



## NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term 1

Friday 21 February 2025

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He waka eke noa – we're all in this together  
E so'o le fau i le fau – unity is strength

### Mai te pene a te Tumuaki | From the Principals' Pen

Kia ora e te whānau

It's been a great start to the year here at Discovery School. We welcomed a number of new tamariki and their whānau, as well as some staff. Welcome to Amy Richards (Room 5) and Vicki Howarth (Room 14) who joined our team. We have also welcomed Shaun Bishop (Room 20) and Suzette McVicar (Part time teacher) back from their extended periods of leave.

Our teaching staff are currently working through **new curriculum** guidance in Maths and English. The new curriculum was published very late last year and we are working at a pace that is manageable for staff, while still providing a quality programme for our tamariki. On March 14th, school is closed for the day - this is a *Curriculum Day* for teachers, where we will be working with a Ministry of Education facilitator to work through the first stage of our professional learning in maths.

**Te reo Māori** is not only a rich, beautiful language, but also one of NZ's official languages. Many of you will know we have been working hard at our kura (school) to grow our use of te reo Māori and do our bit to help it become normalised and revitalised. While our use of te reo might seem like a small thing, using it in everyday settings will help the language grow again. In addition to the work we do in our classrooms, this term the staff are working hard to use te reo as much as possible (understanding that many of us are also learning).

We have developed a list of 10 words that we will use te reo instead of English as much as possible. These are listed below. We are sharing this with the tamariki and encouraging them to use these words and you may like to use them too.

kai - food  
whānau - family  
tamariki - children  
wharepaku - toilet  
pōtae - hat  
rūma - room  
whāriki - mat/carpet  
ākonga - student/learner  
mōrena - good morning  
kura - school

If you are keen to learn more or to hear the correct pronunciation, [Te Aka](#) is the online Māori dictionary. You can use Te Aka to look up English words (to find the te reo) and also to look up a te reo word and hear the correct pronunciation.

If you have not signed up to **Hero**, it's really important that you do so in order to keep up with communication. You can do so much using the programme and we don't want anyone missing out on key information. Please see the section later in the newsletter if you need more information and remember, we are here to help if needed!

Kia pai te ra (have a great day)!

*Kaylene*

## Vision Update

As most of you will be aware, last year we worked on developing our new school vision. A group of Year 6 tamariki, alongside Mrs Smith, consulted with whānau, ākonga (students) across the school and presented their ideas to our Discovery School Board and our local iwi, Ngati Toa. From this consultation, we presented a few versions of the vision and our school community voted. We then worked with Ngati Toa to create our te reo aspect of the vision and are now proudly ready to share this mahi with you.


**Our NEW vision at Discovery school is:**



# DISCOVERY SCHOOL

*Whanake rā tātou kia pai ai te āpōpō*  
We thrive & grow today for a better tomorrow

Term 1, 2025 has begun and we are in full swing of unpacking and exploring our new school vision with our kaiako (teachers) and ākonga (students). We have been exploring the key kupu (vocabulary) and what it means to be an effective learner at Discovery School so we can all thrive and grow together.



**Whanake rā tātou kia pai ai te āpōpō**

**Whanake** - the what - growth, development, rising up  
**rā tātou** - all of us seizing the day  
**kia** - the wishing particle - to wish for, to become  
**pai ai te āpōpō** - for tomorrow to be better/good

The "Kia ... ai" construct roughly translates to "so that ..."


## Date for your diary: Vision Sharing of Learning: Friday 4th April 2 - 3pm in our school hall.

The hall will have on display work done by our tamariki to unpack and explore our new vision. You will hear what the new school vision means to our tamariki and their ideas expressed through art. We look forward to sharing this new learning and mahi with you.

## Hero Student Database

Hero will be a one stop shop for all absence reporting, communication, reporting, etc. Please [follow these 6 easy steps](#) to log into Hero for the first time using the email we use to contact you. Please check your child's personal details, if you need to update any contact information please email: [contactupdates@discovery.school.nz](mailto:contactupdates@discovery.school.nz)

You can pay your account through the Hero app (small fee applies) or alternatively pay directly into our bank account, see details below.

