

## VISION STATEMENT

*Equip for Life  
Prepare for Eternity  
Whakarawe mā mataora  
Whakareri mā āke tonu atu*



Weeks: **1 - 3**

Term 1 2025:  
29 Kohitātea (January)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

What's New?

See p3



Sports Academy

See p4 and 6



Christmas Walkthrough  
See p5 and 8



## WELCOME TO THE 2025 MCS SCHOOL YEAR

### MEET 2025's AWESOME MCS STAFFING TEAM



*Left to right: Mrs Uerata, Mrs Marx, Mrs Bloomfield, Mr Paterson, Mrs Tomlinson, Mrs Fawcett, and Mrs Atkins. Absent were Miss Thomasen, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Steed-Conway, Mrs Thurlow, Mrs Arthur, Mrs Franklyn, Mr Evans, Mr Brookes and Mrs Smith.*

With news of large teacher shortages across the country we are blessed to have a complete team of staff as we roll into the 2025 school year. We welcome Mrs Marx to our team and we are very excited to have her on board. Here's who you need to know:

Principal: Mr Paterson

Years 0—2: Miss Thomasen

Years 2—3: Mrs Atkins

Year 4—5: Mrs Bloomfield

Years 5—6: Mrs Uerata and Mrs Tomlinson

Years 7—8: Mrs Marx and Mrs Fawcett

Release Teachers: Mrs Marx, Mrs Arthur and Mrs Franklyn

Office: Mrs Thurlow

Teacher Aides: Mrs Stevens and Mrs Steed-Conway

Permaculture: Mr Evans

Grounds: Mr Brookes

Uniforms: Mrs Smith

Please remember you are always very welcome in at school so come in and chat with your children's teachers and be part of our school. Remember the staff above are only the frontline team too. We also have our Sports Academy parents, our School Board members and our Proprietor (PCE) team along with lots of other volunteers. It's a big group making a great school happen.

## From the Desk of the Tumuaki

Welcome to the 2025 school year. We hope you have had a superb summer break, enjoyed celebrating Christmas, and had a great time with your family. We have a full team of excellent staff, a near full starting roll and a lot of great things planned for this year. We are looking forward to rolling these out and watching our kids grow.

We have a large number of new students starting with us today. We welcome the following students and their families; Tom Smith, Ryder Ugalde, Noah van der Wel, Luan Ray-Londt and Lyam Hampton in the Junior class, Daniella Cornwall in our Year 2/3 class, Sharl van der Mark, Talon Coombe and Elly Hampton in our Year 4/5 class, Amy Hampton and Hein van der Mark in our Year 5/6 class, and Laura Sinclair and Linay van der Mark in our Year 7/8 class. We start with 110 students, the highest starting roll we have had, and have more starting during the term and year.

We are still working to achieve our roll extension and still have an application before the Ministry of Education to extend to Years 9 and 10 over the next few years. Our PCE Board, the representative owners of the school, have been working on developing extra classroom spaces and we hope to have something to announce with this soon.

As well as new students we also want to welcome Mrs Natasha Marx to our teaching team at Years 7 and 8 this year. Mrs Marx shares this class with Mrs Fawcett who still works in here for two days per week. Mrs Marx will also do one day per week in the Junior class covering teacher release time in this space. Mrs Marx has taught every year level from pre-school through to College over the years and we are thrilled to have her join our team this year.



You will note changes around the look of the school as you return and note further changes coming up during the term. You can read about this over the coming pages.

Worth noting is also our desire to further develop PE teaching in the school this year as we advertise for someone who would like to be part of our team one day per week to teach PE, lead Sports Academy and coach during the year. Sports Academy has made a real difference in our students sporting performance over the last two years and a number of our parents have really invested in this. In areas like Hockey we have gone from last place in the competition to finishing first equal last year! We want to keep building our reputation on the sports fields and maintain the momentum in developing the skill sets of our students. If you know anyone who might be interested in this PE teaching job please point out to them the advertisement on page 8.

In reference to Sports Academy this year, please consider joining our team of adults to help us build general sports skills in our students. Whether this is just occasional or able to be more regular we really need the help to make this work for our students. We usually have a good turnout of students and your support, even if infrequent, could really make a difference. Please consider supporting us with this.

