

## The Religious Education Strand for the first half of this term is



# The Holy Spirit - *Te Wairua Tapu*

The Holy Spirit is God the Third Person of the Holy Trinity  
The Holy Spirit came to earth to unite us with Jesus in our daily lives.

Pentecost Sunday is on the 4th June. We call this the birthday of the Church because this was when the Holy Spirit was sent to reassure and encourage Jesus' people to not be afraid and to carry on and share His good news with all.

### Two important stories that students should know about the Holy Spirit are:

- **The Baptism of Jesus - Mark 1:9-11**

*The baptism of Jesus is the first time we see the Trinity together in the Bible. Jesus is there, the Holy Spirit appears as a dove and God is there, for it is the Father that speaks.*

- **The Story of Pentecost - Acts 2**

*Jesus promised He would send an advocate to help his disciples after He was gone. He sent the Holy Spirit. Before that the disciples hid and were afraid. At Pentecost, as they witnessed the rushing wind, the tongues of fire and began to speak in other languages the disciples were called to share their witness and went forth to spread the Word of God.*

### Year Level Enduring Understandings for the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity. We use symbols like fire and wind for the power or mana of the Holy Spirit. We see signs of the Holy Spirit at work in people's lives.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are: love, peace, patience, kindness, joy, courage, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is God's love at work through the Holy Spirit that enables people to exercise their Mana and bear these fruits. It is the Holy Spirit that helps us to recognise a bad choice and encourages us through forgiveness to try again.

We gain a greater appreciation of the role and the titles of the Holy Spirit through a knowledge and understanding of the titles and symbols of the Spirit found in Scripture and the Tradition of the Church.

From the Scriptures we learn the role of the Holy Spirit. Present in the Creation and speaking through the Prophets God's Spirit of love-Aroha and truth-Pono was with Jesus and the early Christians as they walked in Jesus' ways and remains today the basic life principle of the Church.

**The Learning that the Students will be asked to participate and contribute to may include discussions such as...**

- What do you know about the way the Holy Spirit works in you?
- Can you list some of the symbols, signs or images that show the Holy Spirit from the Bible?
- Have you felt the Holy Spirit working in you to make a good choice or to use courage?
- Can you show me the sign of the cross and name all the parts of the Trinity? Are you able to do this in another language and share it with the class?

**Ways you can support your children with their R.E -**

- Sharing Bible Stories and making inferences about the messages from the stories.
- Walking in the wind and remembering how it is like the Holy Spirit - you can feel it but not hold it.
- Tell them about times when you have been guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Talk about the fruits of the Holy Spirit and what these might look like at home or with friends.
- By noticing and telling them you can see the Holy Spirit in them when they show love, patience, kindness, gentleness and forgiveness... encourage and praise.

**The Liturgical Colour we are using for this part of the year following Easter is Gold. It symbolises a bright and joyful time as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and move forward towards His Ascension into Heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.**