time engaging in art, purposeful play, sport, a mystery reading challenge and buddy reading. It was wonderful to see so much creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm across the group.



Our Year 5-6 students have begun weekly Education Perfect assessments. More detailed information about this will be shared in Ms Stuart's upcoming newsletter. Each week, students will complete a pre-test at the beginning of the week (starting with Maths), followed by the same post-test later in the week. Based on their pre-test results, students will be assigned follow-up tasks to complete at home. These tasks are designed to support their learning and help improve their results by the end of the week.

A reminder for all students to please bring their device to school fully charged each day, as these are an important part of our classroom learning.

Last week, Te Marama enjoyed expanding our knowledge of graphs, focusing on choosing and creating our own graphs based on given information. Students were highly engaged in explaining and justifying their choices to one another, showing great mathematical thinking and confidence in sharing their ideas.

Te Moana have been focusing on division and are now beginning their next learning area of measurement, where they will explore units, tools and real-life applications.

Te Kauri and Te Rakau Nui have been learning how to multiply, with a particular focus on multiplying two-digit numbers. Students have been building their understanding of strategies and applying these to solve increasingly challenging problems.



Pouakai Report



Week 8, Term 1

On Thursday, Pouakai students travelled to Waiuku to take part in the Sullivan's Cup, representing our kura across a range of sports. It was fantastic to see every student showing such positive attitudes, teamwork, and determination throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of how they participated and supported one another. To top it off, Pouakai were awarded the overall Sullivan's Cup—an amazing achievement! Thank you to all the parents and whaanau who had helped out with this day. We all appreciate it!

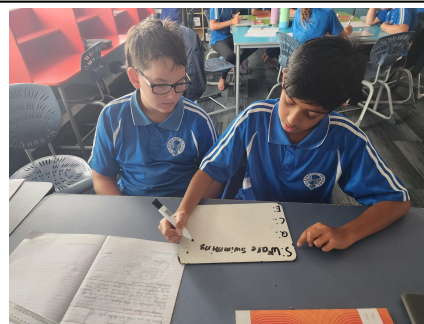


Year 7

This week in Maths, our students have been exploring the concept of budgeting and why it is important in everyday life. We have been learning to identify the difference between *needs* and *wants*, helping students make thoughtful and responsible financial decisions. As part of this learning, we have also begun using Banqer, our digital financial literacy platform, where students can practise managing money in a fun and engaging way.

Year 8

Students have been reading about the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and some of the different ways it can be used. It was a great opportunity to hear different perspectives, as well as discuss the pros and cons of the pace in which technology is developing. We were able to pose some 'I wonder...' questions and predict what the future might be like. We also discussed the reality of preparing students for jobs that might not even be a job yet. Further to this, we talked about the importance of developing skills and values as a person to set aakonga up for whatever the future might bring.



Reminders:

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Sports Camp: We are lucky enough to have secured the opportunity for all Year 7&8 students to attend Sports Camp this year. All details are on Hero and the Student Contracts have been sent home to please complete and return to the office.

Week 7

Piwakawaka Report

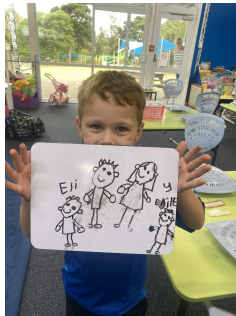
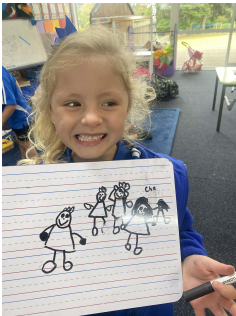


Week 7, Term 1

Kia Ora whaanau. This is a friendly reminder that our **Whakawhanaungatanga Taonga Box** is due **next Monday**. As part of our oral language learning, aakonga will be sharing and presenting their taonga box with the class. This is a special opportunity for students to talk about the people, places, and things that are important to them, helping us continue to build strong connections within our classroom. We are looking forward to hearing the wonderful stories and learning more about the special taonga that represent each child and their whaanau. Thank you for your support in helping your child prepare their box for sharing.

Parekereke

Last week, we focused on strengthening our sense of belonging through whakawhanaungatanga. Using the arts and rich oral language, our tamariki shared special stories about their whaanau while creating drawings that represented the people who are important to them. It was wonderful to see the pride and excitement as students talked about their families and listened to the stories of others. Our aakonga were not only developing their fine motor skills and oral language, but also weaving their identities into the heart of our classroom. We look forward to continuing to grow whakawhanaungatanga throughout the term as we build a strong, supportive classroom community where every child feels proud of who they are and where they come from.



Te Whenua

Last week, aakonga explored mathematics through music, beats, and instruments as we learned about patterns. This fun and exciting activity helped aakonga see that maths exists all around us in our everyday lives. By playing instruments and creating rhythms, students discovered that patterns can be made in many different ways. During our music and patterns learning, aakonga were reminded that making mistakes is a normal and important part of learning. As they experimented with different beats and sequences, they learned that it is okay when something does not work the first time—remembering that **FAIL** means **First Attempt In Learning**. It was wonderful to see students showing curiosity, creativity, and perseverance as they explored patterns together.

Uenuku

Last week our class explored the fascinating world of dragonflies during our reading sessions. The students were highly engaged as they learned about these incredible insects, discovering how dragonflies live near water, how they grow, and why they are such important parts of our ecosystems. The excitement grew even more on Thursday afternoon when a real dragonfly flew into our classroom! This unexpected visitor sparked a rich discussion, with students eagerly sharing their knowledge, observations, and questions. It was a wonderful moment of curiosity and authentic learning as our reading came to life right in front of us.

