



**KNIGHTON
NORMAL SCHOOL**

ADDRESS | 45 Knighton Road, Hamilton, 3216

PHONE | (07) 856 5399

WEBSITE | www.kns.ac.nz

PRINCIPAL | Andrew Campbell PGDip. Org. Behaviour, B.Ed., Dip.T.

February, 2026

Room 32

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome back, everyone. I hope you had some family time over the Christmas break and enjoyed some time outside during the summer months. One of the exciting things about being in senior school is the many extracurricular activities available to your child. In term 1, these include cricket, miniball, kī o rahi, touch, chess club, kapa haka, T.O.P.A, and a range of sporting opportunities during break times. Year 5/6 tamariki also have the opportunity to build their leadership skills as they are now the rangatira of our kura. There are several ways that your child can contribute this year. Please encourage them to step up into one of these roles: mediators, wet day monitors, school councillors, librarians, and road patrollers. Parents, feel free to send me a ClassDojo message if you have any questions. If you are not currently connected to ClassDojo yet, please email me as ClassDojo will be our main form of communication this year - jpenman@kns.ac.nz. I look forward to meeting you at the whanau picnic, or if not then sometime throughout the year.

The Knighton Way: Mahi Tahī / Getting along

'Mahi tahī' is the Knighton value during term one.

We believe it is essential that children learn to relate to a range of people in a variety of contexts.



- Socially Responsible
- Playing by the rules
- Thinking first
- Accepting others
- Valuing cultures
- Co-operative

Literacy:

Writing will be a major focus in Akomanga 32 as it is a subject in which many of our tamariki need extra support. During the first term, we will mainly be doing memoir and descriptive writing. This will allow the students to write about their own personal experiences and describe a range of objects.

Each student will work on individual writing learning intentions that are identified during the first few weeks. Your child will also be given reading, grammar and spelling activities to help support their learning.

Reading: **Your child will bring home a reader, journal, or chapter book daily** and will be expected to read one story each night. Please help your child by listening to them read or discussing their story with them. Books will start coming home during week 4.

Maths:

For the past 7 years, students in the senior school have been taught using Prime Maths as the main resource. This year, the senior school will be trialling the Oxford Maths programme for the first time. Most students will be staying in Akomanga 32 for maths. However, there will be a couple of children who attend maths lessons in another class more suited to their individual learning needs.

Topic:

This term's work will focus on helping the Hamilton City Council redesign Parana Park on Meromial Drive. Students will research the area and what equipment they would like added, design their own playground and create a 3rd model.

Class Trips:

We have a Noho Marae at Kirikiriroa in Week 6. Noho marae is an important part of our learning and connection to our community. We will leave school sometime during the day and take part in some activities on the marae. We will return to school around lunchtime the next day. More information will come out on Friday.

Swimming:

Room 32 will be swimming two days a week. Our swimming days are Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure that your child has their togs on these days. Swimming is part of the curriculum; all students are expected to participate.

PE:

Students will also be learning a range of co-operation games that will help build their communication skills and ability to get along with others.

Class Dojo:

Class Dojo is a website/app that allows teachers to communicate with whānau (family) and upload photos. You can also see what activities your child has been doing at school. Your own personal sign-in has been sent home with this parent letter if you have not already signed up.

Medical Forms:

If your child requires any medication to be administered by an adult during school hours, please visit the office to complete a permission slip. Any medication will be stored safely and administered by the office staff.

Hats:

A reminder that students are required to wear their **Knighton hat** when outside throughout terms 1 and 4. Hats can be purchased from the office for \$12 or through the online Kindo shop. If your child does not have a hat, they will be expected to play in the shade during break times.

Library:

Our library day will be on Thursday during term one. It would be greatly appreciated if you could remind your child to bring back their library books on this day. Students will be able to issue or return library books during most lunchtimes.

Stationery: Thank you to those who have already paid for their child's stationery. It will be handed out this week. If you would like to organise a payment plan, please don't hesitate to contact the office to work something out - they are more than happy to do this, as we understand this can be a very expensive time of year.

Cell phones: We prefer children to leave cell phones at home, but understand that some children require a cell phone for safety reasons and to contact family members after school. If children do bring a cellphone to school, this needs to be handed into the office or kaiako until the end of the day.

Ngā mihi

James Penman