



Postgate School Newsletter Term 2: Week 2 2024

To Create Life-Long Learners

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

"Our children reflect the time we invest in them and our level of expectation."

Kia ora mai anō tātou katoa whānau,

Education in the News, Again: Education is a hot topic right now; attendance, school spending, achievement and Structured Literacy.

Postgate School has been doing Structured Literacy since 2017/18. A former teacher, Rachel Woodley-Higgins, had a passion for phonics and set up a Junior School programme to prove it would make a difference for our students. While other schools were doing Play-Based Learning, Whole Language or whatever, Postgate was working with a world expert (who lived just up the road from Postgate) Joy Allcock.

Over the past two years, various Junior School teachers have been working with the University of Canterbury doing the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA). It has been interesting working with the university and comparing what we have done over the past several years. In some areas, we believe Postgate's way is of more benefit. Smiley face here!

While it is pleasing to see this programme rolled out for every school in New Zealand, for us we have used a considerable amount of our money to purchase resources and invest in teachers; now, schools will receive this money. Oh, for a refund!

Structured Literacy is only one moving part of many for a quality education. We still have to throw in many other areas. The key ones being; teacher quality, parental engagement, quality of the early years and attendance at school.

Attendance: Last week 83% of children attended school 90% or more of the time; compare that to how New Zealand is tracking. Imagine if we had 90% 90% of the time! Oooo lala.

Our weekly attendance rate was 94%.

Year 7s had the highest attendance rate of 98%.

Year 4s were the lowest at 88%.

All other year groups were in the 90% bracket.

Massive Postgate Thank You: We are extremely grateful to the Mareko aiga, especially grandparents Charlie and Alison Eruera, for donating a Coffee Machine in our Staffroom/Whanau Room. If you thought staff looked more energised after the break, I'm pretty sure it is due to the freshly ground coffee they have each morning! A wonderful new addition to our school.

Now that the school is back to being a school (no construction site) and the ills of the past are no longer, we can get back to how we used to be. Our Staff Room/Whanau Room is a place for us all. You are more than welcome to come and sit in the Whanau Room, slow down and relax. The coffee machine is always on and you are more than welcome to use it; it is for you as well. All you have to do is press a button for whatever style you'd like.

For those mornings that are a bit hectic, and you just need some time to compose yourself, use this space. In the past people would sit and read the paper, sit and read their bible and we once had a prayer group that would meet every Monday morning, pray for our school and community, eat cake, drink coffee and chat.

Or, maybe before your netball training starts?

Please don't be shy. This could help with parental engagement at school.

Pasifika Parents Fono: Thank you to the families who met on Wednesday evening. Thank you for investing in our school.

Winter Sports Season: Another huge Postgate thank you to the many Postgate parents who volunteer to coach or manage sports teams during the winter months; you guys are fricking awesome! It can be a thankless experience filled with dramas from those within your team; my child should be, we think... I've coached little kids sports, college sports teams and adult sports teams. My life, the issues I've seen.

To the parents who feel they don't have the skills, expertise, knowledge or time to coach or manage; you still play a part. This could be by offering your services to be a helper, collecting the cones after training, bringing a coffee or a slice to training, making sure your child personally thanks their coach and manager after training, and acknowledging their coach before training. There are so many ways we can help our coaches and managers.

DON'T be that parent who drops their child off, stays in the car or worse still, leaves to do life admin things while someone else gives up their time to help your child. At the end of the day, it is your child who is being developed in their sport and life by another adult.

Let's get in behind our sports teams, coaches and managers/momagers!

Attached is the Postgate School Code of Conduct for Students and Parents/Supporters

Postgate PRIDE Rain Jackets: A reminder, please see Louise or Theresa if your child needs a Postgate PRIDE rain jacket. These are free. If your current one no longer fits, bring it back and exchange it. If you have lost their one, no stress, come and get another one.

SchoolDocs: A reminder that our policies are on SchoolDocs. To log in to school docs, go to - postgate.schooldocs.co.nz
User name: postgate

Password: pride

Our Review Topics for Term 2 are:

Term 2 review topics	
· Employer Responsibility Policy	Board review
· Appointment Procedure	Board review
· Equal Employment Opportunities	
· Teacher Relief Cover	

• [Safety Checking](#)

• [Police Vetting for Non-Teachers](#)

• [Classroom Release Time / Timetable](#)

Board review

Important to Know Dates for Term 2: Please note the following dates Postgate School is closed for Term 2:

- Monday 3rd June - Kings Birthday
- Friday 7th June - Teacher Only Day - Government Given
- Friday 28th June - Matariki

Aotea College 2025 enrolments

Enrolments are now open for students wishing to attend in 2025.

Our open evening will be held on Thursday 13th June. We will be running two sessions 3:30 to 5pm & 5:30 to 7pm.

All out of zone enrolment applications **MUST** be received by Monday 24th July to be included in the ballot.

Please check our website www.aotea.school.nz for details on how to enrol. If you have any questions, please contact our enrolment officer on aln@aotea.school.nz

Thank you for your support.

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

Term Dates 2024

Term 2 – Monday 29th April – Friday 5th July

(Kings Birthday - Monday 3rd June; Government Given Teacher Only Day - Friday 7th June
Matariki Friday 28th June)

Term 3 – Monday 22nd July – Friday 27th September

Term 4 – Monday 14th October – Friday 13th December
(Labour Day - 28th October)

Term 2 Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	6	7	8	9	10
		House of Bricks - LEGO- Years 1-4	House of Bricks - LEGO - Years 5-8		
3	13	14	15	16	17
	Rotuma Language				Pink Shirt Day Mufti Day - Gold

	Week Board of Trustees Hui - 6pm Pink Shirt Week - Anti Bullying				coin donation, please
4	20	21	22	23	24
			Te Whanau Kaitiaki Hui - 6pm		
5	27	28	29	30	31
	Samoan Language Week ASB GetWise catch-up days	ASB GetWise catch up days			Family Merit Assembly
6	June 3	4	5	6	7
	King's Birthday - Public Holiday No school			Interschool Cross Country	School closed - Government Given Teacher Only Day - Curriculum Refresh
7	10	11	12	13	14
		Postgate's Got Talent			
8	17	18	19	20	21
	Board of Trustees Meeting - 6 pm - Staffroom Jumping June Week	Postgate's Got Talent	Jumping June Jump Off	Year 7/8 Careers Expo Afternoon	
9	24	25	26	27	28
		Postgate's Got Talent	Te Whanau Kaitiaki Hui - 6pm Matariki Breakfast - 7am		Matariki - Public holiday

10	July 1	2	3	4	5
		Postgate's Got Talent	Learning Conversations	Learning Conversations	End of Term 2 Family Merit Assembly 2pm



"Together, We Learn and Achieve"

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

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ERO Report: <https://ero.govt.nz/institution/2966/postgate-school>