This year is full of so much promise and we look forward to it eagerly. We are eager to see the development of every child and the growth in God's people here—students, families and staff. We are working on diligence as our core value this term

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## Diligence Quote



*"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardour and diligence."*  
**- Abigail Adams**

and are keen to set high standards throughout everything we learn and do. In the New Living Translation of the Bible it says in 1 Timothy 4:15, 'Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress.' Let's do just that this year committing everything and everyone to the Lord as we go.

We're looking forward to seeing you and catching up over these next few days.

God bless

## Prayer Requests...

We appreciate your prayers for the school. Here's what's big on our minds at the moment:

- Praise God for all our new families and our great staff He has provided us with.
- Please pray for healing over Miss Thomasen. While visiting Europe over Christmas her back suffered an injury and she was taken by ambulance to a German hospital where she spent many days. When well enough to return to New Zealand she picked up a nasty virus on the plane and ended up hospitalised again in Auckland violently ill. She has spent the rest of the holidays trying to recover before the start of school.
- Please pray for our property development and the release of funds for it to enable our school roll to be approved for extension.
- Please pray the Ministry of Education will also look favourably on our request to move into Years 9 and 10.
- Please pray that all our students, and particularly anyone who is new, will settle in well, make quality friends and excel in the school.
- And please pray for the growth, development and success of every student academically, physically, spiritually and in their wise emotional development throughout this year.

# News - Kawepūrongo

## WHAT'S NEW AT MCS?

During the holidays a few key projects happened preparing the school for the new year:

**Roof extensions:** Across Rooms 1 and 2 (Years 4—6) new sunshade rooves are being fitted and are due for completion over the next day. Like on the Junior room, these rooves are being fitted to make the decks an extension of the learning areas of these two classrooms providing sun and weather protection. Later this term external ranch sliders will be fitted to these classrooms to allow them to become an extension of the classroom space.



**New carpet:** Room 4 (Years 2—3) has had new carpet and lino fitted making this classroom feel like a nice classroom now. In the next holidays we are expecting to also carpet the Senior class and the administration block which should really lift the feel of our spaces.

Our grateful thanks go to our two boards who funded these projects in our continued effort to lift the image and feel of the school.



## SWIMMING

School swimming starts next week on **Wednesday the 5th of February**. All students will be bused to the Matamata Pools every Wednesday and Friday mid morning for five weeks and a total of eight lessons.



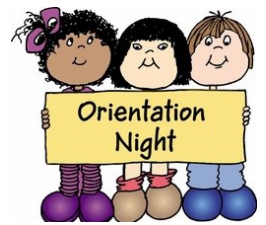
Swimming is a really important component of our PE programme as it doesn't just develop physical skills but develops safety in the water including knowledge of what to do if you get in trouble. With New Zealand being surrounded by ocean and blessed with beautiful lakes and rivers, swimming is a crucial skill to master. We consider it one of the most important components of our PE programme because of the safety and survival skills developed. **Please help your child to come with their swimming gear each Wednesday and Friday** and encourage them to be fully involved. Notes need to please be sent if your child is unable to swim.

The cost of swimming and the bus trips are being covered by the school for all students as part of the government's sponsorship programme.



## FAMILY PICNIC AND O'NIGHT

Universities have O'Week, we have O'Night. O'Night is for our parents to understand what is happening in your children's classes and to get the run down on how things work. We kick off with a family picnic where we can all meet different members of the community and welcome in new families.



This year this will be held next week on **Monday the 3rd of February**. The family picnic starts from 5:30PM and is open to anyone in our school community. Please pack a picnic dinner and come and join us to meet new members to our community and catch up with older members.

O'Night will follow this starting at 6:30PM. As each class is run at a different time, you can visit each of your children's classes and hear their teachers talk about what happens in the classroom, what you can expect and what things you need to know. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, but please note this is a general meeting for 15 minutes per class and not a parent interview. If you would like to talk to your child's teacher about your child please make a time to come and see them. These can be made all year round. We do not schedule formal interviews preferring you to come in as frequently as you need to all year round.

Family Picnic: Starts from 5:30PM

O'Night: Miss Thomasen (Y1-2): 6:30PM

Mrs Atkins (Y2-3): 6:45PM

Mrs Bloomfield (Y4-5): 7PM

Mrs Uerata / Mrs Tomlinson (Y5-6): 7:15PM

Mrs Marx / Mrs Fawcett (Y7-8): 7:30PM

## YEAR 7 IMMUNISATIONS

The Year 7 immunisations are coming up this term. Information about this will come home next Monday the 3rd of February to parents of Year 7 students with student education to follow on Friday the 28th of February for Year 7 students. The Health Nurse will send home a consent form with every child. **Note this has nothing to do with any Coronavirus vaccines** but are rather the normal annual Year 7 vaccinations. These forms need to please be completed and sent back to school as soon as possible. All forms need to be returned whether you choose to give consent or want to turn down the immunisations.



