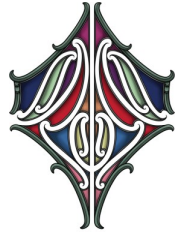




# Mokoia School Newsletter

office@mokoiaprimary.school.nz

Phone: 06 273 4106



**Awards** No awards this week as we were so busy with kapa haka. We will do double next week.

## Reading at Mokoia

You may have noticed your child bringing home reading bookmarks tucked inside their books. These bookmarks help track which book they are reading and, for longer texts, how much they are expected to complete. As children reach the “stars” on their bookmarks—and collect more along the way—they’ll earn rewards to celebrate their progress and effort.

We live in a world where strong literacy skills open doors. The ability to communicate clearly and understand what we read can shape opportunities and expand possibilities—truly allowing the world to become your child’s oyster.

Reading introduces children to new worlds, rich vocabulary, and ideas beyond their everyday experiences. It also has a powerful impact on their writing, helping to develop more complex sentence structures and creative language, such as similes and other figurative expressions.

At school, we support reading through structured phonics lessons, whole-class teaching, and guided reading sessions. Children also enjoy independent reading time and being read to regularly. However, the reality is that this alone isn’t enough to maximise their progress.

The greatest impact comes from regular reading practice—both at school and at home. When children read at home (or are read to), they are far more likely to become confident, fluent readers.

Just 20 minutes of reading at home each day exposes a child to nearly **4 million words per year**. Combined with reading at school, this can grow to an incredible **8 million words annually**. What a difference that can make!

We understand that some younger children may have books that only take a few minutes to read. If that’s the case, we encourage you to spend the remaining time reading to your child—this is just as valuable and has a significant impact on their development.

Looking ahead, the first week back next term will be **Book Week!** We’ll be celebrating with a fun character dress-up day, so start thinking about costumes. More details about the week and other exciting reading initiatives will be shared soon.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of reading.

## Dates for Your Diary

<b>23 March</b>	<b>Athletics</b> – Patea Area School Children need water bottles, morning tea and lunch, sun hats and jerseys.
<b>25 March</b>	<b>Parents’ Evening</b>
<b>27 March</b>	<b>School Growth committee</b> <b>9:15am</b>
<b>1 April</b>	<b>Science Fair– Senior Class</b> (held at Te Paepae o Aotea)
<b>2 April</b>	<b>Last day of Term 1</b>
<b>20 April</b>	<b>First day of Term 2</b>

## Sports Skills

The Board of Trustees would like to invite any parents who are available at either 11am or 1pm to come and play their desired sports games with the children– e.g. football, rippa rugby, cricket, hockey, netball, basketball, t-ball, rounders, tennis etc.

Please see Evon to either book a one off session or a regular spot.

## School Growth Committee

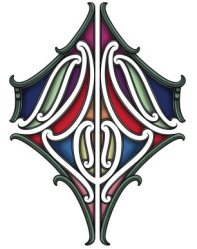
We would like to grow our school and need your help! On the recent survey, you all said wonderful things about our school, and we would like to share our wonderfulness with a few more children. On **Friday 27th at 9:15am**, we invite you to attend a coffee morning to discuss ideas on how we can grow the school, and to form a committee to enact those ideas. Even if you don’t wish to be part of the committee, we would be interested to hear your ideas on school growth.



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## Spellings

Junior Class
Going
Went
I'm
Up
Down
At

Senior Class– Catherine/ Sharni's group
Baking
Cracking
Making
Rattling
Sliding
Smiling
Writing

Senior Class– Mrs. Hodge's group
Action
Collection
Education
Hesitation
Invention
Location
subtraction

Senior Class– Level 6
Achievement
Deceive
Mischievous
Nieces
Perceive
Protein
Ancient
conscience

## Ukulele

On Wednesday afternoons, we rotate the children around to learn music, IT and te reo Maori. The children get 20 minutes of each subject, and the teachers get to teach one of the specialty subjects.

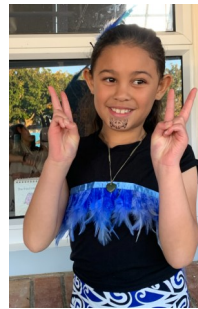
This year we would like to teach our year 5 and 6 children how to play the ukulele. If you have a tune-able ukulele, please could your child bring it in on a Wednesday. We have 6 ukulele already, but would love to have enough for us all to play at the same time (so not sharing). It would also mean that your child could practice at home too– which makes a huge difference.

**This starts this Wednesday– 25th March**

## Annual School Hāngi – Friday 20 March



Thank you to all who came and supported the school Hāngi, yesterday. We made approximately \$600, which will go towards our next camp. We would like to say a huge “mihi nui” to those who supported us– the parents and community members who donated food, sold tickets to friends, sourced pallets for us



to burn and helped us peel and cut veggies, and prepare the hāngi.

However, the biggest shout outs go to the Aperahama whanau, who were here Thursday evening for several hours and all day Friday and Saturday (to clear up). They dug the hole, built the fire, watched and managed the fire, put down the hāngi, took it back up and then cleared up. They worked tirelessly, and we cannot thank them enough. Thank you also to the Hana family, who also contributed all of Friday to help out and lent us their hāngi baskets. Koka (Mrs Hana) also rigorously helped the children to practise their kupu (words) and actions of the waiata. Thank you also to Matthew Bradshaw who helped Tee with the fire, and was the run around for all the bits and pieces that we needed.

And of course, well done to the Tamariki, who have practised and performed so well. It was nice to have some of our former pupils jump in too!