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## Seesaw



We use a tool called Seesaw for reporting and sharing to parents. Please make sure that you have downloaded the APP onto your device. Returning students should already be connected. If your child is new to Discovery School, your child's teacher will send an invite to you to connect to their class if they are new. Please contact them if you haven't received an invite. **We would like you to check Seesaw regularly to see updates about your child's learning.**

## Dogs

If you are bringing your dog on site at pick up/drop off times, please be aware that some children are fearful of dogs. If your dog is not a calm dog that can cope with the school environment, we ask that you leave them at home or say goodbye to your child at the school gate. If you do bring your dog on site, please keep it close to you and avoid being too close to classroom doors and meeting points.

## Term Dates & Teacher Only Days 2025

	Start Date	End Date	Public Holidays & Curriculum Days (school closed)	
<b>Term 1</b>	Tuesday 4 February	Friday 11 April	Thursday 6 February Friday 14 March	Waitangi Day Curriculum Day
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 28 April	Friday 27 June	Friday 30 May Monday 2 June Friday 20 June	Curriculum Day King's Birthday Matariki
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 14 July	Friday 19 September		
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 6 October	Wednesday 17 December	Monday 27 October	Labour Day

\*Easter Friday, Monday and Tuesday and Anzac Day are in the term 1 holiday break

## Kiss and Go Zone - Junior team

In the junior team, we encourage independence, and confidently saying goodbye to family in the morning is an important part of this.

You'll notice this poster displayed around the school.

Junior teachers will be helping tamariki understand its message and are here to support you if you need any assistance.



## Policy Review

We use School Docs to house our school policies. This system ensures we are complying with legislation and also allows for parents and staff to have input into board policy review. This term, we are reviewing the policies listed below

• <b>Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy</b>	Board review
• <b>Safety Management System</b>	Board review
• <b>Risk Management</b>	Board review
• <b>Worker Engagement, Participation, and Representation</b>	
• <b>Healthcare</b>	Board review
• <b>Recording and Reporting Accidents, Injuries, and Illness</b>	

School Docs enables parents to log in and give feedback on policies that are then considered when they are up for review. Please log into the system and use the review tab/comment function to send us your feedback. Log in details can be found on our school website:

<https://www.discovery.school.nz/charter/school-docs-policies-and-procedures>

## Phones & Electronic Messaging Devices

Just a reminder that while students can bring their phones to school, they do so at their own risk and they are not to be used during the school day. In rare instances you need to contact your child during the day or vice versa, all communication goes through the office. We have noted an increased number of children with smart watches - the same applies and any messaging capability should be turned off during the day. If students use devices, they will be taken off them, given to Kaylene and given back at the end of the day. If use is repeated, the device will be held at school for collection by parents.

## Sunhats/pōtae

Being sun smart at Discovery School is very important. All children need to wear a sunhat everyday in term 1 and term 4. We encourage each child to keep a named sunhat either in their school bag or tote tray so that they can be outside during school hours safely. We advise parents to apply sunscreen to their children before school, and then ask your child to reapply it at lunchtime as the weather can be hot at this time of the year.

## Nut Free

We have some children with allergies to nuts and nut products. For these children their allergies are life threatening, therefore we ask that **all** nut products are left out of school lunches. Please pay attention to this when purchasing items for school lunches and when filling your child's lunchbox. Your consideration of this is greatly appreciated.

## Punctuality

We understand that mornings can be very busy for all families and getting to school can be, at times, a major undertaking. The beginning of the day is an important time aimed at helping students settle in, therefore it is important to ensure your child arrives at school between 8.30 am and 8:55 am each day. By arriving in plenty of time, children have the opportunity to connect with their peers and teacher and to get themselves organised for the day ahead. When students arrive late, they take longer to settle into the classroom and disrupt the learning that is taking place.

Can you please ensure your child has everything they need for the day in their bag? While we do understand that from time to time, things get forgotten, we have a large number of students at school and it is not possible for the office staff to deliver items to the classrooms if they have been forgotten.

