



FAITH
CITY SCHOOL

Te Kura Hāpori o te Whakapono

**Faith City
School**
NEWSLETTER
Term 4
28 October 2025

From the Principal's Desk

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Another positive start to the term at Faith City School! It is so heartening to see the energy, curiosity, and growth across all our students as we continue through Term 4.

Summer sports have started well – thank you to those parents who are supporting and coaching our teams. Our students have also been incredibly busy learning through various fun, hands-on activities. Our Junior School trip to Pioneer Village was a fantastic adventure, with Rooms 1, 2, and 3 experiencing what life was like over 100 years ago, including an old-fashioned classroom and a memorable train ride. Meanwhile, Rooms 1 and 3 have been exploring the world of science with rainbow-making experiments and chemical reactions using food colouring and various liquids.

The older students in Room 6 have become “Kitchen Chemists”; learning about physical and chemical changes while making everything from Hokey Pokey to butter. Room 5 has successfully blended reading, writing, maths, and art by studying a text about Minecraft and then designing their own pixelated characters and scenes.

At the start of the term the students came back to a brand-new playground. A huge thank you to the PTA for their hard work in making our playground upgrade happen—the children are absolutely loving it! We’ve had to roster classes on to the playground as there were too many students on it! It looks high to me, but I am assured it is inside recommended height restrictions!

I also want to acknowledge the wonderful Dyslexia Awareness Day celebrated in Whanganui and at Faith City. It was fantastic that staff held a meeting with parents to learn more about dyslexia and how literacy is taught at Faith City School.

In finishing, the end of the year will come quick and as it does so it will bring with it many challenges. The Apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* (Philippians 4:13). Let this be an encouraging word for us all. Whether we are tackling school camp, learning a new skill, or simply dealing with the demands of a busy term, remember that God provides the strength we need.

Ma t e wa
Marty Bullock

Upcoming Events

**Fri 31 Oct – Photolife
School Photos**

**Thurs 6 Nov & Fri 7
Nov – Year 5 & Y6
Camp**

**Tues 11 Nov & Wed 12
Nov – FCS Athletics
1pm-3pm**

**Fri 21 Nov – Mitre 10
Tough Kids**

**Wed 3 Dec to Fri 5 Dec
– Year 7 & Year 8 Camp**

**Wed 10 Dec – Junior
Prizegiving**

**Thurs 11 Dec – Senior
Prizegiving**

**Last Day of School for
2025 – Tues 16
December**

**First Day of School for
2026 – Mon 2 February**

Dyslexia Awareness Day

Nicky Collins (RTL) said it was a fantastic day in Whanganui celebrating **Dyslexia Awareness!** The support from participating schools, parents, students, and RTL has been incredible. We all finished the week knowing a whole lot more about dyslexia than we did before.

As **Nicky** visited schools, she saw many students proudly dressed in aqua or blue. At **Faith City School**, staff held a meeting with parents who were interested in learning more about dyslexia and how literacy is taught. Nicky answered lots of on-the-spot questions and was incredibly proud of everyone involved.

She would like to say a heartfelt **thank you** to all who took part!



Faith City School



Junior School Trip to Pioneer Village

Rooms 1, 2, and 3 had a fabulous day! Before we left, we had fun pretending we were travelling in a time machine. As we stepped off the bus and into **Pioneer Village**, it felt like we had gone back in time—over 100 years! In fact, each of us even received a special **time travel ticket** for the journey.

At the village, we visited an old-fashioned classroom and couldn't help but jump every time the teacher hit the strap on the table! The **train ride** was a highlight too, as it bumpity-bumped along the tracks through the countryside and back to the village.

The **dress-up** session was fascinating—students got to see what children looked like more than a century ago. The **games** were fabulous as well! We had so much fun playing tug-of-war, walking on stilts, and racing in sacks. It was a wonderful day full of learning, laughter, and adventure!