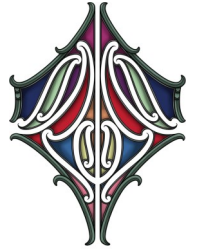




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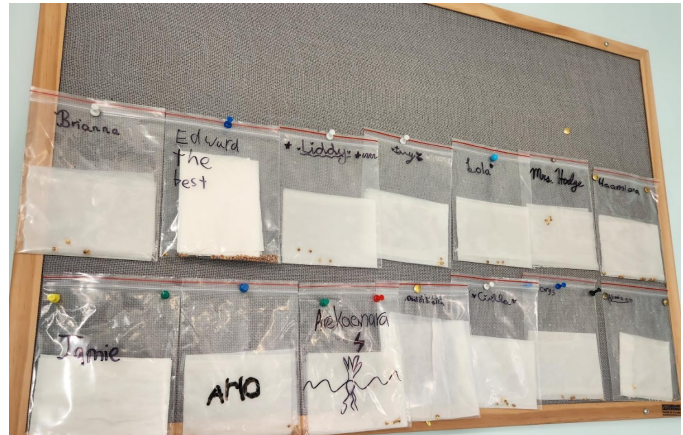
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## Seniors

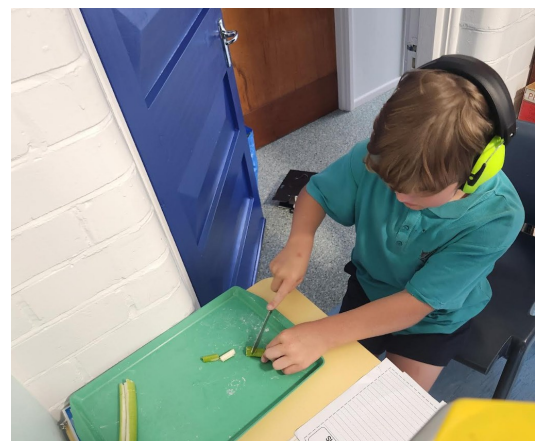
Wow, we've had a busy week! We have continued reading about plants in literacy and have explored the parts and needs of all plants. We played a card game where we had to collect sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide in order for our plants to grow. We also dissected stems and leaves to view the pathways that allow water and nutrients to move

throughout the plant. We also began germinating radish seeds; it's been fun to watch the seeds sprout and view the roots and leaves as they emerge! We've had lots of scientific observations to record in our plant journals.



In maths, we've continued to work on representing fractions with pictures and equations, and have been thinking about different methods to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers. As we've moved into working with larger numbers, drawing pictures proves to be more difficult, so we will continue to work on ways to think more abstractly about fractions.

We won a whole class reward this week, so on Thursday we had an ice cream and movie party. It was a great ending to

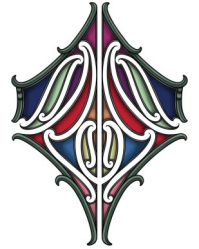




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## Juniors

This week we have been learning about animal life cycles. In our swan plants we did a “treasure hunt” for butterflies and evidence of their life cycles. Then we read about frogs and learned how they hatched out of frog spawn into tadpoles and then metamorphosed into frogs. We learned how to draw life-cycle diagrams. Lastly we read about stick insects, their bodies, diet and their life cycle. We also wrote lots about our learning, trying to add descriptions to our work.

Our handwriting letter this week has been “t” - a nice easy letter as it is so straight. Although getting the proportions correct and the vertical line centred can sometimes be tricky. .

In phonics we have been exploring “ai” and “ay”. We are learning how to use the digraph (ay/ai) to make simple words and then have been applying other rules like adding “ed”, “ing” and “s” so that we can start to spell quite long words.

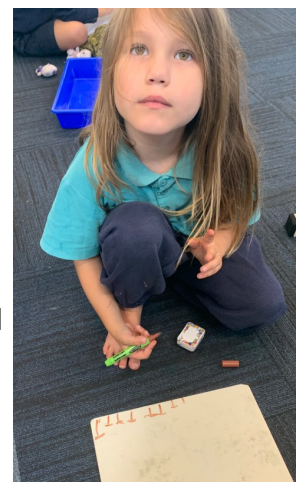


Our Year 1 phonics group have been working on blending sounds to create words. Whaea

Evon has been splitting up the words into 2 or 3 parts and the children have to blend it together to guess the word/puppet that is hiding behind the puppet theatre.

In maths we have been exploring 2 and 3 digit numbers by using hundreds, tens and ones. We have then started to add or subtract 1, 10 and 100. Having taught this the end of last year, it's truly gratifying to see how much further the children have progressed with this concept.

In art we have been looking at the ephemeral artist/sculptor, Andy Goldsworthy. We have been going into the environment to create our own art.



Registrations are now open for the 2026 netball season.

If you have a child at home that's keen to play in Hawera under the Patea Rugby & Sports Club this year, head along to the link below to register.

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/patearugbysports/Netball-Registration/tab1>



# Netball 2026 YEARS 1 - 8

If your child is interested in playing netball this season, please head along to the Sporty link listed above and complete a registration form for them by **Friday 6th March**

Games are played on the outdoor courts at The Hub in Hawera on Saturday mornings during Term 2

*Fees for the season will be approx. \$20 per player. TBC.*

If you have any questions please contact Yoana on 027 484 2488, or Kate on 027 336 3534



# EASTER

## Family Night

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March



6pm – 8pm

**KIDS DIY  
WORKSHOPS**

**ADULT DIY  
WORKSHOP**

**GAMES &  
CHALLENGE**

**EASTER  
BUNNY  
VISIT**

**REFRESHMENTS  
&  
SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

**GLITTOO  
TATTOOS**

**Please register online  
to go in the draw to win a prize**