Tirohanga

Last week, aakonga explored the fascinating world of birds. They learned about the different features birds have, such as feathers, wings, and beaks, and discussed how these help them survive in their environments. After building their knowledge, each student chose a bird to focus on and began writing a description about it. They worked hard to include interesting details about what their bird looks like, where it lives, and what makes it unique.

KERERU REPORT



Week 7, Term 1

★★★ Congratulations to all of our students who competed at Group Day Swimming in Week 5, and to Kelsi, Keelan, Sefa, Noah, Taylin, Nixon, Anna, Joanna, Arapeta, Daniel E, Grayson and Frankie who represented our school at the Year 6 and below Franklin Zone Day Swimming on Friday. We are incredibly proud of your effort, determination and sportsmanship. ★★★

Te Marama

During our first Mitey sessions, students explored the lesson 'Who is Aroha?'. After being introduced to the story Aroha's Way, aakonga made predictions based on several illustrations. Working with their Ako buddy, they used six pictures from the story to create and sequence their own version of Aroha's journey on a larger sheet of paper. Students thoroughly enjoyed the activity and it was great to hear each group share their interpretation of Aroha's story.



Te Rakau Nui

Students have loved learning about strange plants. We explored this topic in our whole class reading sessions and used interesting facts to help us write Precision Sentences as part of our new Writer's Toolbox learning.

Maths has been challenging students this week as we've been learning how to multiply 2-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. I have been very impressed with their resilience and determination to keep trying when the learning gets tricky.



Te Moana

In Te Moana, students were challenged to think outside of the box on Monday with their EPRO8 challenges in the hall. It was a great opportunity for aakonga to work with other members of Team Kereru and strengthen whakawhanaungatanga across the team.

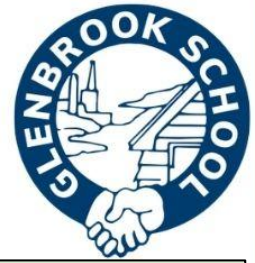
This week in water safety aakonga felt the difference of swimming when they aren't prepared - wearing their clothes instead of togs. Whilst a lot of fun and laughs were had, this was a great opportunity to learn about how different materials can affect our swimming abilities.

Te Kauri

Students in Te Kauri were excited to begin our Social Sciences learning. We explored the story of Mount Tarawera and the destruction caused by its eruption in 1886. Students also learned about the famous Pink and White Terraces and how they were buried during the eruption. The class showed great curiosity while learning about this significant event in Aotearoa's history and discussed why it is important to remember and learn from events like these.

In Maths, we have begun learning how to multiply two-digit numbers by other two-digit numbers. While this new concept has been challenging, students have shown excellent perseverance and are rising to the challenge with determination. It has been wonderful to see them applying their strategies and building confidence as they practise.

Pouakai Report



Week 7, Term 1



Year 7

Last week we enjoyed buddy reading with the younger students from Uenuku. It was great to see our students supporting younger learners and sharing their love of reading. It was a wonderful opportunity to build confidence, develop fluency, and show leadership while supporting younger learners.

We also finished our Swim Safety sessions, including a fun lesson that helped students understand how clothing can impact swimming ability and the importance of making good choices around the water.



Reminders:

It is important students are remembering to bring their devices each day. We are also reminding students to bring their diaries each day to encourage organisational skills.

Sports Camp: We are lucky enough to have secured the opportunity for all Year 7&8 students to attend Sports Camp this year. All details are on Hero and the Student Contracts have been sent home to please complete and return to the office.

Multicultural Festival: This Saturday at Pukekohe Indian Hall. We are performing at 12:45pm.

Year 8

Last week, students were focusing on improving their writing by considering their sentence types, such as adverb-start sentences. Students were able to notice the difference when making adjustments to their writing to help make it interesting to read and capture their audience.

As a class, we have been discussing effective questioning. Students are becoming increasingly confident in asking and answering questions, talking with their Ako buddy about their learning and respectfully challenging ideas. Students have had opportunities to practice this in a structured way, particularly in Maths.



A reminder that students Whakawhanaungatanga Poster Project is due next week on **Wednesday**. As part of the project students will present their poster to the class. We are looking forward to learning more about their whaanau, culture and interests as we celebrate these together.



Week 6

Piwakawaka Report



Week 6, Term 1

A special shout out to our amazing aakonga for their wonderful effort during Splish Splash Day. They showed fantastic confidence in the water and did a brilliant job demonstrating the swimming skills they have been learning. It was especially great to see them proudly displaying our school values throughout the event—showing Manaakitanga by encouraging one another, Ako as they learned alongside their peers, and Mana through their determination and effort. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude and teamwork they showed.

Te Whenua

Last week, Te Whenua celebrated Sea Week by learning about Hector's dolphins. Students explored this special dolphin and discovered where it lives and why it is unique to Aotearoa, New Zealand. Inspired by their learning, aakonga created their own writing and illustrations, sharing what they had discovered about this remarkable sea creature.

In Mathematics, aakonga combined movement and learning by taking part in running races to learn about ordinal numbers. They explored first, second, third, and beyond. These fun games helped them to develop a deeper understanding of order and position in a fun and engaging way.

