



# SUNNYNOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Learning for Success”

## Ngā Kauri Newsletter

Term 3 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A warm welcome back to another busy and stimulating term. We hope all our Ngā Kauri families had an enjoyable break. We look forward to meeting with many of you at the Student Learning Conversations on Thursday, 7th of August. Our students are keen to share their learning with you.

### Learning in Ngā Kauri

**Inquiry:** This term, Ngā Kauri will explore the life cycles of living things and how they differ across species. Students will learn to describe, classify, and compare different types of animals. They will gain an understanding of how living things grow, change, and reproduce over time, and how these life cycles can vary between species. Throughout the unit, students will investigate the key stages in the life cycles of a range of animals and plants. They will learn to identify similarities and differences between these cycles and develop their ability to classify living things based on their characteristics and life processes. As they build their knowledge, students will also begin to recognise how understanding life cycles helps people to care for living things and make informed choices that support the health of our environment, which supports the development of our school value Kaitiakitanga.

**Mitey:** This term for Mitey, we'll be exploring the big idea: “**How can I have friendships that are happy and healthy?**” Through discussions, activities, and shared reading, students will describe themselves in relation to their friends, explore and share ideas about what makes friendships positive and supportive and practise ways to maintain and enhance their relationships with others. To deepen our thinking, we'll also read and reflect on ‘CLUBS’ and ‘BILLY’, two sophisticated picture books by Kate De Goldie that explore the complexities of belonging, friendship, and kindness.

**Mathematics:** This term, we'll continue to use the Oxford Maths Student Book as one of our tools for learning. Our popular Friday problem-solving sessions will also carry on, helping learners develop creative and critical thinking skills.

In Ngā Kāuri, students will be exploring areas such as Number Knowledge, Problem Solving, Measurement (continued), Rational Numbers, and Probability. Unlike other textbooks, the M&S for ANZ Student Book is designed to be flexible, offering ‘Guided’, ‘Independent’, and ‘Extended’ practice activities so that students working on the same concept can learn at the level that suits them best.

Using Oxford, teaching begins with explicit teaching (I do) and hands-on activities to introduce and explore each topic after which the students and teacher collaboratively work through some examples (We do). Students then use the textbook to practise, reinforce and deepen their understanding (You do), however it isn't expected that everyone will complete every page. Instead, learners follow differentiated pathways that match

their learning needs, including those who require more support and those who require extension, helping them grow in confidence and understanding in maths.

### Basic Facts

Mastering basic facts is crucial for children, as it enables them to solve mathematical problems more efficiently and confidently. Basic facts are learnt through repetition and need to be revisited often so that they are mastered and not forgotten.

At home, you can help your child learn basic facts through using <https://learning.prototec.co.nz/> or <http://timetables.co.nz/>

**Play quick games** – times tables snap, “guess my number,” or rolling dice to make and add numbers.

**Talk maths in daily life** – cooking, measuring, or estimating shopping totals

**Practice number facts** – addition to 20, doubles, multiplication up to  $10 \times 10$ , and related division facts.

**Explore patterns** – skip counting, noticing even/odd numbers, and talking about why patterns happen.

**Encourage thinking aloud** – ask your child to explain their strategy, even if they get the answer wrong.

### Expected Number Knowledge – NZ Maths Curriculum (Phase 2)

Year Level	Know	Do
<b>Yr 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place value: tens &amp; hundreds in 2–3 digit numbers</li> <li>Skip count by 2s, 5s, 10s (and emerging 3s/4s)</li> <li>Addition/subtraction facts within 20</li> <li>Doubling &amp; near doubles</li> </ul>	Use these to solve simple problems, estimate, and check work
<b>Yr 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiplication tables to <math>10 \times 10</math></li> <li>Related division facts</li> <li>Extend place value to thousands</li> <li>Recognise simple equivalent fractions (<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>, <math>\frac{1}{4}</math>, <math>\frac{1}{3}</math>)</li> </ul>	Recall & apply facts to solve multi-step problems, fraction contexts
<b>Yr 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automatic recall: all <math>\times</math> and <math>\div</math> facts to <math>12 \times 12</math></li> <li>Understand factors, multiples, and divisibility by 2, 3, 5, 10</li> <li>Decimal knowledge (tenths, hundredths) and simple equivalents (<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>, .25, .75)</li> </ul>	Estimate, compute, and problem-solve confidently – whole numbers, fractions, decimals

**P.E & Outdoor education lessons:** We have an exciting and action-packed winter sports programme planned for this term. PE sessions will enable students to develop the physical skills needed for rugby, netball, hockey, soccer and basketball. We encourage students to bring a change of clothes and spare shoes, if they have any, for these activities on a Monday, and keep them at school throughout the week. Fitness sessions will include gymnastics skills, where students will be participating in a gymnastics rotation.

