

# MATOMATO NEWS

TERM 1

**MATOMATO - TO GROW VIGOROUSLY!**

## WELCOME TO 2025

Welcome back to school, everyone! We hope you had a great start to the year and are ready for an exciting learning adventure. This term is packed with awesome activities created just for you.

This term is set to be a big success, with engaging experiences planned to not only expand our student knowledge but also create a vibrant learning environment.

Together, let's explore, learn, and make lasting memories for our tamariki.

Please feel free to pop into classrooms between 8:30 and 9:00am or 3:00 and 3:15 to have a look around or ask any questions.

## REMINDERS

- Stationery: This will be provided by the school at no cost. Students have received their books last week. The expectation is to take care of the provided stationery. We request whaanau to discuss this with their tamariki.
- Uniform: Please ensure that all uniform is named. If lost, we will endeavour to get this back to you. Please refrain from

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Week 4, Wednesday 26th February 5.30 pm - Whaanau Fun Night
- Week 5, Monday 3rd March - Swimming Trials 5-8
- Week 6, Wednesday 11th March 6 pm - Camp Information Evening
- Week 9, Wednesday 2nd April to Friday 4th April - Matomato Camp
- Week 9 Thursday 3rd April - Matomato at Auckland Botanical Gardens
- Week 10 Friday 11th April - Last day of Term 1

sending jerseys to school in the summer months.

- Hats: As a summer term, students will need to bring a named, red bucket hat to school.
- Communication: All communication will be shared via the HERO platform. Please ensure you check it regularly for updates.



# ABOUT US

## OUR WONDERFUL KAIAKO

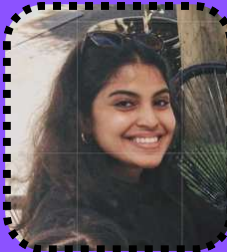
### MATOMATO - TO GROW VIGOROUSLY!

#### Mrs Ashna Nathman



Kia ora whaanau. I feel privileged to have been part of the Conifer Grove School community for the past four years and am excited to be teaching in Room 17 this year. In 2025, I look forward to continue the role of Pedagogical Leader for the Matomato team. I am passionate about guiding and inspiring students at different stages of their educational journey and always enjoy sharing a good laugh with them. I live in Pukekohe with my husband, Bavin, and our cat, Oscar. Outside of school, I love volunteering at a local animal shelter. Eagerly looking forward to collaborating with students, parents, and teachers to make 2025 a year filled with meaningful learning experiences and shared achievements.

#### Mrs Kinjal Borania



Kia ora whaanau. I am delighted to be joining Room 16 as a Year 4/5 kaiako this year and excited to create a positive and dynamic learning environment where every student can thrive. I believe in fostering curiosity, creativity, and strong connections with both students and their whaanau. My teaching philosophy is rooted in creating a space where all learners feel valued and supported. I hold a Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning from the University of Canterbury, and I am committed to making a meaningful impact on each child's educational journey. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy cooking, traveling, practicing yoga, and spending quality time with my family. I look forward to working with you all to ensure a successful and rewarding year for our tamariki.

#### Mrs Subashni Prakash



Kia Ora whanaau! It is wonderful to be part of your child's educational journey this year in Room 15. My name is Mrs Prakash, married with a gorgeous 14 year old daughter. This is my third year of teaching at the school and I am looking forward to creating a positive and engaging learning environment that fosters both academic growth and personal development for the students. My passion is reading books, gardening, watching rugby and playing netball. I look forward to knowing, growing and nurturing the young minds as we go along this learning journey in 2025!

#### Mrs Amarjeet Kaur



Kia Ora whaanau! My name is Amarjeet Kaur, and I am excited to be teaching Year 5/6 in Room 18 this year. I look forward to exploring new learning with the students and seeing their enthusiasm grow in our classroom. I also hope to further develop my skills in teaching strategies to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. My vision is to create a classroom that is inclusive, inspiring, and innovative - where students feel safe to express their ideas and take risks in their learning. I look forward to create meaningful relationships with all students and their amazing families.



# TERM 1 LEARNING

## OUR FOCUS

### MATOMATO - TO GROW VIGOROUSLY!

#### Conceptual Curriculum

Our 2025 Concept is Change and our big understanding is: **Change occurs in different ways that may initiate reactions, opportunities and / or challenges.** All our learning during the year will build on this understanding. We will begin by making connections to the big understanding and teaching students about personal examples of opportunities, challenges and reactions associated with change. Our context for Term 1 is "Agents of Change". During this learning, our students will understand that people have power no matter how big or small and will also be working on an inquiry cycle on Dame Whina Cooper and taking action at Conifer Grove School to make a positive change. We are currently planning for the action taking for our kura during the Matomato camp coming up in Week 9 of this term where our students will have an awesome opportunity for authentic learning.

#### Reading

This term, students in Matomato will focus on developing a range of comprehension strategies, including making connections, forming and testing hypotheses about texts, and asking questions to deepen their understanding. For those developing foundational reading skills, we will provide targeted support in applying letter sounds to decode new and unfamiliar words. Our goal is to build confident, capable readers who can think critically about what they read and apply effective strategies to enhance their literacy skills.

#### Writing

In Writing this term, our primary focus will be on generating and evaluating high-quality ideas that are relevant to the topic. Additionally, we will explore effective sentence structure to enhance clarity and coherence in our writing. Through various activities, students will develop their ability to express ideas thoughtfully and structure their writing in a way that engages their audience. Students will learn how to use a range of sentence types, and incorporating detail to add depth to writing. They will also engage in collaborative discussions, peer feedback, and guided practice to refine their skills. By the end of the term, they will have a stronger understanding of how to craft well-structured, meaningful pieces of writing that effectively communicate their thoughts and ideas.

#### Physical Education

This term in Physical Education, our focus will be on team building games that encourage collaboration, communication, and problem-solving. Through a variety of engaging activities, students will develop key skills such as teamwork, resilience, and leadership while fostering a sense of trust and team spirit with their peers. These games will provide opportunities for students to practice sportsmanship, support one another, and reflect on the importance of working together to achieve a common goal.