



# KOWHAI TERM 2 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Teacher emails

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## Welcome to Term 2 and a special welcome to all our new students and their families

### The normal school day

- Classroom doors open at 8:30 a.m. Children settle better if they are early enough to unpack themselves, have a quick goodbye and a little play. **Learning time starts at 8:55 a.m. and school concludes at 2:55 p.m.**

- On arrival to school in the morning, students return book bags, water bottles etc. to the correct place.



- Students are not allowed to play on the playground before school starts. After school, students must be supervised by an adult on the playground.
- Learning time starts at 8:55 a.m. and school concludes at 2:55 p.m. Please wait away from the classroom, by the blue benches, to enable the children to organise their belongings.

### This Term's Highlights

**Week 1-5:** Wednesday specialisation programme - Music and Dance

**Week 6, 10<sup>th</sup> June:** Junior School Cross Country

**Week 9:** Mid year reports go home for all students who haven't received a report this term

**Week 10, 7<sup>th</sup> July:** Mid year parent/teacher conferences

#### New entrants

All students will receive a progress report once they have attended school for 6 weeks. Teachers will then arrange a time to discuss this with you.

### What to bring to school

- A named water bottle at school every day. **Please do not include fizzy drinks or fruit juice in the bottle.**
- Our school is **wrapper free** so where possible do not include plastic or packaging.
- **Please do not send nuts or peanut butter sandwiches to school as we have children who are fatally allergic to them.**
- All uniform items, book bags, jumpers, raincoats etc need to be **clearly named**.
- Please place a **spare set of clothing in your child's school bag** for rainy days, in case they get very wet or have a muddy fall during playtime.

### Home Learning

- It is vital that your child reads every day. Please fill in the reading log in home learning books. We welcome your comments.
- Please focus on practising **alphabet sounds and high frequency words**.
- All students have online access to Reading Eggs and Math Seeds. Logins and passwords are in Home Learning books.
- Kōwhai team visits the library weekly. Please return books on time so your child can borrow new books.
- Book bags: Please help your child get into the habit of looking after books and returning books in book bags. We are unable to send books home if your child does not have their book bag.

## Learning focus

Our term 2 team Whakataukī (Maori proverb) is *Pai tu, Pai hinga, Haere tonu, kia kaha* which is all about developing a growth mind set and resilience. The literal meaning is 'good to stand, good to fall, keep going, stay strong'. We aim for the children to develop an understanding that to learn we need to work hard and persevere, even when it is challenging.

## Keeping Ourselves Safe

This term the children will be discussing personal safety through the **KOS (Keeping Ourselves Safe) Programme**. We will cover safety skills that children can use when interacting with others, in a variety of settings.

## Writing

One of our foci for term 2 is developing the automaticity of writing in our students. Letter writing automaticity is defined as the rate at which children can access, retrieve from memory, and write alphabet letters accurately.

Students draw on the same set of knowledge and skills for both reading and writing as they learn to use the code of written language.

Our class programmes include phonemic awareness and fine motor skills development to assist with this goal.

## Parent help

We welcome parent help in a variety of ways, particularly as our Perceptual Motor Programme gets underway again. If you have some spare time and would like to help out in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher.

## Room 1

We are delighted to welcome Susie Stringer to the Kōwhai team as the teacher of our newly opened class, Room 1.

## Ngā Mihi

Kowhai team class teachers

Room 2 Tarina MacKay, Room 3 Irene Navarro, Room 5 Jitka Bloomfield, Room 1 Susie Stringer

## Communication

Parents are always welcome to discuss any concerns they may have about their child's well-being or progress. Sometimes things can be discussed or clarified after school, however, if you require a longer interview it is advisable to make an appointment. We aim to provide a happy, secure caring environment with each child actively involved in the learning process.

## Science

Following on from learning about our senses our aim is for students to notice, think and wonder about the natural world around them. Our focus will shift to seasons as we become aware of the changes in the environment around us.

## Waa Hura - Discovery Time

Our morning sessions offer open ended play, children have the chance to explore, create, construct and gain understandings of the world around them in an interest based setting.

As well as supporting our science learning we are offering many activities to support other areas, such as fine and gross motor skills, questioning, cooperation, communication, senses, and much more.