Parekereke

Last week, aakonga dived into the exciting world of robotics using our Bee-Bots. Aakonga explored the basics of programming as they planned and entered sequences, reset commands, and carefully guided their Bee-Bots along pathways to bowl over towers. It was wonderful to see their thinking in action as they discovered that every button press matters and that careful planning leads to success. Alongside developing their coding skills, the real highlight was the teamwork on display. Working in groups of four, aakonga practised listening to one another, sharing their ideas, and patiently waiting their turn.



Uenuku

Last week, our learning turned to the small but mighty world of bugs and insects. Through reading and class discussions, students discovered how these tiny creatures help our environment by pollinating plants, breaking down natural materials, and supporting healthy ecosystems. The students were fascinated by the many different roles insects play in nature and enjoyed sharing the interesting facts they found.

The excitement continued as students began planning their very own bug houses. They carefully thought about what insects might need to feel safe and comfortable, sketching ideas and discussing possible materials. There is lots of enthusiasm in the classroom, and we are all looking forward to turning these creative designs into real bug homes very soon.

Tirohanga

Last week in writing, the classroom was buzzing with ideas as students worked alongside their buddies to create descriptive sentences from picture prompts. Using mini whiteboards, they experimented with adding interesting describing words to make their sentences more detailed and engaging. It was wonderful to see the students sharing ideas, supporting one another, and proudly reading their sentences aloud to the class. There was a real sense of celebration as everyone worked hard and enjoyed seeing their writing come to life.

KERERU REPORT



Week 6, Term 1

Te Kauri

In Te Kauri, students enjoyed imagining what their lives might look like in ten years' time. They wrote thoughtful descriptions about where they might live, the jobs they could have and the hobbies and activities they hope to enjoy in the future.

In Reading, students enjoyed learning about the fascinating 'Paddling Pigs of Fakaofu.' They were especially intrigued by how the pigs have adapted to their environment, swimming out to the reef when their island disappears beneath the ocean at high tide.

Te Moana

Last week, Te Moana students made boats with Miss Thorby for STEM. It was fantastic to see all of the fantastic creations. Students worked fantastically with their buddies, using their creative thinking to make some marvellous creations.

In Maths, students have been mastering addition of two and three digit numbers. It has been great to see them explaining to peers the processes and strategies that they have used.



Writer's Toolbox Daily Challenge

After seven failed prototypes, the Brainzap x11 sprang to life. It's unusual power shocked everybody. Surprisingly, the wicked machine had a mind of its own, electrocuting everyone that uses it or maybe sending a x24b nuclear missile to destroy your entire neighbourhood. The Brainzap x11 was dangerous. Dangerously fun, that is! What's better than blowing up your neighbourhood! Now here comes Katie, a 10 year old girl that wants the Brainzap x11 very badly. Luckily, she got it for her birthday. Katie put it on and reluctantly pressed the button ... then BOOM! Katie's house was destroyed. **By Arapeta**

Te Rakau Nui

In Reading, students have been exploring endangered animals and learning about why it is important to protect different species around the world.

In Maths, we have begun focusing on multiplication and division facts. Students are learning that if they know their 'easy times tables' (1s, 2s, 3s, 5s, 10s and 11s), they can use these to help work out the trickier facts. It has been great to see students building confidence and using their strategies to solve problems.

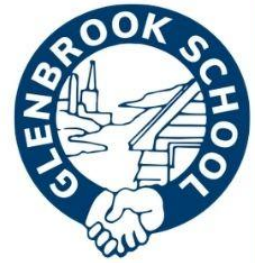
Te Marama

This week in Maths, students began learning about Statistics. We explored different types of graphs and practised describing what we notice, including patterns and key features. We also started working through the Education Perfect section on Statistics which students can continue at home.

On Monday, students had an incredible sailing experience. They enjoyed learning about the boats and sailing out with a buddy. There were lots of smiles and some great displays of teamwork and confidence.

Pouakai Report

Week 6, Term 1



Year 7

This week in Reading, we have begun studying 'The Wahine Disaster' by Shirley Corlett. Our learning has focused on building vocabulary, making inferences from the text, and thinking about how different people might see the same situation from different points of view.

In Maths, we have been exploring helpful tools and tricks to support us when solving maths problems. Students have also been learning how to use a calculator to find square roots and understanding when this tool can help with their working.

Students have enjoyed writing their own pepeha, sharing important information about who they are and where they come from. We have also started creating our visual pepeha, where students represent their identity and connections through an art piece. This forms part of our focus for this term on Turangawaewae.

Reminders:

It is important students are remembering to bring their devices each day. We are also reminding students to bring their diaries each day to encourage organisational skills.

Water Safety: Remember to bring some old clothes/pyjamas to wear in the pool for our last Water Safety lesson on Friday.

Sports Camp: We are lucky enough to have secured the opportunity for all Year 7&8 students to attend Sports Camp this year. All details are on Hero and the Student Contracts have been sent home to please complete and return to the office.

Kapa Haka: Multicultural Festival is on Saturday 21st March at Pukekohe Indian Hall. Please complete the permission slip on Hero.



Congratulations to Riley, Kenzie, Jonathan, Atelea, Noah, Lennox, Michael, Joseph, Beauden, Keira, Gabriella, Darya, Arya, Aubrey for representing Glenbrook School at Swimming Group Day last Friday.



Year 8

Year 8 students have been thriving in their leadership roles across the school. Ms Stuart has given students some great feedback about what has been noticed across the school at various times throughout the week. Ka rawe Te Rangī! It is great to see you shining in different areas across the school.