Room 1 Rainbows

Room 1 is very colourful at the moment! We have been making our own rainbows, using paper towels, markers and water as well as the beautiful rainbows we painted that are up in our classroom. We did a few experiments and predicted what would happen. We also used milk, paper towels and markers to make a swirly rainbow.



Room 3 Scientists

Room 3 is enjoying using food colouring with various materials and liquids to see reactions. We are learning that as scientists, we wonder what might happen and make a prediction. We investigate, use our senses, experiment, discover, and ask questions.



Room 7 Art

Room 7 students have been working with warm and cool colours in Art. Here are some examples from this week.



Room 6 Kitchen Chemistry

This term in science, our classes have been exploring *Kitchen Chemistry* — discovering how cooking involves both physical and chemical changes. Physical changes happen when something changes form, like melting or mixing, but can be changed back again. Chemical changes, on the other hand, create new substances, such as when gas forms or the colour or smell changes.

We've had lots of fun being scientists in the kitchen! So far, we've made Hokey Pokey and watched the chemical reaction between baking soda and hot sugar as it bubbled into light, crunchy toffee. We've also made fizzy Sherbet that bubbled when we added water, and bread in a bag, where yeast caused a reaction that made the dough rise. One of our favourites was making butter — by shaking cream until it separated into butter and buttermilk, a great example of a physical change. It's been exciting to see that chemistry isn't just found in labs — it's happening all around us, even in our kitchens! *Ngā mihi nui* from our young kitchen scientists.



Room 5 Minecraft

Students explored a reading text about Minecraft, using reading strategies to understand key ideas and topic-specific vocabulary. They then applied their learning by planning and creating a Minecraft-inspired character or scene using blocks. Next will come completing a writing planner to inform a piece of writing about the topic integrating reading, writing, maths, and art. Such a fun writing activity!

What is Minecraft?



QAR Questions

Right There (Answer is directly in the text)

1. What are the five main game modes in Minecraft?
2. What do players receive in Creative Mode?
3. What do players need to play Minecraft?

Think and Search (Answer is in different parts of the text, put together)

1. How is Survival Mode different from Creative Mode?
2. What do Adventure Mode and Survival Mode have in common?
3. What devices can Minecraft be played on?

Author and Me (Answer is not directly in the text, but clues plus your thinking)

1. Why might Spectator Mode be helpful if you're stuck underground? Why do you think some mobs are friendly while others are not?
2. Why do players under 12 need a parent to create an account?

On my Own (Answer does not require the text)

1. Which Minecraft mode would you enjoy the most and why? Do you think Minecraft helps you learn or be creative?
2. Would you rather play Minecraft on a tablet or a computer? Why?

Handwritten Notes:

Right There

1. Creative, Survival, Adventure, Spectator, Hardcore.
2. Players receive supplies.
3. Players need a device.

Think and Search

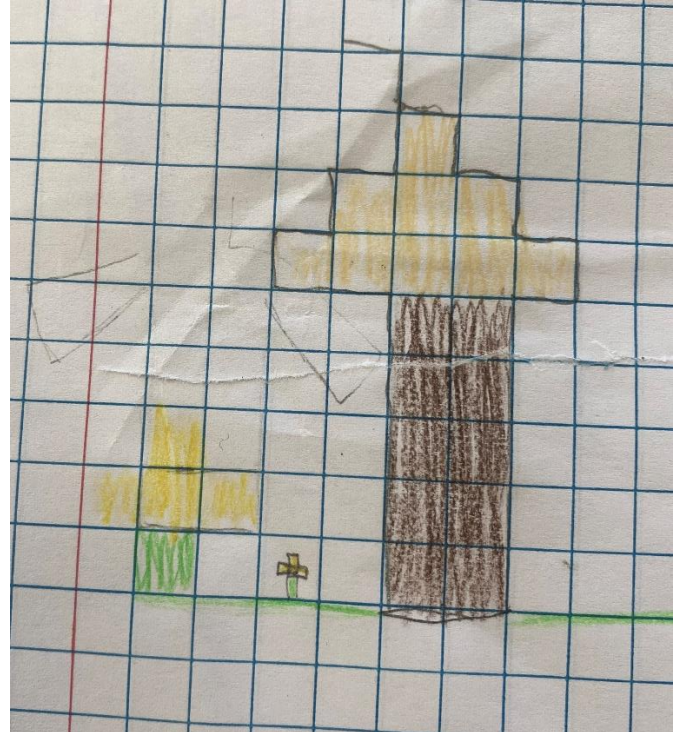
1. Because Survival you have lives and need food and sleep.
2. Both have the need for food and you have lives.
3. It can be played on any device.