If you do not want your child to attend the information briefing when it happens please let Mrs Marx know.

## HPV IMMUNISATIONS

All Year 7 and 8 students are also eligible to receive for free the HPV immunisations. Please note that this is not offered in our school and you will need to get this through your local GP if you want them to have this.





## **SPORTS ACADEMY IS BACK FOR 2025!**

**In 2023 we started our new Sports Academy which has been a big hit with our students and families. Now it's returning for 2025.**

**Aimed at students Year 3 and up, the MCS Sports Academy is run after school each Thursday afternoon, 3:15—4:30PM, by a faithful group of parents, and will start in our fourth week back on Thursday the 20th of February. Students are taught general ball and fine motor skills, specific sports skills and will develop their fitness.**

**The vision of Sports Academy is to have our students better prepared for playing sports and to develop in them a healthy passion for moving, staying fit, enjoying developing physical skills and competing. We want them to be better prepared, fitter and more skilled when we hit the first games of the season.**

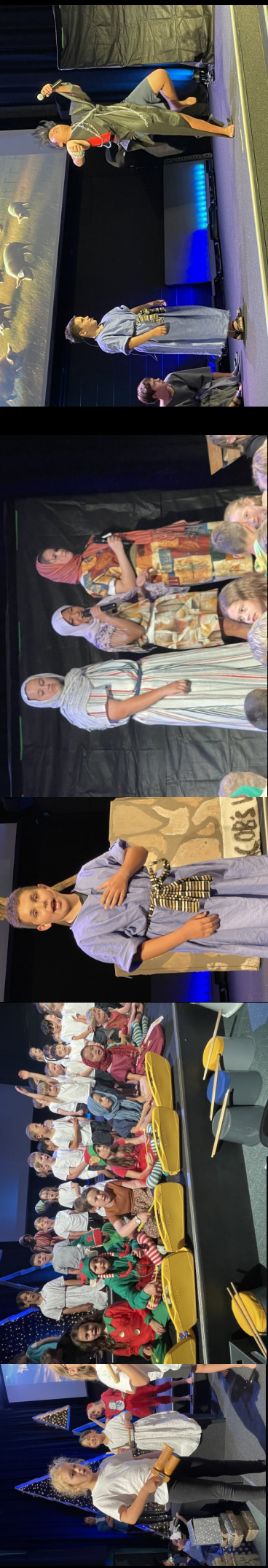
**Outside of Sports Academy our students get the opportunity to be involved in after school leagues or Saturday sports in Futsal, Minball, Touch Rugby, Cricket, Netball and Hockey. Beyond that parents can enrol them in club level Soccer and Rugby. Sports Academy intentionally contributes to their development in all these codes.**

**We want as many of our students from Year 3 up to sign up and commit to being part of this development (it is not a commitment to signing up for a sport), and we really need as many parents coming to help run this as possible please. This is an excellent way for parents to be able to be a part of something great with your children. If you have a passion or drive for any sports please consider helping us train our children. Please talk to Bridgit Hildreth, Emma-Jayne Nicholls or Mr Paterson for more details or to volunteer to be a part.**

**Sport in Term 1 will be announced as soon as details come in but we know Futsal and Miniball are set to return so far.**



*Christmas Production 2024 — Jenny English: All the King's Men*





### WHY SHOULD I ENCOURAGE MY CHILD TO BE PART OF SPORTS?

We really believe in children being part of sports. Sports teaches students things that they will often only learn by being involved in sports, things such as:

- the development of fine motor skills
- co-ordination
- fitness for their health and well-being
- sportsmanship
- how to be an excellent team player
- leadership
- precision
- learning to commit to being part of something and seeing it through
- learning how to win and lose with grace

STUDENT SIGN UP FORM (Please return to the school office)

Yes we are keen to be part of the MCS Sports Academy. Our children to include are (names):

The MCS Sports Academy will run each Thursday 3:15 - 4:30PM and I know I am responsible for picking them up at 4:30PM.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

# News - Kawepūrongo



## TERM 1 TOPICS

Every year we review and develop our teaching curriculum to meet the needs of our students. This year the government has also made changes to some curriculum areas, notably in English and Mathematics. This will result in some changes to the way we teach and report in these areas. We have always been very proud of the curriculum we develop and the topics we teach in 2025 will be no different. Each year our needs change and areas of student's competencies and social needs adjust too. We believe over the years we have developed an excellent curriculum that responds to this.

