

Thursday 9 October 2025

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 4. We hope your children have all had a restful break after such a successful Term 3. We have been preparing for a busy term and have a very full and exciting programme planned. Children will reflect on the goals they set for themselves earlier in the year and celebrate the significant learning that has occurred.

Key details about programmes can be found in our Long Term Plan (also attached to this Steeple Rock Newsletter). Here is an overview of some of our programmes for the term.

Curriculum Focus

The focus for our Inquiry this term is a science unit, "Kitchen Science". Our key question is "What makes things change or happen?". In this unit, we will observe, describe, and compare the chemical properties of common materials, as well as examine the changes that occur as a result of chemical reactions.

This term, our health and well-being focus is based on the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme. This is a comprehensive youth intervention programme that has been developed by the New Zealand Police. It aims to provide children with the skills to keep themselves safe in their interactions with other people. You will receive further information via Hero.

For literacy, we will explore non-fiction texts, including factual recounts, instructions, explanations, and reports, which will be tied to our inquiry-based learning. We will be reading a variety of science nonfiction materials and enabling students to explore their personal science interests, such as volcanoes, cooking, dinosaurs, and engineering.

In maths, our focus will be on the number strands of multiplication and division, as well as proportional thinking (including fractions and ratios). Later in the term, we will examine the geometry strand of location and direction. This will involve the development and planning of an orienteering event for EOTC (Education Outside The Classroom).

EOTC

Our Year 3/4 EOTC Week is Week 9: 1st-5th December. This week involves experiences outside the classroom, both at school and off-site, including a beach visit, orienteering, and a hike. We will require parental help for some days/activities during this week. More information will follow about this later in the term.

Steeple Rock and Home Learning

All Steeple Rock Challenges should now be completed, and any remaining challenges that haven't been presented can be shared with classes over the next couple of weeks. Please remember that both the child and the parent must sign off on challenges before they are shared at school.

Home Learning

Home Learning is set every Thursday and needs to be returned to school the following Thursday. This term, we are particularly focusing on encouraging children to complete their reading logs accurately.

Appropriate Clothing

In Term 4, children are expected to wear a school sunhat every day. It is also helpful to put a named sunscreen in your child's bag, as we will remind them to apply it for outdoor events and at lunchtime. Please ensure that your child is wearing suitable footwear and clothing to run and play safely.

As always, we welcome questions or feedback about any aspect of our programmes. Thank you for your support.

Ngā Mihi,

Jayne Carey, Louise Noble, Sidney Spencer, Marion Hair and Matt Churchouse.