

Kia ora Whānau

Dr. Anita Archer is an educational expert in Explicit Instruction, with a key focus on how the physical classroom environment directly affects working memory and the way students retain crucial learning. Research and practical strategies to enhance effective teaching highlight that:

- Classrooms must be decluttered, with minimal distractions on walls.
- Teachers need a defined teaching arena where instruction begins and student attention is focused.
- Students should sit in pairs to work easily with a partner, while also collaborating in small groups of four.
- Teachers must be able to move freely around the room, observing, interacting, and monitoring learning at all times.

This movement and visibility allow teachers to check for understanding, provide immediate feedback, and keep students fully engaged.

Last year, we worked with Furnware to design our own furniture that aligns perfectly with these principles. It supports explicit instruction by creating classrooms that maximize attention, participation, and learning outcomes.

We'd love for you to come and see our new classroom layouts, we're excited to share our tidy, minimalist learning environment with you

Pam xxx



Attendance

Improving Student Attendance – How Parents Can Help?

At Deanwell, we are currently focusing on improving student attendance. A key part of this is ensuring that parents provide a reason or explanation when their child is not at school. The Ministry of Education provides attendance codes that we use whenever a student is absent.

If your child is not at school, please inform the school as soon as possible. You can do this by:

- Sending a message via the HERO app or Deanwell School website
- Emailing the office or your child's classroom teacher
- Phoning the office
- Visiting the office and speaking with Roberta or Leah

Thank you for helping us keep accurate attendance records and supporting your child's learning.

Definitions

Presence

A student is **present** if they;

- P** are physically **present in class**,
- L** arrive **late to class** within school/kura determined thresholds,
- A** are physically present in **alternative provision**,
- V** are engaged in onsite **exams or study**,
- N** are **temporarily out of class** either **at school**,
- D** or in an **appointment**,
- O** or are engaged in **Board approved learning offsite**.

Justified absence

A student is **justifiably absent** if they;

- M** are **ill/unwell**,
- U** have been formally **stood down or suspended**,
- X** are engaged in offsite **study for exams**
- J** or the school principal has **approved their absence**.

Unjustified absence

A student is **unjustifiably absent** if;

- ?** the reason for the absence is **not yet known**,
- T** they are absent **without parent/caregiver permission**,
- G** they are taking a **holiday during term time**,
- E** or their absence is **explained but not approved** by the principal.

DEANWELL SCHOOL

Whānau in the Park

4PM -
6PM

WEDNESDAY
25TH FEB

FREE SAUSAGES AND
ICEBLOCKS

BOUNCY CASTLES

DUNK A TEACHER

FACE PAINTING

POOL OPEN 4:00PM - 5:30PM

(ONLY DEANWELL STUDENTS IN
THE POOL)



Info for Whānau Attending

The purpose for this event is to connect with our wonderful community. This is a picnic style event with lots of fun activities for the whole Whānau!

Important information

Tamariki must be accompanied by Whānau!

Only Deanwell students in the pool.

No wheels (scooters, bikes or skateboards).

Tamariki introduce their whānau to their kaiako to receive an iceblock voucher (additional vouchers will be given for siblings).

We will have enough for one free sausage and ice block per person. Please be mindful of this!

What to bring:

- Your Whānau!
- Your picnic
- Togs and a towel if your child wishes to swim



Road Safety #2

Please use the roundabout past the dairy OR
Alternatively, take Rhonda Avenue to Rosalind Street
and continue to the school along Deanwell Avenue.



No U turns or backing
out of driveways

Term 1 Kaupapa Updates

Week 2- Helmet Safety & Egg Challenge

Last week Ohu Tuakana explored how helmets protect our heads. Our ākonga took part in an Egg Challenge and designed protection for a fragile egg using materials, some recycled. We then tested them with an egg drop from different heights. Lots of creativity, teamwork and thinking was needed.

Activity Two was trying on and fitting real helmets. We practiced checking for cracks, adjusting straps and doing a buddy check.

Check out the awesome photos!



Check that your buddy is wearing their helmet correctly.



Is the helmet tight?	Is there 2 finger spaces on their forehead?	Can I fit one finger between their chin and the strap?	Does it fit properly on their ears?
			