In the first term of each year we always have our Kid on the Rock unit. This is a two year programme which this year looks at our heritage and delves into Aotearoa New Zealand History. It will also look briefly into who your child is and how they fit into the world around them and will deal with digital citizenship and safety. As part of our history studies class trips are being organised to help reinforce the learning. Of



course, for the Senior class, this will culminate in the famous Northland history trip where they will walk in the footsteps of some of those who originally



shaped our nation.

Our whole curriculum is designed to be impacting. At our heart we are partnering with you to help develop your children academically, spiritually, physically and to be emotionally well balanced. Please accept this invitation to partner with us in this journey so together we can have the biggest influence and impact on your children.

Other than Reading, Writing and Mathematics our topics can be found on the chart on this page.

Please note that if you have a child in the Senior class the way we do Tech Arts has now changed. Instead of walking over to the Intermediate twice a week for 1 1/2 sessions we are now doing a three day block across the term, one full day per week for three weeks, as an intensive programme. This will still take place at the Intermediate. Students will do Food Tech this term, Hard Materials next term and Soft Materials in Term 3. All other components such as the Arts will be run back here at school throughout the year.

Each year I like to remind parents of the following point. One of the biggest ways you can help your child with their academic learning and their ability to learn how to socialise, work with and get on with others, is to make time to talk to them every day. Ask them about their learning, about their friends, and their understanding of God. Recognise that because they are growing and learning to understand their world they will not always interpret things correctly. That's why they need to talk to you so much. A statistic I remind people of explains that 80% of the feedback a child gets is from their peers, and of that feedback 80% of it is always wrong! This isn't just about their work but about their understanding of life and friendships too. Please take the time to listen to and input into their lives.



Can we ask one more thing of you too? From time to time children will share something that doesn't always make sense or sounds concerning. If this happens please take the time to discuss it with your child's teacher. Children do not always have the right end of the stick and this can usually be quickly sorted with a swift polite visit which puts everyone back on the right track.

Sometimes there are things that happen that teachers don't know about but could do with knowing. This can be very beneficial for helping staff deal with different matters and it helps diffuse situations before they ever become big ones. The same can be said if you have a complaint. We do want to know and sort potential problems.

We have a a superb staff and we are full of expectation for what this year will bring.

### Term 1 Topics

Bible	Y1-3: Bible Narratives (stories) Y4-6: 12 Eras of the Bible Y7-8: Old Testament Survey All: Easter—Stations of the Cross
Core Value	Diligence
Memory Verses	Proverbs 10:1—10 Diligence: 1 Timothy 4:15
Theme / Health	<b>Kid on the Rock Part II</b> - Aotearoa New Zealand History - Anzac Day - Cyber Safety - Sun Safety
Māori	Mihi / Pepeha Whānau
The Great Art Swap	Room 5 (Y1/2): 3D Visual Art Room 4 (Y2/3): 2D Visual Art Room 1 (Y4/5): Robotics Room 2 (Y5/6): Dance Room 3 (Y7/8): 2D Visual Art
P.E.	Swimming Athletics

# News - Kawepūrongo



## TERM 4 AWARDS

At our end of Term 4 assembly last year we got to celebrate students who had done well over the term. Students can earn Rockstar Awards by earning points in four areas; attendance, punctuality, homework completion and taking pride in their school uniform. They can earn their memory verse certificates by learning the set number of verses for the term. Below are our group of Rockstars who made it last term. Congratulations team!



Each term we also have badge awards for two students from each class who have shown to be outstanding in our term's core value development (last term for self-control), and up to two across the school who can get a Principal's Award for anything else outstanding that they may have achieved. This term we made the rare decision to give several awards in this field.