Students have been encountering some Maths challenges this week, working with large numbers and decimals and understanding 'the powers of'. Decimals adds a whole new layer of challenge and has enabled our students to practise their perseverance.

Congratulations to Kenzie for her outstanding results at her Swimming Meet last week. She walked away with personal bests in 6 out of 7 races and a podium finish in 200m backstroke. All the best to Aubrey & Atelea who are competing in the U13's Oceania Tag Tournament this weekend.

Week 5

Piwakawaka Report



Week 5, Term 1

This is a friendly reminder that our Team Piwakawaka Splish Splash Day is happening on Friday 6th March at 12pm. Whaanau are warmly invited to come along and watch our aakonga showcase the skills and confidence they have been building during their swimming lessons with Coach Thorby. We are incredibly proud of their progress and look forward to celebrating their learning in the pool. **Please remember to send your child with their togs, two towels, jumper, lunch, a water bottle, and a hat. We can't wait to see you there supporting our swimmers!**



Parekereke

Last week, our Science learning became a little squishy! Aakonga explored a real SCOBY and bravely smelt, touched, and described it. We heard wonderful observations such as, "It looks like pancakes!" "It feels like brains!" and "It's slimy and squishy!" We began by checking in on our feelings barometer, with some aakonga feeling nervous and others confident. By the end of our hands-on investigation, those early nerves had transformed into proud, confident smiles. It was a fantastic example of curiosity, bravery, and learning through real-life exploration.

Te Whenua

Last week, aakonga focused on strengthening pencil control and improving letter formation during handwriting sessions. Aakonga worked incredibly hard, paying close attention to letter size and shape while making strong connections between their phonics knowledge and the letters they wrote. It has been wonderful to see these developing skills transferring into their independent writing. Throughout the week, the class also explored emotions through engaging drama activities. We created a special Feelings Box to support students in expressing and understanding their emotions. Aakonga built positive teamwork skills and learned how to care for and support one another. They also practised a range of coping strategies through yoga, Pilates, movement, art, and communication, helping them develop confidence and emotional awareness.



Tirohanga

Last week in writing, Tirohanga focused on using adjectives to make sentences more detailed and engaging. Students explored how adjectives describe people, places, and things, and showed wonderful enthusiasm as they experimented with adding richer vocabulary to their work. It has been fantastic to see their ideas expanding, with many students confidently incorporating adjectives to enhance their writing.

In Science, students worked collaboratively to grow potatoes in water. They shared observations, discussed their thinking, and carefully set up their experiments together. It was great to see their teamwork and curiosity in action as they began noticing the first signs of growth.

Uenuku

Last week, our students reflected on their recent beach trip through some fantastic descriptive writing. They generated a rich range of adjectives and adverbs to bring their experiences to life and explored how to add extra detail by beginning sentences with prepositions. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing as they experiment with new sentence structures and vocabulary. Each day, we also dedicate time to strengthening our basic facts. Building quick recall for addition within 10, and then to 20, is an essential foundation for future maths learning. In class, students have been enthusiastically practising through a variety of hands-on games, such as rolling two dice and finding the total, using flash cards, and aiming for a target number.

KERERU REPORT



Week 5, Term 1

On Wednesday last week, some of our Year 4 and 5 students took part in a session led by Whaea Kim from the Mitey Foundation. This programme is being implemented across our classrooms as part of our new health and wellbeing focus. Mitey supports students to understand and strengthen their mental health. We are excited to begin embedding this programme into our teaching and learning.

Te Marama

Students enjoyed getting logged on to their online learning programmes for the year, including Education Perfect, Writer's Toolbox and TypingClub. These can be accessed from home, and there will also be some time at school for students to build their skills and confidence.

Students also made strong links between their EOTC experience and their reading, exploring a text about Awhitu Regional Park. It was great to see them drawing on their own experiences to deepen their understanding and make meaningful connections to the text.

Te Rakau Nui

Last week, students enjoyed a hands-on science lesson with Mr Duncan, learning how to identify different types of trees. It was great to see them observing carefully and confidently sharing their knowledge.

On Friday, we had lots of fun making ice-cream! This language experience supported our writing as we practised using W-Start sentences. Students are learning how this sentence type adds detail and excitement by building suspense or showing two things happening at once.



Te Kauri

This week, students logged in to Writer's Toolbox for the first time this year and revisited sentence types from last year, including W-Start and Adverb Start sentences, strengthening their writing skills.

In Science with Mr Duncan, students explored different tree species and learned to identify them by observing leaves, bark, shape, and size. They also began caring for our classroom plant, learning what it needs to survive and working together to water it and place it in the sunlight. It has been great to see their growing sense of responsibility.



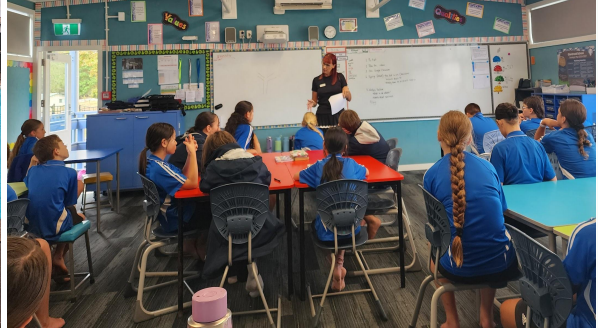
Te Moana

Students have worked on developing their communication skills with their learning buddies. They had lots of fun miming different pieces of information and working together to figure out the answers.

