



# *School Karakia*



Kia hora te marino  
Kia whakapapa  
pounamu te moana  
Hei huarahi mā  
tātou i te rāngi nei  
Aroha atu aroha mai  
Tātou i a tātou katoa  
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!

May peace be widespread  
May the sea be like  
greenstone  
A pathway for us all this  
day  
Let us show respect for  
each other  
For one another  
Bind us all together!



## 1 Hour a Day

- **Reading:** Encourage a love of reading and develop reading skills
- **Writing:** Foster creativity and expression through journaling, creative writing, or structured exercises.
- **Maths and Statistics:** Knowledge, practise problem-solving, mental maths

## Timeline

- Term 1, 2025: Schools must teach the updated English and Maths Curriculum

## Inquiry Learning

Inquiry learning encourages students to explore their own questions and interests, fostering curiosity and independent thinking. It's a student-centered approach where children are guided to investigate topics, ask questions, research, and draw their own conclusions.

## Music and the Arts

- Integrate music, drawing, painting, or other artistic activities into the day to stimulate creativity and emotional expression.

## Physical Education and Health

- Ensure daily physical activity, whether through structured sports, free play, or exercises that promote overall health and well-being.
- Include discussions or activities that focus on healthy habits, mindfulness, and self-care.



## Monitoring and Tracking Student Progress

- **Why It Matters:** Tracking your child's progress helps identify strengths and areas for improvement, ensuring they stay on track academically and develop holistically.
- **How Parents Can Help:**
  - Regular Updates: Stay informed by attending Whānau Learning Conversations, reviewing reports, and helping with homework.
  - Engage with Teachers: Maintain open communication with teachers to discuss progress, concerns, and strategies for improvement.
  - Set Academic Goals: Work with your child to set achievable short-term goals and monitor progress, fostering accountability and motivation.

## Supporting Learning at Home

- **Using the School's Website:**
  - Visit the Learning at Home - Botany Downs School website for online learning materials, schedules, and support.
  - What's Available: Access a variety of resources such as reading lists, writing prompts, math exercises, inquiry-based projects, and links to additional learning platforms.

## Balancing Academics and Play

- **Why It's Important:** Maintain a healthy balance between structured learning and **free play or rest to support both academic success and overall well-being.**

# Literacy Year 0-3



Our core programme in Year 0-3 is **Structured Literacy**.

- A Structured Literacy approach supports children's early reading, writing, and oral language
- Structured Literacy interweaves reading, writing, spelling and handwriting
- A Structured Literacy approach is the most efficient teaching and learning approach for all children and those with reading difficulties
- The teaching of spelling in a systematic and explicit way enables students to become capable readers and writers
- Once children have developed fluency, and vocabulary knowledge then comprehension, deeper understanding and analysis of the text to draw greater knowledge becomes the focus
- Reading for enjoyment, listening to stories is vital
- Teachers use a range of literacy material alongside SL to support learning

# Scarborough's Reading Rope



## Language Comprehension **LC**

**Background Knowledge**  
facts, concepts, etc.

**Vocabulary**  
breadth, precision, links, etc.

**Language Structures**  
syntax, semantics, etc.

**Verbal Reasoning**  
inference, metaphor, etc.

**Literacy Knowledge**  
print concepts, genres, etc.

## Word Recognition **D**

**Phonological Awareness**  
syllables, phonemes, etc.

**Decoding**  
alphabetic principle,  
letter-sound correspondences

**Sight Recognition**  
of familiar words

INCREASINGLY STRATEGIC

Skilled Reading **RC**

INCREASINGLY AUTOMATIC

$$\text{LC} \times \text{D} = \text{RC} \quad \text{Fluent word recognition and comprehension.}$$

*This interpretation of the Reading Rope incorporates Gough & Tunmer's (1986) Simple View of Reading.*

# Literacy Year 4-6



## Spelling

- Jolly Phonics approach using Grammar Handbooks-focus on developing student spelling strategies, grammar rules and dictation ability.

## Handwriting

- 2-4 lessons per week-focus on pencil grip, letter and number shape, flicks, joining letters.

## Reading

- Teaching Reading through Shared poetry (Year 4), Shared reading, Guided reading, Reciprocal reading (Year 5-6), Novel studies (Year 6)-focus on developing reading fluency and comprehension strategies which includes inference.

## Writing

- Teaching Writing through Genre (recount, narrative, poetic, persuasive, reports, explanation)-focus on structure and language of each genre, planning ideas, proofreading and editing.



## Next Steps for Year 4-6 with new curriculum

- Structured Literacy approach using Science of Learning to improve teacher capability and student learning outcomes.
- Consistent and reliable assessment data to track student progress outcomes over time.

## ESOL

- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) is available to support students exposed to other languages at home.
- Our ESOL teacher, Mrs Keenan works closely with classroom teachers to identify students who would benefit from the extra support in either reading, writing or oral language.
- Group sizes are kept small, usually 6-8 students at a time. They will come between 2 and 5 times a week for between 20 and 40 minutes.
- An ESOL timetable is in the window so that you can see if your child is at ESOL this morning. If your child is in one of the Monday morning groups you are welcome to come into the class to observe your child.