

29 April 2024



Te Kōhure Newsletter, Term 2 2024

Kia ora parents and caregivers

Welcome to Term Two. We hope the holidays were a good chance to recharge and spend some time with whānau and that you have remained healthy and happy over this period. Thank you to Te Kōhure students for a great term one: Year Sevens who have transitioned successfully and Year Eights for being such good role models. Congratulations to those who have participated in the extra opportunities we offered, such as swimming, korfbal, music and more. Thank you also to the parents who offered support with these events.

The inquiry topic this term is Science: Planet Earth and Beyond - Earth Systems. We'll also be celebrating Matariki (Fri 28 June).

Camp: Hanmer Springs, this week! Hopefully, we're all organised!



Cross-country

Our school cross-country will be held on Thursday 9 May. Training has already begun, with a few enjoyable beep tests thrown in for motivation. The North-West Zone cross-country event is on Wednesday 22 May.

High School Open Days

At this time of year, many Christchurch high schools host open days, offering Year 8 students and families a chance to tour the various schools. We recommend that parents search high school websites for the dates of these events. Also, check enrolment and zoning requirements. Don't leave it too late - in the past, we have had children not enrolled for high school at the end of term 4, which has caused students additional stress during an already anxious time.

Re: Report Data for High School Applications

Year 8's applications to high school often require a student's previous year's school report.

Over the past three years, Te Parito Kōwhai Russley School has switched to *real time reporting*. This means there is no longer a one-page document listing achievements, comments, and next steps. However, at the end of each year there is a supporting post uploaded to your child's *Educa stories* which shows your child's achievement level at year end. These posts are uploaded by the teacher in the last two weeks of school.

To download this one-page summary:

1. Go online to your child's EDUCA profile and click **stories**.
2. Scroll down to **End of Year Achievement**
3. This one-page summary of your child's achievement can be downloaded, attached and/or printed for the enrolment application.



If more information is required, you can do the same for any of the learning stories to support your application. Any learning story can be downloaded and/or printed.



Parent Interviews

Mid-year conferences with students, their parents and teachers will take place in the last week of term, on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 July. Booking details will be provided nearer the time.

Winter Sport will take place in term 3. Students will have trials at the end of term 2.

Technology

Technology resumes at Hornby High School on Wednesday. Well done, students and whānau who remember to organise materials for technology classes and to take their requirements to Hornby. If you haven't already, please pay your child's technology fee (\$29 per term). This covers the additional materials that students use at Hornby.

Year 8 Formal

We are expecting this year-end event to cost approx. \$40 per person. We will advise you of final costs in term 4. Some whānau choose to set up automatic payments with their bank to deposit regular weekly or fortnightly payments to cover school costs throughout the year. Please contact Sarah in the office if you wish to discuss options.

Home Learning / Excellence Awards

Homework consists of spelling, reading, and occasional mathematics and is to be completed weekly. We encourage reading for at least 20 minutes per weeknight. We continue to use the optional school home learning programme which acknowledges and encourages students to have ownership of, and contribute to, their own learning. They will be rewarded by achieving points that enable them to earn an **Excellence Badge**. Students who signed up for science badges need to continue working on the respective challenges that have been set and regularly checking in with their teacher for the signing-off of each completed task. We have had a wonderful number of students already participating in this.

Devices

Students are encouraged to bring Chromebooks to school. Please ensure your device is fully charged before coming to school and remember to take it home at the end of the day.



Social Media

In this age group, some students begin to use social media more often and more independently. We encourage parents to **regularly** monitor and engage with their child if they have access to social media to protect them from possible harm. Many parents install monitoring apps for their child's social media. This is a great idea! Netsafe and other organisations endorse parents monitoring their children's usage on devices and teachers support this as well. We also support no devices or televisions in bedrooms; leave such things on the kitchen bench overnight.



Hats, Drink Bottles and Uniform

Students should bring a named water bottle to school each day - water only, please. Pre-teens and teenagers go through a lot of energy during the day so please ensure they have more than enough food; they can take leftovers home. Please ensure your child's **uniform is named**. Students do not require sun hats in terms two and three. We continue to have high expectations that the Year 7/8 students will follow the uniform code and set a good example to younger students. Te Kōhure students are doing an excellent job so far. If parents are unsure, check the requirements at <https://www.russley.school.nz/uniform.html>.

Miss Aitken is on leave for the first five weeks of this term. Mr Walker will be teaching in TU4.

Don't hesitate if you have any questions or require further information. You can contact your child's teacher by phoning the school office or emailing them. If you need to contact your child during school hours, please phone the office.

Ngā mihi

Te Kōhure teachers

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