All students are now logged into their devices and are beginning to explore StepsWeb, Writers Toolbox and Typing Club. These programmes can be used both at school and at home. We also had our first library visit - keep an eye out for books coming home, as students were excited to discover new options that suited their interests!

Pouakai Report

Week 5, Term 1



Year 8

On Wednesday our Year 8's were fortunate to have Kim from Mitey come into class and model a lesson for our teachers and students. We discussed what the word vulnerable means and how we can be respectful to those who are brave enough to be vulnerable when in class.

Our Year 8's have been exploring ways to improve our writing. One aspect we focused on was with our sentence starters and attempting to have an 'adverb start'. This encouraged students to carefully plan their sentences and were able to see for themselves the difference it makes.

Students have been enjoying their Water Skills lessons, demonstrating their capabilities when they may be faced with challenges in open water. As well as this, they have had the opportunity to practice what to do if they notice someone in danger in the pool.



In Maths, we have been working on ordering decimals, exploring expanded form and learning about exponents. We have also been learning how to use powers of ten to understand and represent large numbers.

Reminders:

It is important students are remembering to bring their devices each day. We are also reminding students to bring their diaries each day to encourage organisational skills.

Sullivan's Cup: Permission was due on Monday (this is on Hero). This is for all Year 7/8 students. We are still seeking parent transport/supervision for the day.

Year 7

In Writing, students are finishing their EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) articles based on our recent surfing or hiking experiences. They have been working hard to include descriptive language and clear structure.

In Reading, we are focusing on comprehension skills while reading about our country. Students are answering questions to strengthen their understanding and building their vocabulary along the way.

It was wonderful to see many of our whaanau at Parent Teacher Conferences last Thursday. Thank you for taking the opportunity to allow us to get to know you and your child better and what your aspirations are for the year.

Week 4

Piwakawaka Report



Week 4, Term 1

Te Whenua

A highlight of last week was our exciting Science learning as we continued exploring the Living World.

Mrs Taylor introduced us to a fascinating Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast (SCOBY). Students were amazed to learn that it is a living culture, what it feeds on, and what it produces. There was plenty of curiosity, thoughtful questions, and rich discussion. After our investigation, aakonga enjoyed writing about their SCOBY experience and sharing their new learning. We are now carefully caring for our classroom SCOBY and observing how it grows and changes over time — we can't wait to see what happens next!



Parekereke

A highlight of last week was our exciting exploration of ordinal numbers. Students sequenced the days of the week, unpacked the routine of a school day, and even hosted their own running races to practise identifying 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th. There was wonderful enthusiasm as aakonga worked hard to master the order of numbers from 1-10 and noticed how sequences can change. Another special moment was in Science, where we followed step-by-step instructions to prepare our riwai (potato) to sprout. Students showed care and curiosity as they set up their potatoes, and we are looking forward to observing, recording, and tracking the changes as our riwai begin to grow and are eventually planted.

A huge shout out to all of our amazing students who are taking part in Surf Life Saving on Sundays! We are so proud of the bravery and determination you are showing as you challenge yourselves in the water. You are also demonstrating compassion and teamwork as you look out for others and learn how to keep yourselves and your community safe. What fantastic life skills you are building.

Tirohanga

A highlight of last week was Maths. Aakonga made great progress as they explored numbers to 20. Aakonga explored how making 10 first helps them build strong number knowledge and then confidently count on from 10. There was great engagement across the class, with students showing persistence and courage in their learning. We were especially proud of the way they embraced their FAILs (First Attempt In Learning), gave everything a go, and bravely shared their mathematical thinking with others.

Uenuku

Last week our learners had a wonderful time exploring Social Sciences and Te Reo Maaori with Whaea Ruth. They began learning about Te Tiriti o Waitangi, talking about what promises are, why agreements matter, and how people work together fairly. Aakonga showed curiosity and thoughtful discussion as they shared their ideas and asked questions. A highlight for Uenuku was successfully logging into their devices and beginning their StepsWeb learning. Students were excited and proud to take this next step, building independence while practising their literacy skills in a supportive digital environment. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow throughout the week.

KERERU REPORT



Week 4, Term 1

Last week across our team, students have continued with their brilliant learning. In **Te Moana**, we wrapped up our "Ko wai au? Who am I?" unit, with students proudly sharing their special features and strengths - be sure to check these out in our window at school pick-up.

In **Te Kauri**, students have loved settling back into writing, beginning with a descriptive piece about "Our Happy Place," using rich language to paint vivid pictures of places that bring them joy.

In **Te Rakau Nui**, tamariki have shown strong interest and engagement during whole-class reading as they explored fascinating insects. In Maths, we've been building strong routines while learning about numbers up to 10,000, focusing on place value to read, write, order and compare numbers.

In **Te Marama**, students have begun learning their pepeha in Te Reo and have started creating visual pepeha as part of our Visual Art, thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to express who they are and share their identities.



EOTC

We were very lucky to have two brilliant days of EOTC on Monday and Tuesday this week. On Monday, we spent the day at Awhitu Regional Park, enjoying a beautiful walk out to the Brook Homestead before cooling off in the water and playing in the sand. It was a fantastic day filled with fresh air, fun and plenty of smiles.

A huge thank you to all the whaanau who took time out of their day to support us - we truly appreciate it.

On Tuesday, students took part in orienteering, team-building and STEM activities, and loved the opportunity to mix and connect with other members of Team Kereru. What a wonderful couple of days of learning beyond the classroom our students have had!

