

Tawhai School ICT & STEM Update Term 3 2026

Here is an overview of the latest progress, hands-on learning, and practical engineering across our ICT and STEM programs at Tawhai School.

Junior Digital Technologies (Years 2-3)

Some of our Year 2 and Year 3 students have been building foundational computational thinking and problem-solving skills:

- **Unplugged Coding:** Students kicked off with coding mice to explore what coding is, why it matters, and how sequence instructions work in a physical space. They had fun making it move forwards, backwards, turn around and then making a variety of shapes.
- **Debugging Skills:** A major emphasis was placed on "debugging"—helping students build resilience by learning how to troubleshoot when code doesn't work as planned.
- **Scratch Junior:** Moving onto ipads, students learned how to customize projects by adding background



scenes and interactive characters.

- **Creative Projects:** Students put their skills into practice by setting up character races, determining winners, animating jumps, and adding speech bubbles for dialogue.

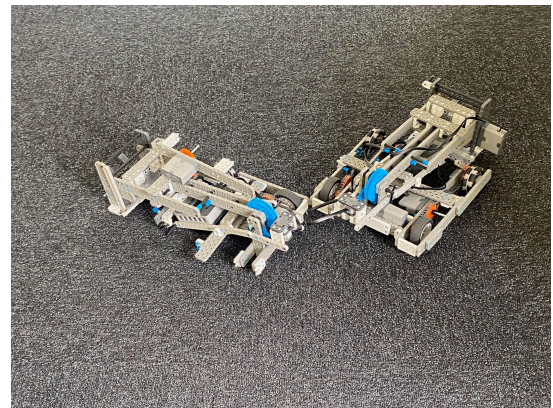
This curriculum provides a solid stepping stone toward advanced Scratch programming and our Year 4 VEX IQ robotics work. We look forward to continuing with our

Year 2 and 3 classes next term!

VEX IQ Robotics Club

Our Wednesday after lunch our VEX IQ Robotics Club is running at full capacity with 30 keen students.

Season Challenge: "Level Up"



This season's VEX IQ challenge, *Level Up*, tasks student teams with building and programming a robot to pick up beanbags and place them onto elevated platforms across the playing field.

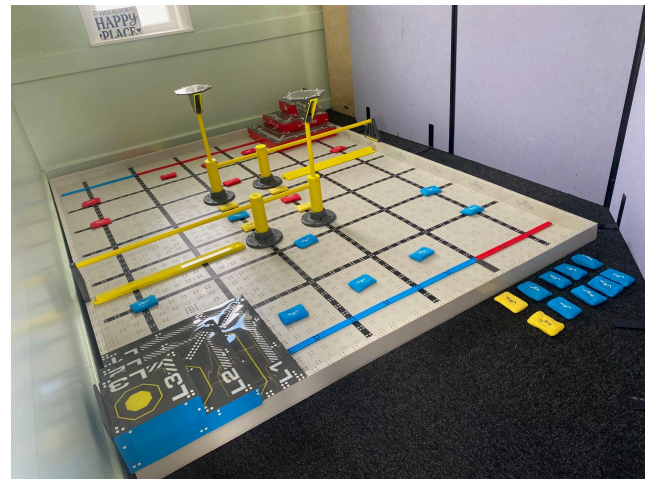


Team Adaptations & Hardware

We initially set out with 10 groups building competition robots, but ran into part limits across our available kits. To adapt, we restructured the club into two focused streams:

Field Construction Update

The playing field is steadily coming together. Because this season's game requires extra field tiles compared to previous years, high demand has caused a slight shipping delay. We expect the remaining tiles to arrive early next term so full match practice can begin.



Lunchtime STEM Clubs

Our lunchtime clubs continue to give students a great space to experiment, build, and take ownership of their designs.

Friday Coding Club

Coding Club remains popular on Friday lunchtimes. We have recently placed a stronger emphasis on student-led coding, encouraging students to build original programs from scratch rather than modifying existing templates.

EPro8 Engineering Club

Our regular EPro8 builders are making impressive progress in both speed and technical skill:

- **Current Build:** A motorized utility vehicle (ute) with plans to design a detachable towed trailer.
- **Features:** The ute moves forward and backward, powered by an integrated laser sensor system that triggers flashing lights and a horn warning when activated!

This project is building great momentum as we prepare for the upcoming regional EPro8 Competition next term.

