

# SPS Year 7-8 Newsletter

## Term One, 2026



### Nau Mai, Haere Mai, and welcome to Term One!

A big welcome to all new families and students. We hope you are enjoying being back at school! After a long Christmas break, it is great to see all of the students back. This year brings a lot of changes in the Senior Syndicate. We are introducing our new model of delivery for Maths and Literacy, with an increased focus on Pakiki, or inquiry. This will see changes in the technology programme, PE, and the arts.

Our Teaching Team for 2026 is:

#### Home room teachers:

**Room 1** - Mr Gareth King (Team leader)

[garethk@sps.kiwi.nz](mailto:garethk@sps.kiwi.nz)

**Room 2** - Ms Jo Todd

[jot@sps.kiwi.nz](mailto:jot@sps.kiwi.nz)

**Room 3** - Miss Angela Chubb

[angelac@sps.kiwi.nz](mailto:angelac@sps.kiwi.nz)

**Room 4** - Mr Geoff Dingle

[geofferyd@sps.kiwi.nz](mailto:geofferyd@sps.kiwi.nz)

We are also fortunate enough to have Suzanne Taylor and Greer McQuay returning to support the learning in the senior syndicate.

[suzannet@sps.kiwi.nz](mailto:suzannet@sps.kiwi.nz)

[greerm@sps.kiwi.nz](mailto:greerm@sps.kiwi.nz)

We have camp in Week 3 this year which gives us a little bit of time to get to know our new classes before heading off to Te Wera. Rooms 3 and 4 are going on Monday the 16th and returning to school Wednesday 18th. Rooms 1 and 2 will go on Wednesday 18th and return on Friday 20th.

Whānau Day is on the 27th of March this year. All whānau are invited to come along and join in with our celebration of being back at school! More information will come out about this during the term.

A reminder that students need to have hats and drink bottles at school. We are a Sunsmart School and encourage students to protect themselves from getting sunburned. Our summer hours are 8:45am to 2:55pm. Please make sure your child is not at school before 8:15am in the morning.

Homework in the Senior School will be based on earning points for the Aim High Achievement Bands. Information on the Achievement Bands is over the page.

We are looking forward to this year!

### Important Dates!

#### **Week one: 2-6 Feb**

Monday - Powhiri for new families and staff

Thursday - Top team day

Friday - Waitangi day

#### **Week 2: 9-13 Feb**

Monday - Camp meeting for parents attending, 4:30pm in Room 1.

#### **Week 3: 16-20 Feb**

Camp

#### **Week 4: 23-27 Feb**

Friday: Americarna

#### **Week 5: 2-6 March**

Monday: Life Education Trust truck arrives

Thursday: Kapa Haka starts

Friday: Teacher Only Day

#### **Week 6: 9-13 March**

Monday: Taranaki

Anniversary Day

Friday: Junior tryathlon, senior students to help

#### **Week 7: 16-20 March**

Friday: Athletics day

#### **Week 8: 23-27 March**

Friday: Whānau day, including hangi

#### **Week 9: 30 March -3 April**

Wednesday: Student led conferences

Friday: Final day of term 1



## Celebrating effort, culture, growth, leadership, and contribution

At Stratford Primary School, **AIMHigh** recognises students who show commitment, perseverance, and a willingness to challenge themselves – in learning, sport, culture, creativity, and service. In each area you can earn:

12 credits - Achievement Award

24 credits - Excellence Award

Credits can be earned in each category with a variety of activities.



Academic Band:  
Recognises learning growth and curiosity. Students earn credits through progress in reading, writing, and maths, as well as science projects, problem solving, coding, competitions, and teaching others.



Service Band:  
Recognises leadership and contribution to our school and community. Credits are earned through leadership roles, community service, and EnviroSchool projects that help improve school life and care for our environment.



Sports Band:  
Celebrates participation, teamwork, and perseverance. Credits are earned through school sports teams, individual events, interschool sport, leadership roles, and representative opportunities.

### Why AIM High Achievement Bands Matter:

AIM High Achievement Bands help students recognise their strengths, celebrate effort and improvement, and take ownership of their learning. They reinforce the idea that success looks different for every learner and that growth matters just as much as results. Every student has something valuable to contribute, and AIM High Achievement Bands help make those strengths visible and valued.