

Year 4/5 Newsletter Term 3, 2025

A warm welcome to everyone as we begin Term 3, especially to the new students and their families joining our school community—we're so glad to have you with us!

This term, our big question for Inquiry is: **"How can science and technology help us create a better future?"**

Students will explore how the world works through hands-on investigations into:

- **Materials** – How they've become stronger, lighter, better?
- **Energy** – Using sunlight, wind, and water as power.
- **Weather & Climate** – What causes different weather patterns and climate change?
- **Living world, Plants** – How do plants grow and how do humans use them?
- **Forces & Motion** – What makes things move or stop?

We're learning how science can solve real-world problems and shape a smarter, more sustainable future!

Reading and Writing in Inquiry

This term, our reading and writing are closely linked to our science inquiry. Each Y4/5 teacher is selecting two reading texts that connect to the science experiments students are exploring—one for building confidence and one for more confident readers. For example, suppose a class is learning about friction, they will read related texts and practise skills like skimming and scanning, locating key information, interpreting diagrams and graphs, and identifying key ideas. These texts will be used for follow-up comprehension and writing tasks to deepen understanding. This approach helps students make strong connections between reading, writing, and science learning.

Maths

At Greenhithe, we aim to develop confident, capable mathematicians who can apply their learning to real-life situations. Our maths programme follows the New Zealand Curriculum and covers number, algebra, measurement, geometry, statistics, and probability. Lessons are hands-on, interactive, and focused on building deep understanding through problem-solving, discussion, and practical activities. We use the Oxford University Maths programme to support structured learning and reinforce key skills. Our goal is to spark curiosity, encourage mathematical thinking, and equip students with the tools they need to succeed.

Physical Education

This term, students will take part in fun activities like skipping, tag games, and Jump Jam to build their movement skills. They will be practising their dance for the school production, *Dancing through the Decades*, which helps improve coordination, balance, rhythm, and confidence. Alongside this, students will learn about teamwork, fair play, and how competition can affect our feelings. Through games like tennis and soccer, they'll practise using rules, playing safely, and working well with others.

We will also be teaching the **Keeping Ourselves Safe (KOS)** programme this term, with support from the New Zealand Police. This programme helps children learn how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations. A parent information session will be held later in the term for those who would like to learn more.

Our school production, **'Dancing through the Decades'**, is scheduled for **Week 8** and will involve all Year 3 to 6 classes. It promises to be a fun and exciting event!

Expectations

We expect students to read a book from the school library or a book of their own choice at home for 20 minutes, four times a week. Students can also practice their maths skills and times tables at home using the online 'Mathletics' programme. They may be assigned activities by their classroom teacher or can use the 'Live Mathletics' option to practice their basic facts.

We're looking forward to another fantastic term of learning and fun. Please continue to check email notifications, the school events calendar on the Greenhithe School website, and the school newsletter for regular updates. And if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your class teacher.

General Housekeeping

Uniform

Please make sure children are wearing the correct uniform at school and all clothing items, including sweatshirts and raincoats, are clearly named so lost property can be returned easily.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Reminder

Students who bring their own devices to school must make sure they are **fully charged at home each day** and ready to use for classroom learning. This helps ensure they are prepared and can make the most of their learning time.

Communication

For any communication that requires action during school hours, such as if you need to collect your child early, please contact the office at 09 413 9838. Other reminders will be sent via email or provided as a hard copy.

Important Reminders

Please make sure the office has your current contact details so you don't miss any important information. Any medications your child needs during the school day should be returned to the office on the first day of school. If your child is starting any new medication, please inform their class teacher and the office.

Tissues

We would appreciate it if every child donated a box of tissues for classroom use.

Important Dates:

Thursday 7th August - Year 3-6 Rippa Festival

Monday 11th August - Photolife

Tuesday 12th August - Photolife

Wednesday 3 September - Production

Thursday 4th September- Production

Friday 19th September - Last day of term

Ngā mihi nui,
Year 4/5 Teachers