



**KNIGHTON**  
**NORMAL SCHOOL**

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

## Term One - 2026

Nau mai, haere mai e ngā whānau ki te kura hou, ki te tau hou! Welcome, families, to our new school year!

Ko Whaea Sam tōku ingoa, and I am delighted to be the kaiako in Akomanga 11 for 2026. I am really enjoying getting to know the tamariki as we begin to connect and learn together. As I am new to Knighton Normal School, I feel very fortunate to be teaching alongside Whaea Kylie, an experienced kaiako who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our classroom. She will be with us on Thursdays and some Fridays.

This term, Akomanga 11 will be focusing on the school value of Mahi Tahi – Getting Along. We will be building a strong, caring classroom community through activities that celebrate all our students and help us get to know one another. At the heart of our class is tūrangawaewae – creating a strong sense of belonging for your tamariki with each other, with me, and within our learning space. When our tamariki feel safe, cared for, and valued, they are better able to settle in and confidently take on the new and exciting challenges ahead.

It is a real privilege to share in the learning journeys of your tamariki. You are always welcome to pop in for a chat or to see their work. I am looking forward to a warm and positive year together.

## The Curriculum and Akomanga 11's Learning Programme:

**Maths:** Our structured Oxford Maths programme is based on the New Zealand Curriculum and uses real-world contexts to make learning meaningful and relevant for our tamariki. This term, we are focusing on collecting data, exploring 2D shapes, developing number recognition, and making numbers to 100.

**Reading:** A11 is participating in the Better Start Literacy Approach, a systematic programme developed by the University of Canterbury. This approach supports children to build strong reading, spelling, and comprehension skills. Your child will also engage in daily phonics, handwriting, and independent reading tasks to nurture their confidence and enjoyment in reading.

**Writing:** This term, we are focusing on constructing clear sentences and using correct punctuation. We will also be summarising stories from our shared books and information from our inquiry topics, helping tamariki to express their ideas clearly and in their own words.

**Wellbeing:** Our wellbeing focus this term is on whānau (family), aroha (love and compassion), and 'broadening our smiles.' These themes help tamariki develop age-appropriate skills to look after their own emotional wellbeing and to show care, kindness, and support for others.

**Term One Topics:** We are really looking forward to learning more about the importance of Waitangi Day, leadership, and the many different cultural practices within our community. To celebrate, we'll come together for a range of special events, including our school-wide Cultural Week and Parade. These occasions are a special opportunity for us to honour our diverse cultures and deepen our sense of belonging as a caring school whānau.

Important Class Details:	Administration:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Term 1: 3 February - 2 April</b></li> <li>● <b>Drop-off is between: 8:30 – 8:55 am</b></li> <li>● <b>Pick-up: 3:00 pm</b> - we will meet you outside A8</li> </ul> <p><b>Swimming:</b> Our swimming days are Tuesday and Friday. Please send your child to school in their swimming togs. To help us keep everything together, place their named underwear and a towel in a named swimming bag.</p> <p><b>Library:</b> Our weekly library visits will be on Fridays, beginning in Week 3. Please send a book bag to school so that a book can be issued. Book bags are available to purchase at the office or through MyKindo.</p> <p><b>TOPA:</b> On Friday mornings, our class will attend Talents of the Pasifika Academy sessions. These sessions give our tamariki a special opportunity to engage, connect, build confidence, and experience the essence and beauty of Pasifika culture through song, dance, and language.</p> <p><b>Class Dojo:</b> I would love all families to be registered with Class Dojo, as it is our main platform for sharing what is happening in our akomanga. This space is just for the parents and whānau within our class, and it allows me to share class stories, photos, and messages with you.</p> <p><b>Cultural Festival and parade:</b> Our Cultural Festival and Parade will be held on Wednesday 25 March. If you are able to, please keep this day free - it is a fabulous event and a very special celebration for our tamariki. More details will be shared closer to the time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If your child has any medicine, please hand it in to the office so we can help keep them safe and well during the day.</li> <li>● If you are returning permission slips, please place them in our Frog Box at the Smiley-Face window.</li> <li>● Our school newsletter, which is also available online at <a href="http://www.kns.ac.nz">www.kns.ac.nz</a>, comes out every second Tuesday afternoon. Our website and school app are also great places to check for term dates and upcoming events.</li> <li>● For absences, please let the office know if your child is away by sending a message on School iAppsNZ or texting to 027 352 2089. This helps us make sure all children are accounted for and safe.</li> <li>● If your child arrives at school after the 9am bell, they will need to sign in at the Smiley Window first.</li> <li>● Knighton School hats can be purchased from the school office for \$12.00. These are part of our sun-safe practice and must be worn in Terms 1 and 4.</li> <li>● Kindo is now available for all school payments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To set up an account, please go to <a href="http://www.mykindo.co.nz">www.mykindo.co.nz</a> or use the link on the school website.</li> <li>○ Once payment is made, school stationery will be issued and kept in class.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Ngā mihi nui, Sam Edwards Akomanga 11 Kaiako <a href="mailto:sedwards@kns.ac.nz">sedwards@kns.ac.nz</a></p> <p>Kylie TeArihi Kaiako <a href="mailto:ktearihi@kns.ac.nz">ktearihi@kns.ac.nz</a></p>	