This term's self-control badge awards went to:

Years 1/2: Elizabeth Moore

Xavier Morris

Years 2/3: Daniel Jobe

George Ram

Year 4: Esther Velk

Mary Smith

Years 5/6: Sophia Lapan

Blake Henn

Years 7/8: Beulah Goodare

Carli Visagie

Five Principal's Awards were given:

Sophie Burgess—for Calf Club achievements

Cerine van Deventer—achievement in Ballet and Tap dancing

Ethan Jobe—regional Brass Band achievement winning the Under 13 Variation section on the Trombone

Sophia du Plessis and Henko Olivier for outstanding acting in *Jenny English: All the King's Men*

**Above: Term 4 2024 Rockstar and Memory Verse recipients.**

**Below: Term 4 2023 Self-control and Principal Award recipients**



## JENNY ENGLISH: ALL THE KING'S MEN



Thank you so much for joining us for our prize giving and Christmas production at the end of last year. It was a long night but we were all so proud of how the kids did in this fantastic event.

Each year we alternate between doing a combined production and prize giving one year and then a separate Christmas Walkthrough and prize giving the following year. In 2025 it is time for the Christmas Walkthrough again. This is set across five classrooms across the school and is opened up for the whole community to visit. It will take place late in Term 4.

Both the production and walkthrough are a celebration of what God has done in sending His Son for us. This story then continues with Stations of the Cross at Easter.

The story *Jenny English: All the King's Men* has actually been written in two parts. We told the part that focuses on the Christmas story at last year's prize giving while the next part, *Jenny English: Jesus—the Sequel* focuses on the events of His death on the Cross. We may look to tell that story in a future school production too.



## SITUATIONS VACANT: PE TEACHER

Matamata Christian School is pleased to offer a position equivalent of one day per week as a PE teacher. This is a new role and would involve teaching Physical Education to five classes (Years 1 – 8) for 30 minutes each on one day per week. The successful applicant would also lead Sports Academy after school one day per week, and would coach at least one sport at a time throughout the school year.

You do not have to be a trained teacher but you do need to have a specific connection with the special character of the school, be passionate about children in sport, and have a good understanding of a range of sports and sports skills.

If this sounds like something you could thrive in we would like to hear from you. Please apply to Alistair Paterson, Principal, Matamata Christian School ([alistairpaterson@matamata.school.nz](mailto:alistairpaterson@matamata.school.nz)) by Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. Go to [www.matamata.school.nz/vacancies](http://www.matamata.school.nz/vacancies) for application details.





## Even More News - Kawepūrongo

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

A big thank you to all those who came in and sorted their school uniform last week, and for everyone having their stationery ready for today.

Please can you make sure that each item of your children's uniform is named. This makes it very easy to return if it is found roaming around looking for its owner!

Please remember black sandals are our footwear in summer but we recommend you check the quality of these before buying them. Sandals need to be plain black. While there are a range of acceptable ones please note they cannot be fashion items or notably label branded. We are only accepting other types of footwear where this is accompanied by a doctors note explaining why an alternative is needed. Every student must also wear a school hat in Terms 1 and 4 for sun safe protection. These can be bought at school and are designed to be practical and give excellent protection.



Note correct school uniform is part of each child's Rockstar awards each term. We are tightening up on these points this term as we want our students to wear their uniform with pride.

### PLEASE WATCH YOUR SPEED

Please note that during peak school hours at the start and end of each school day the speed limit around schools drops to 40km/h. In the first few weeks of term the Police are particularly vigilant about monitoring this and driver behaviours around schools.



Please also recognise and respect the 10km/h speed limit within the school carpark.



Unfortunately children get distracted and are not good at looking for cars or at judging their speed. Where possible please drop off and pick up your children on the school footpath side of the carpark to reduce the need for students to cross over in the carpark.

## Church Community Notices

This column has been set up to support local church and Christian community events. If your church has an exciting event coming up they can advertise it here for free by sending details or advertising to [office@matamata.school.nz](mailto:office@matamata.school.nz)

Every Saturday - children/youth group and Cornerstone Bible study from 4pm followed by a shared dinner at 5pm. At Matamata Christian School, 91A Smith Street, Matamata

FONZ Youth Group

and

ROCKIDZ

Parental supervision please if you have young children.

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### Dates for your Calendar



#### February

3rd	Y7 Vaccination Letters Come Home
3rd	O' Night
4th	Refresher Session for Road Patrollers
5th	Swimming Starts
6th	Waitangi Day Holiday
7th	Swimming
11th	School Board Meeting
12th	Swimming
14th	Swimming
17th-7th	Builders On Site
19th	No Swimming
20th	Sports Academy Starts
21st	Swimming
26th	Swimming



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