Pouakai Report

Week 4, Term 1



Continuing with our Term 1 focus of Whakawhananungatanga, our Year 8 students have been exploring 'Tuku Iho' which translates to 'descended from'. We have discussed our place and belonging in different contexts such as whaanau and sports teams or groups. We then delved deeper and talked about who we represent, who rests on our shoulders and who we want to make proud each day.

In Reading, we have been utilising the school library to select books that are of high interest. We encourage these (or a book from home) to be read each night for home learning. It is important students are reading each night and using their diaries regularly to encourage those positive study habits.

In Writing, Year 8 students have been reflecting on their EOTC week, including highlights, challenges and if they would give the activity a go again. It has been great to see students using adjectives and considering various sentence starters to make their writing interesting for the reader.

This week in Maths, Team Pouakai students have been working with numbers up to 10 million. They have been practising reading, comparing, ordering, and rounding large numbers, strengthening their understanding of place value.



During our Physical Education time, students have been building essential water safety skills, improving their fitness, and developing greater confidence and technique in the water through swimming sessions.

Reminders:

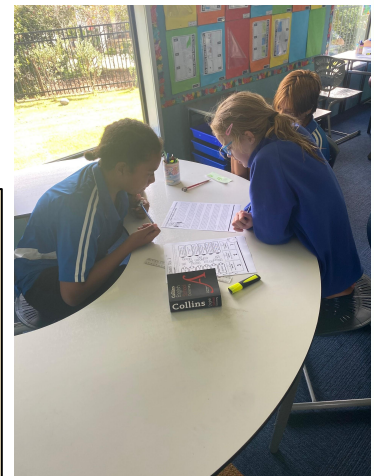
Swimming: students are expected to bring their togs each day.

Assembly: Ngata is leading our whole school assembly on 27th February (1:40pm start). We would love to see our whaanau there!

Sports: Please make sure you have filled out the permission slip forms. There have been a few sent out. We still need help for Ultra Rip and Sullivans Cup!

Homework Project

It was great to see section one of our projects coming in last week. Well done to those students who met the check in deadline. We are all looking forward to learning more about where our students and whaanau are from.



In Writing, our Year 7s are developing newspaper reports about our recent EOTC Week. Students are focusing on precision and ensuring they clearly include the who, what, when, and where, while using clear, factual language.

In Science, students have been exploring the fascinating world of soils. We investigated different types of soil and materials, discussing how they support plant growth. To bring our learning to life, students worked in groups to plant seeds, carefully selecting their soil or material. Over the coming weeks, students will water and observe their plants, monitoring changes and growth. This hands-on investigation is helping us understand how different materials influence a plant's ability to thrive.

Week 3

Piwakawaka Report



Week 3, Term 1

On Tuesday we enjoyed a fantastic day out at Graham's Beach! Aakonga had a wonderful time splashing in the water, exploring the shoreline, and creating impressive sandcastles together. Throughout the day they demonstrated our school values beautifully, especially whakawhanaungatanga, as they included, supported, and played alongside students from different classrooms. A huge thank you to our amazing parent helpers who generously gave their time to supervise and transport students. These experiences simply couldn't happen without your support – we are very grateful.

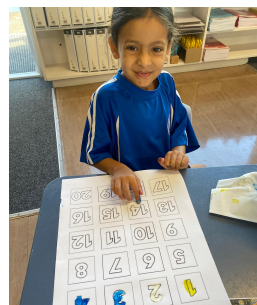
Te Whenua

Last week, Te Whenua learners explored numbers to 20 using their fingers and paint to show their thinking. Using hands helped tamariki connect numbers to real amounts, while painting allowed them to create groups, patterns, and sets in a fun and meaningful way. Over the coming weeks we will continue building on this foundation by introducing new numbers, practising quick recognition, and working with numbers in a variety of ways so confidence and number knowledge steadily grow.



Uenuku

Last week, Uenuku made the most of the sunshine and cool mornings with some energetic skipping sessions. Skipping proved to be a fantastic whole-body workout, helping build both strength and coordination while starting our days in a positive way. In literacy, students explored the idea of categories, and they soon carried this learning into science by using their new understanding to categorise living things. This sparked rich conversations as students shared their knowledge and made thoughtful connections together. Once our categories were sorted, each group focused on one and created a vibrant poster to teach others about it. The level of whakawhanaungatanga on display was wonderful, with students supporting one another as they designed and presented their work.



Parekereke

Our aakonga have been thriving in Parekereke over the past week. We have begun strengthening our reading foundations by meeting Milo Monkey and Sally Snake—two of our engaging characters who help make phonics fun and memorable for everyone. In mathematics, we have been developing our understanding of number concepts, gradually working into the tens and using hands-on materials to support our learning. Our physical activity has centred around swimming, where students are building water confidence and learning important water safety skills while enjoying afternoon swims.

Tirohanga

In Tirohanga last week, students confidently followed their reading, maths, and writing routines. In writing, they used picture prompts to inspire a "Creature Feature" about the slow loris, practising capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops. It was fantastic to see the progress made, with many students successfully achieving the learning intention. In science, students were highly engaged as they explored living things and their different categories. They worked collaboratively, listened carefully, and communicated clearly to complete their tasks. It was wonderful to see their curiosity and teamwork shine.

KERERU REPORT



Week 3, Term 1

Congratulations to all of our amazing students who participated in Swimming Sports on Friday. You showed fantastic enthusiasm, determination and participation, and handled the weather and changes so well. We are so proud of you!