Author and Me

1. Because when your lost you can go through any block and some don't attack but some do.
2. Because they are too young to have their own account.

On my Own

1. I like creative, and yes I do agree with that.
2. Computer, because typing on a key board is easier than doing what you do on a tablet.



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2. Would you rather play Minecraft on a tablet or a computer? Why?

Handwritten Notes:

Right There

1. creative, survival, hardcore, Adventure, Spectator, and
2. Supplies no hunger bar and an account.
3. An account.

Think and Search

1. Because you don't die in Survival and in creative you're invincible.
2. The both have a hunger bar health bar and an experience bar.
3. Tablet, computer, phone.

Author and Me

1. because you can go through objects because have to be there.
2. for permission.

On my Own

1. survival because it's more fun.
2. Computer because it's easier.

What is Minecraft?

Minecraft is a very popular video game. In this game, players build and craft a wide variety of blocks in three-dimensional digital worlds. The aim of this game is to build and explore. There are five main modes or ways to play Minecraft. These are: **Creative, Survival, Adventure, Spectator and Hardcore.**

In Creative Mode, players receive the supplies required to build and break all types of blocks. Players don't need to eat to survive when they play this game mode.

In Survival Mode, players have to find their own craft supplies and food to keep playing. They can also interact with 'mobs', which are block-shaped creatures in movement. Some of these creatures may be friendly, but others may not.

In Adventure Mode, players have a health bar, a hunger bar and an experience bar. Players interact with creatures and can be damaged as well. They can't start a new world in adventure mode, but they can change from other game modes.

In Spectator Mode, players can't interact with anything in the game, but they can fly through solid objects. When you're in this game mode, players won't have a health bar, hunger bar or experience bar. This is a useful mode if you've dug underground and got lost. Simply change to spectator mode and fly high!

Hardcore Mode is quite similar to survival mode. However, players will be locked in the hardest challenge and only have one life.

To play Minecraft, you will need a computer or digital device and an account. There are compatible versions of the game for computers, video game consoles, tablets and smartphones. You'll also have to create an online account. Players under 12 years old will have to ask their parents to create an account.

Don't forget to ask your parents for permission before connecting to the Internet.

Playground Upgrade

Our playground has been upgraded and the kids are loving it! Many thanks to the PTA for their hard work to support the school and make this happen.



FCS Athletics Competition

This year we are holding our own Athletics Day. Normally we compete with the West Schools, but this is no longer taking place. We'll hold our very own Athletics over two afternoons. From here we'll pick the competitors who will attend Contributing Schools Interschool Athletics and Intermediate Athletics. Put some time aside to come and see our kids show off their athletic prowess - they've been training hard this term. We will run it here at school. The programme for the two afternoons will be published soon. Dates are **Tues 11 Nov & Wed 12 Nov – FCS Athletics**
1pm-3pm



Before and After School Care

Whanganui Boys and Girls Gym Club have a new Before and After School Care programme.

**5 years to 13 years of age, Monday to Friday school term
time only (closed public holidays).**

**Schools within the urban Whanganui zone including
Westmere School**

Morning: Drop off at the gymnastics club for breakfast from
7.15am, fun play and drop off safely to school.

Afternoon: Pick up from school, afternoon tea supplied with
fun activities, caregivers/parents to pick up from the
gymnastics club by 5.30pm.

OSCAR approved for funding.

Please visit our website www.whanganuigymclub.co.nz for
registration and more information,
or call the office 06 34 58670.