

Atatu Newsletter Term 1 2012

Dear Parents / Caregivers of Atatu Children (Rooms 1, 3, 4 and 5)

A warm welcome to you all in the new school year. We hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday. A special welcome to all of our new children and families. We have an 'open door' policy at our school. This means you are always welcome to come and see us if you have any queries or concerns. If we are not immediately available to talk we can arrange a convenient time to talk with you. We all want our children to succeed and good home/school communication assists this.

Staffing:

We have a strong and experienced team of teachers in Atatu.

Room 1 – Year 1 children – Mrs Helen Fairclough helenf@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 3 – Year 0 and 1 children – Mrs Bonnie Mills bonniem@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 4 – Year 2 children – Ms Jo Patrick jop@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 5 – Year 1 and 2 children – Mrs Chris Turner christ@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Parent Help in Classrooms:

We welcome parent help in a variety of ways, so if you have some spare time and would like to help out in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher. We will be starting our Perceptual Motor Programme and writers support group once again this term and would appreciate help with these. Look out for letters that will be arriving soon.

Parent Information Afternoon:

We will be holding a parent information afternoon for parents of newly enrolled or soon to be enrolled students of Room 3 on Tuesday 21st February – 3.10 – 3.30. Bonnie Mills will talk about how learning is organised in her classroom of new entrants. Preschoolers and students will be supervised by other Atatu teachers during this session in a nearby classroom.

Class Websites:

Atatu classes are setting up websites for you to keep up with our learning and programmes. The websites are accessible from the school website www.longbayprimary.ac.nz Your child's teacher will send home further details about access and use of websites.

Parent/Teacher Goal Setting :

There will be a parent / teacher goal setting evening on Wednesday 29th February. You will soon receive information regarding making an appointment time to talk to your child's teacher. This discussion allows assessment and other relevant information particular to your child to be shared to help set their learning goals.

Homework:

Thank you for the valuable help you give your child with their homework. When homework tasks begin in your child's class we ask that you hear your child read every day and that the children return their book bags daily, complete with their book and notebook filled in and signed by the parent / caregiver. Other homework may be given by their class teacher also.

Library:

Each class is timetabled to visit the school library once a week, to borrow books to be taken home to be shared and enjoyed for reading that day and for the week. Rooms 1 and 4 visit the library on Mondays and Rooms 3 and 5 on Thursdays. Please return your child's library book to school in their book bag by the following library visit.

Uniform and Named Items:

We would appreciate it if you could put your child's name on their clothing, including hats and shoes (where possible) and on lunch boxes and drink bottles. This helps with reducing the amount of lost property at our school. We encourage all the children to put anything they take

off straight into their bags or bag hooks and would appreciate your support with this. We would appreciate the children wearing the correct uniform at all times. We do understand that there may be times when it is necessary for non-regulation items to be worn. An explanatory note would be appreciated. Remember, too, that this term the children need to wear their hats outside when playing.

Punctuality:

Thank you for your continued support in getting the children to school by our 8.55 am start. It is helpful for the children to be well organised before the bell goes – putting reading books away, etc.

Toys:

Please help us to discourage the bringing of precious toys to school – they often get broken or go missing.

Lunch Eating:

We closely supervise the Year 1 and 2 children's lunch eating. At this age children can be so keen to play at lunchtime they forget about eating enough lunch. We encourage them to eat most or all of their lunch. **Please don't send nuts or peanut butter sandwiches to school as we have children who are fatally allergic to them.**

Overview of Topics of Study For This Term:

Maths: Measurement – Time and body measurements; Number and Algebra.

Reading: shared books, graded readers, poems, own choice books, visits to the library, reading and alphabet activities, spelling activities.

Oral language: interpersonal discussions, news, oral presentations, drama

Written Language: Expressive writing (recount writing), transactional writing (procedural and report writing), handwriting.

Integrated Studies: Health / Social Sciences/ Technology: Participating and Contributing: Taking care of ourselves and others; establishing learning goals and classroom practices 'The Long Bay Way'; 'V.I.P.' (Life Education Caravan –Week 3 – see separate letter re this.

Phys ed: Fitness rotation activities – ongoing; Specialist Soccer; Swimming at Hilton Brown for 6 sessions this term -\$60.00. A letter is being sent home today also. Please return ability questionnaires to your child's teacher by Friday 10 February so that we can group children accordingly.

PMP (Perceptual Motor Programme) Rooms 1 and 3 – floor sessions only this term. Equipment sessions will continue next term when the hall is ready and we will need parent helpers then. A letter will be sent home later in the term regarding this.

Specialist Dance – Rooms 1, 3 and 4; **Specialist Music** - Room 5.

Atatu Assemblies: We will have a short Atatu assembly on Fridays from 2.30 – 2.55, for celebrating birthdays, learning and progress, some singing and topic learning.

We would like to compile current lists of class contact details and therefore request that the attached slip be completed and sent back to your child's teacher no later than Friday 10th February.

Many thanks from us all for your on-going interest and support. Please don't hesitate to come and see us or email us if you would like to discuss anything.

Kind regards

Atatu Teaching Staff:

Jo Patrick (Associate Principal, Atatu Team Leader)

Bonnie Mills

Helen Fairclough

Chris Turner

CONTACT DETAILS – PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY

Student Name: _____ Room: _____

Parent(s) / Caregiver(s) Name(s): _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Home Address: _____

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