A big thank you to our whaanau who came along to support and to those who helped the day run smoothly.

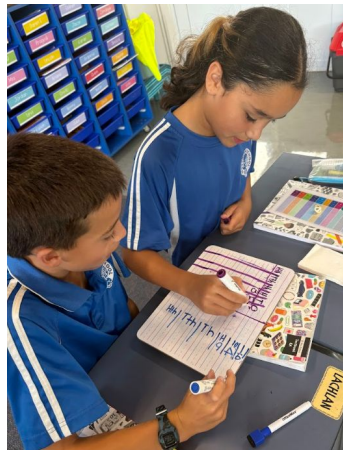
Now that Swimming Sports has finished, students will begin learning **Water Safety** skills with Coach Thorby alongside their classroom teachers. This is an important unit where students develop real-life skills, so please ensure togs are brought to school every day.

Te Moana

Our youngest members of Team Kereru have had a fantastic start to the year in Te Moana. Over the past two weeks, students have settled into their new team, learnt the timetable and met new staff. We enjoyed a visit to the garden to check on our summer harvest and shared apples with Team Piwakawaka for brainfood. Students have also begun exploring Writer's Toolbox and learning about feelings and emotions through our new Mitey Programme.

Te Kauri

We've had a fantastic start to the year in Te Kauri! Our aakonga have returned refreshed, settled and ready to learn. They've loved spending time in the pool as they prepared for swimming sports, and now as they learn water safety, showing great determination and resilience while building their confidence. Another highlight has been creating vibrant self-portraits, which look amazing displayed in our classroom and showcase their creativity.



Te Marama

We've had a great start to our Social Sciences learning, exploring the key figures involved in the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Students engaged in meaningful, hands-on drama activities and have loved learning alongside Whaea Ruth during this time. As part of our whanaungatanga, we also brainstormed where we see ourselves in 10 years, sharing our future goals and aspirations. We're looking forward to turning these ideas into writing this week.

Te Rakau Nui

We've had a fantastic first two weeks in Te Rakau Nui! Students have settled in beautifully and are quickly getting into the rhythm of our learning and routines. A highlight has been creating self-portraits, which will soon be proudly displayed. Students have also enjoyed organising their new homework diaries and are showing great responsibility. It's been such a positive start, and we're excited to see what 2026 brings.

Pouakai Report



Week 3, Term 1

Swimming Sports

On Friday, our Year 4–8 students took part in Swimming Sports. Despite the rainy weather, our students showed fantastic adaptability, supported one another, and listened carefully throughout the day. It was wonderful to see such positive attitudes both in and out of the pool.

Thanks to their efforts, we successfully completed all competitive and non-competitive races. Glenbrook School would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who helped on the day. We truly appreciate your time and support – we could not have had such a successful event without you.



Last week, Team Pouakai participated in our EOTC week. Each year level experienced surfing at Port Waikato and hiking up Mt William. Our students showed determination, resilience, and perseverance when it mattered most. All students who attended reached the summit of Mt William (including teachers and parents!). There were lots of smiling faces and many attempts at standing on a surfboard, or embracing the many face plants into the water. It was great to see everyone having a go despite it being out of their comfort zone for some. We have some natural surfers amongst us!

On Thursday, Year 7's made the most of their first ever Technology day while the Year 8's underwent some of Mr. Green's team building challenges. Communication and collaboration were identified as being the key skills needed to be successful with these challenges. A huge thank you to the parents that supported us during the week with supervision and transport. We appreciate your time and awhi in ensuring these trips could go ahead and memories were made for our tamariki.



Week 2

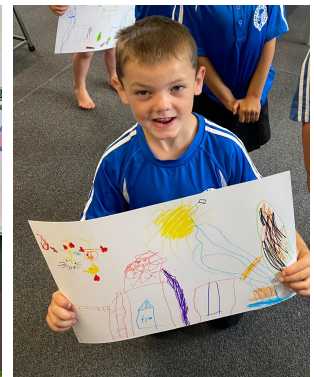
Piwakawaka Report



Week 2, Term 1

Cool Schools

We have started the year by learning about Cool Schools and building the skills we need to create a safe, caring, and respectful classroom and playground. Together, we've been talking about what conflict is, why it happens, and positive ways we can solve problems when they pop up. Aakonga have been practising using their WITS strategies to manage tricky situations — Walk away, Ignore, Tell someone, and Say an "I" statement. Through role-plays, group discussions, and real-life examples, students are learning how to communicate calmly, stand up for themselves, and look out for others. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they practise being problem-solvers and supportive friends. We are so proud of the caring choices they are making each day.



Fitness

Each morning, Team Piwakawaka start the day with 10 minutes of fun fitness to wake up their bodies and brains ready for learning. We head outside for fresh air and movement, enjoying activities like skipping, Jump Jam, pilates, and a range of games and exercises that get our hearts pumping and smiles shining. This short burst of activity helps students build strength, coordination, and focus, while also supporting their wellbeing and positive mindsets for the day ahead. It's a joyful way to connect as a class and start each morning feeling energised and ready to learn.

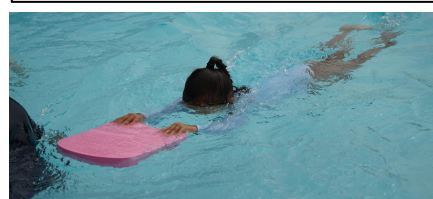
Coming up

Tuesday 17th February - Grahams Beach Trip. A great day to develop Whakawhanaungatanga across our team while exploring and learning about our local area.

