

Term 1 2022 Calendar

9	28	29	30 Subway lunch	31	April 1
10	4 BOT Meeting 6pm	5	6 Subway lunch	7	8
11	11	12	13 Subway lunch	14 Last Day of Term 1 Family Merit Assembly	15 Easter Friday

Term Dates 2022

- Term 1** Wednesday 2 February to Thursday April 14
Easter/ANZAC Day is during the holiday break
- Term 2** Monday 2 May to Friday July 8
(Queen's Birthday Monday June 6- Public Holiday)
(Matariki – Public holiday – Friday 24 June)
- Term 3** Monday July 25 to Friday September 30
- Term 4** Monday October 17 to Thursday December 15
(Labour Day – Monday 24 October- Public Holiday)

There is a 'Teacher Only Day' scheduled during Term 2 for Friday 3rd June; however, this may change. All of the Northern Porirua schools, including Aotea College, will be closed on this day.

Cohort Dates 2022:

- Term 1 = 2nd February and 7th March
Term 2 = 2nd May and 7th June
Term 3 = 25th July and 29th August
Term 4 = 17th October and 14th November



Postgate School Newsletter

**Term 1: Week 9
2022**

Mission Statement

To Create Life-Long Learners

"Together, We Learn and Achieve"

**"Ma te mahi ngatahi,
ka tu pakari te matauranga"**

Supporting statement:

We will promote life-long learning in our children by developing their social, intellectual, emotional and physical skills in a creative and caring environment.



"Together, We Learn and Achieve"

**"Ma te mahi ngatahi,
ka tu pakari te matauranga"**

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March 28, 2022

Kia ora e te whānau

The future of our young people, of our community, and our country is dependent on ensuring all young people leave school with the range of literacy, numeracy knowledge, and skills needed to engage in and make a meaningful contribution to our society.

Research findings out last week stated that *“By Year 8, only 35% of students are at or above the curriculum level in writing and 56% in reading”*. At Postgate, we know that at the end of last year just under 70% of students were at or above in writing, and for reading it was around 80%.

Postgate stayed with the old National Standards and renamed it Postgate School Expectations.

We have shared with you a number of important aspects about the importance of literacy and numeracy via email last week. Today’s focus is on what Postgate is doing to help lift numeracy and literacy rates. I didn’t know the government was coming out with a strategy until late last week; a few giggles while reading it as National Standards is coming back but under another name. We believe in the Postgate Expectations as it clearly directs us to what students should know by certain ages and it provides an honest assessment for families of where their child is at.

So, what is Postgate doing?

Our core business is to lift student achievement and improve student outcomes. This has not changed, even in these COVID times. As a school we have tried to ensure we have tried to keep calm and to keep our community as safe as possible, however, our focus has stayed in the classroom and have continued to *“make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear”*; the best of a bad situation. The last two years have had a negative effect on our achievement; lockdowns and growing absenteeism rates have taken a toll.

To be successful in delivering our core business, you need quality teachers. I’ve always said if it isn’t good enough for my children, it isn’t for you. This is something we still believe and follow through on.

We invest heavily in our teachers through Teacher as Inquiry. Teachers meet regularly during school time with Kelvin Harper and Asmita Rama to discuss their inquiry, which is about the quality of their teaching, what they do every day for your child. Does it make a difference and if not, what do we have to change? It is about the teacher, not the child.

This is followed up with classroom observations; walking the talk.

In 2016 we started phonics-based literacy for our Year 1 to Year 3 pupils. This was introduced by Rachel Woodley (now teaching in Vanuatu) and has been led

and developed since by outstanding teachers at Postgate. We know this approach has made a difference and continues to make a difference.

Like most other schools we also have Reading Recovery for our most at-risk 6-year-olds. There is also an Early Literacy Group that Deb Vernon also works with.

In teams, there are different literacy targeted programmes to help support the most at risk. Some teams are using Talking Tins to help with writing, our youngest children are using Early Words, and have gross/fine motor skills afternoons each week. If children cannot control their bodies, left/right cross-overs then the ability to write is greatly reduced.

Kayne Leighton, through Fleur Rickerby, has brought back our SPRING into Maths programme which is targeting children in Years 5-8.

Teachers use their Classroom Release Time (CRT) and team assembly time to regularly assess children to see where they are at, where they need to go, and most importantly, find out how well they, the teacher, have done at teaching the student.

All staff at Postgate work incredibly hard and smart for all our children; not addressing the attainment, growth, and development of all our children is not an option. The last two years have been very messy and not helpful for us to do our core business. In order for our staff to do their job successfully, they need your child at school.

Please remember, these are just extras going on. Teachers are still working their magic on a daily basis for your child through their reading, writing, and numeracy teaching.

For an education system to be successful, we need everyone to play an active part to ensure success for all. This is why we are having a school reset, to get ourselves all back focused on the job.

“Together, We Learn and Achieve”

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Library Helper: We are looking for a parent who can spare a couple of hours a week to help mend books, ensure the library is in order, and do any other odd jobs in there. If you are interested, please let me know. We are willing to pay and reward you with our finest gold coins!

Summer and Winter Fleece Sale: We understand the stresses of being a parent/caregiver and the extra burden currently facing families. To this end, Theresa and Louise have looked at our stock and worked out a special deal until

the end of this term for our school community. All Summer and Winter fleeces will now be \$45 or for three or more a sweeter deal that the ladies will work out for you.

Thanking you for your support.

Mauruuru kotahi ano koutou mo to koutoa tautoko o Postgate School.

Today's COVID update: Since Friday's update

- 11 students have tested positive for COVID. 6 students were already isolating at home and the classes of the other positive cases have been notified via Seesaw; 3 from Room 7 and 2 from Room 6
- 11 families have gone into isolation since Friday.
- 110 students have had COVID, which we know of. This is 36% of our students. We believe this number may be as high as 45% with families unaware or not reporting to us.
- Of the 110 students, 79 have now returned to school.
- 133 families (62%) have been in isolation, which includes 196 children (64% of our children).
- There are 79 students absent from school today for one reason or another, (my records say that 38 pupils should be in isolation) compared with 227 students who are present.
- There are 10 students who are absent who we have no idea where they are.
- Ms Samantha Rutherford is in isolation with COVID

With the changes in gathering limits, it is natural to see case numbers start to climb slightly, before dropping away again.

A reminder that we have boxes of masks, hand sanitiser, and RATs for you out by the front office. These are there for you and if it looks a little low, please tell Theresa through the office window.

Please phone 235 9358 or text 0277466791 or email the school office at absence@postgate.school.nz or notify your child's teacher via Seesaw before 8:55am if your child is going to be away.