## Parking, Drop off and Pick up

Please ensure you are obeying all parking signs and regulations when you drop off and collect your children from school. This includes around the Kindergarten and in our school carpark - please don't stop on yellow lines. A reminder that on both Spinnaker Drive and The Companionway, there are parking restrictions, particularly around pick up and drop off times. All parents and caregivers are legally obliged to follow the rules around parking, which are in place to keep everyone safe.

## Bike Safety

It has been reported that we have some students not riding bike helmets when biking to school along the walkways. Please remind your children that they must wear their helmets when riding their bikes. While scootering with a helmet may not be a legal requirement, it is also recommended.

## Discovery School Facebook page



Please join our [school Facebook page](#). This has regular updates, reminders and notices as well as photos of school events. You need to state your child's full name and class to be accepted into this closed group. Please note that students won't be accepted to this page and commenting is always turned off on posts. Private messages to administrators will not be answered, please contact your child's teacher or the school office via email if you have questions about school programmes and/or events.

## Health Consultation

Last year, we surveyed parents in relation to our Health programmes here at school. The survey asked parents about how important different aspects of the Health curriculum were to them. The survey affirmed the following aspects of our programmes:

- the importance of teaching cyber safety and road safety to add to the teaching done at home by parents
- fitness and daily exercise
- the self defence /safety programmes we run at age appropriate stages of our schooling
- the use of programmes to support tamariki in understanding wellness
- water safety
- body care and physical safety

There were mixed comments in the survey about programmes related to puberty, relationships and sexuality. This is an area that does sit within the curriculum and we are exploring resources that fit with the curriculum, while ensuring consistency in practice that is age appropriate. If you would like more information about how this fits within the curriculum, please refer to the [Ministry of Education guidance for parents](#). When we do come to teach this topic, there will be plenty of communication to parents so that you are aware of what is being covered and while we don't recommend it, parents will have the opportunity to opt children out should they so wish.

## Pasifika Parents Group At Discovery School

Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Taloha Ni, Nisa bula vinaka and warm Pacific greetings everyone.

This group was established in September 2013 with the vision of including some of our Pasifika cultures, languages, songs and contexts into the learning environments at Discovery School.

We are a group of parents/grandparents who want to work with the school's staff and leadership/management to support them to understand, strengthen and maintain the identities, languages and cultures of the Pasifika students and families of Discovery school.



We welcome everyone who has an interest in supporting our Pasifika children and families at Discovery school. There are many opportunities for you to be involved and information about these opportunities will be on the school website and in the school newsletters.

Meitaki maata, Fa'afetai tele lava

Join the Facebook page [Pasifika Facebook page](#)

## Māori Parents Group At Discovery School

Discovery School's Whānau Group is made up of whānau Māori within the school community who like to meet termly to celebrate Te Aō Māori and learn more about it.

The Whānau Group is a space for our whānau Māori to develop their understanding of our culture and identity through celebrations, Māori traditions and practices, kai and a space for other whānau to meet and form relationships. We acknowledge the importance of identity in our taura (students) and how it contributes towards our tamariki enjoying and achieving education success.

We meet once a term and welcome the involvement of all Māori students and their whānau

Join the Facebook page [Whānau group facebook page](#)

## DSPTA - Discovery School Parent Teacher Association



It's a new year and the Discovery School PTA is looking for helpers to assist in a variety of ways, including; planning fundraisers, helping with school lunches & BBQ's, discos or school activities, becoming new committee members or embracing sponsorship opportunities through their own company connections. If you are keen to get involved in any way that suits you please join us for a meeting, follow our DSPTA Facebook page or join our DSPTA Helpers page.



Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. We met some lovely new school families at our Mihi Whakatau early this term, who we'd love to have involved in any way possible. You can make contact with us at [dspta@discovery.school.nz](mailto:dspta@discovery.school.nz) or you can join us here [facebook.com/discovery\\_school\\_pta](https://facebook.com/discovery_school_pta) or [facebook.com/groups/dsptahelpers/](https://facebook.com/groups/dsptahelpers/)



## Kelly Club Before and After School Care

Click on this link for more information about our before and after school care.

<https://www.discovery.school.nz/our-school/kelly-club-before-and-after-school-care>

## Community Notices

For information on activities in our community click on this link, these will be updated as we receive information regarding events in the community. [Community Notices](#).