**Te reo Māori:** This term, students will continue to start each day with our morning paepae, helping them build confidence in speaking te reo Māori and practising tikanga Māori. To link with our inquiry topic on biology and life cycles, we'll also learn the Māori names for animals, plants, and body parts as well as sentence structures to extend their te reo Māori. This helps students deepen both their language skills and understanding of the living world around them. We're excited to see our learners using new kupu (words) and tikanga in everyday classroom life.

**Literacy:** This term, our writing programme will begin with a focus on persuasive writing as students prepare for the Sunnynook Primary School Speech Competition in Week 4. Learners will practise how to structure arguments, use persuasive language, and present their ideas confidently to an audience. After the speech competition, we'll move on to writing explanation reports, which will link closely with our inquiry topic on the life cycle. Students will learn how to explain *how* and *why* things happen in nature, using topic-specific vocabulary

and clear structure. We're looking forward to seeing our writers develop both their **speaking** and **writing** skills this term.

**Digital Technologies:** Students will learn to create digital content, such as writing, images, and videos, using digital devices. They will also develop skills in sharing their digital creations with others. Students will primarily use Chromebooks to showcase and communicate their learning.

**Health Talk:** As a part of our Health Education Programme, we are providing the Year 5/6 students with the opportunity to discuss personal hygiene and issues related to the physical and emotional changes that occur as they grow. The programme does not focus on sexual and reproductive health. Some students begin to experience pubertal changes in Year 5 and 6 with little understanding of why personal health is important. We hope the discussions will provide students with knowledge and understanding to develop positive attitudes towards some of the changes that they will now be experiencing, whilst encouraging them to have further discussions about this at home. These discussions with the students will take place on Friday, 1 August at 11.00 am. Mrs Bassett-Smith and Miss Lee will lead the discussion for the girls, Mr Tereora and Mr Welsh will separately lead the discussion with the boys. There will also be a part of the discussion where all students hear about the changes that happen to everyone. If you prefer your child not to participate in these discussions, please sign and return the slip to your child's class teacher by Wednesday, 30 July.

**BSLA:** Some teachers in Ngā Kauri are taking part in training for the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) through Canterbury University. BSLA is a systematic and evidence-based approach designed to ensure early literacy success for all our tamariki. Specifically created for New Zealand classrooms, it supports students' reading, writing, and oral language through structured teaching of phonics, phonological awareness, morphology, and orthographic pattern knowledge. The approach follows a carefully developed scope and sequence that guides whole-class and small-group teaching, and aligns with Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Te Mātaiaho English Learning Area.

## Reminders

### **Uniform**

This is a reminder that jewellery or bright accessories, including bright hair clips and hair ties, are not allowed at school. Earrings should be small studs or sleepers only for safety reasons. Socks should be black or navy and school shoes should also be **completely black**. With the colder weather now here, please remind your child to wear their school jumper each day. To help prevent lost property, make sure all clothing is clearly named. Clearly labelling your child's clothing is a great help, as things do go missing. If your child has lost anything, please remind them to check the lost property box in the hall.

### **Home Learning Expectations:**

A sheet will continue to come home every Monday and must be returned on Friday. It is an expectation that children **read each day**, so please support your child with this. To support your child with reading, it is important that you discuss with your child what they are reading, talk to them about the vocabulary in the story and ask them questions to ensure that they are understanding what they are reading and to develop their comprehension skills. We hope that the range of different learning experiences each week keeps everyone engaged.

**Bell Times:** At Sunnynook Primary, a bell is rung at 8.30 am to let children know that the classrooms are open. Children are **not to arrive at school earlier than 8.30 am**. You can book before-school care at SKIDS which is located in the Sunnynook School Hall. All children leave school at 3.00 and it is important that you and your child are aware of where they are being picked up from or where they are meant to be after school.

**Toys:** Please ensure that students do not bring toys to school. These items can be distracting and can disrupt the learning process.

**Lunch box:** To promote healthy eating habits, we ask that **no lollies or sweets** be packed in your child's lunchbox. Also, water is the best choice for staying hydrated and focused, so please ensure your child's lunchbox contains **only water**.

**Litterless lunches:** To help minimise waste and protect our environment as per our school value of Kaitiakitanga, we kindly ask that you avoid single-use packaging in your child's lunchbox. If packaged food is brought, please take the rubbish back home to help keep our school grounds clean. Your support in this effort not only helps the environment but also encourages a more sustainable school community.

**Taelim Lee (Team Leader),**

On behalf of the Ngā Kauri Teachers,

Monica Duffield, Zoe Jones, Libby Brereton, Michael Welsh, Hannah Carlsen, Andie McGuinness, Sei Tereora and Mig McMillan

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