Friday 6th March - Splish Splash day. A fun day, where students get to showcase their ever developing water confidence with each other and whaanau.

Swimming

We are feeling very lucky this term to have Coach Thorby working alongside our teachers to support our swimming programme. Tamariki are swimming every day, giving them lots of opportunities to build their skills, confidence, and water safety knowledge. Students have been learning the foundations of swimming, including blowing bubbles, floating, moving safely through the water, and beginning freestyle techniques. It's been fantastic to see their courage and perseverance as they try new skills and encourage one another.



KERERU REPORT



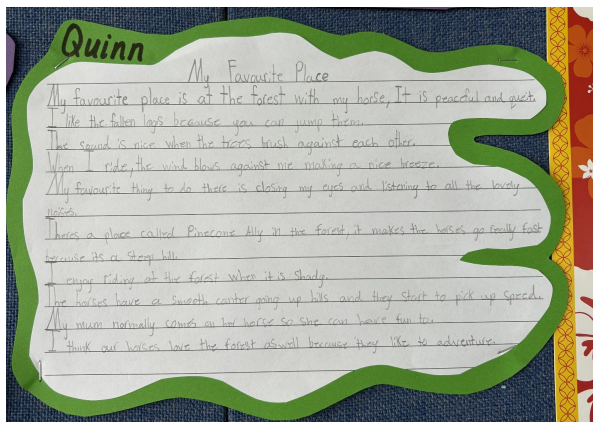
Week 2, Term 1

Last week, **Te Moana** enjoyed time in the garden, helping to tidy the space, care for the plants, and harvest some of the fresh fruits and vegetables, which was a great opportunity for hands-on learning and teamwork.

Te Rakau Nui began writing a piece titled 'All About Me', where students described their interests, strengths, goals and what makes them unique.

Te Kauri wrote about a special taonga and explained why it is important to them and their whaanau, making meaningful connections to their identity and culture.

Te Marama, has spent time creating our class treaty, guided by the Treaty of Waitangi principles of Partnership, Protection and Participation. Students shared their ideas about how we can work together, respect one another and create a safe and positive learning environment.



This year, I am looking forward to Swimming Sports because I want to show my dad what a good swimmer I am and because I get to be in the competitive races. Last week I enjoyed gardening. Our class has been chosen to look after the gardens this year. - Noah

I am looking forward to doing Calf Club art this year and presenting my Chicken. Last week I loved doing my portrait because I enjoy doing art. - Isla

This year I am looking forward to learning new things in Maths. Last week I enjoyed Science with Mr Duncan because we learnt about the five kingdoms. We also got to touch the different fungi and seaweed. - Isaiah

This year I am really looking forward to training for and doing Athletics. So far this year, I have enjoyed our Maths lessons, learning how to read and write numbers to 1,000,000. - Keelan

Reminder: Students are expected to swim every day. They have been practising for Swimming Sports, whether that is swimming lengths or widths of the pool. Well done to all students who have been swimming every day so far this term - awesome effort!

Swimming Sports is this Friday. Students should come to school wearing their togs and their whaanau colours.

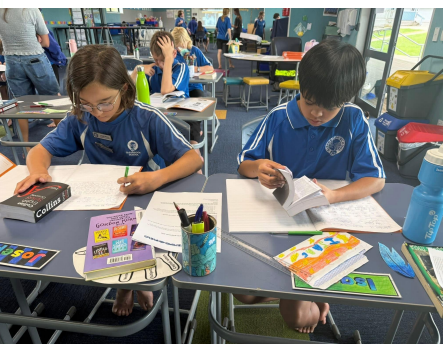


Pouakai Report

Week 2, Term 1



On Thursday, Year 7 students took part in Science with Mr Duncan, where they explored the concept of bacteria. They learned what bacteria is and how it affects humans and the wider world. Our Term 1 inquiry is centred around the Living World, and we look forward to deepening our understanding through a range of engaging learning experiences.



We have also made a strong start in writing. Students are developing their understanding of the writing process, including planning (getting ideas down), drafting, editing independently, and sharing their work to receive feedback from a buddy. Students particularly enjoyed writing about different daily challenges, showing creativity, humour, and thoughtful reflection.

It has been wonderful to see such a positive and enthusiastic start to the year.

Team Pouakai have started their Swimming and Fitness sessions with Coach Thorby and teachers. The school pool has been well used during these hot summer days. Well done to those students making the most of their swimming lessons in preparation for Swimming Sports on Friday 13th February. Students who do not bring their togs will participate in fitness activities.

Reminders:

Swimming: students are expected to bring their togs each day.

Assembly: 20th February Year 8's leading. We would love to see our whaanau there!



We have started 2026 by understanding what it means to be tuakana of the school. This is demonstrated in various ways each day. A big focus of week 1 has been understanding what our Roles & Responsibilities are and what is involved in ensuring these jobs are completed to a high standard. Our students have made an excellent start and are taking their roles seriously. Ka rawe taamaraki maa!

Year 8's visited View Road for Technology in week 1. They met their teachers and were reminded of the expectations for 2026. Student designed, planned and produced their own name badges to take with them and will need to bring to each Technology day. Year 7's will attend Technology on even weeks this term. We are very lucky to have View Road offer Technology for us again this year. Ngaa mihi nui View Road School.

