



# KOWHAI TERM 1 2022 NEWSLETTER

## Teacher emails

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## Welcome to Term 1 at Long Bay Primary

### 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.
- 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. (Due to red traffic light protocols the playground is not open after school at the moment.)
- **Learning time starts at 8:55 a.m. and school concludes at 2:55 p.m.**

### Home Learning

- Home Learning books will be kept in book bags and will contain information to help you support your child's learning.
- 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 will visit the library weekly:
  - Room 2 and 3 on Friday
  - Room 5 and 6 on Monday(Unfortunately, due to red traffic light protocols we are unable to visit the school library currently.)  
When we do visit, 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 doesn't have their book bag.

### What to bring to school

- **A named water bottle at school every day is essential.** Drinking fountains are not available under red traffic light protocols. **Please do not include fizzy or fruit juice in the bottle.**
- **A Sun hat**, these are compulsory in term 1 and 4.
- A healthy brain snack, morning tea, and lunch. Our school is **wrapper free** so where possible do not include plastic or packaging.
- Please **clearly name** uniform items, book bags, jumpers, hats, coats etc. We also ask that children have **spare clothing** in case of accidents, muddy falls, fun times in water play etc.
- **Please do not send nuts or peanut butter sandwiches to school as we have children who are fatally allergic to them.**



### Communication

Parents are always welcome to discuss any concerns they may have about their child's well-being or progress. We are happy to receive emails. 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.

## Learning focus

- In term 1 we want the children develop a clear understanding of what is a learning focused classroom.
- We want students to learn by working hard; to persevere; to care for themselves, each other and our environment.
- This term will be exploring the concept of 'identity' and our unique characteristics, as well as the Māori concept of 'Mana'.
- The Whakataukī (Maori proverb) this term is: '*Manaaki te katoa*' which is about showing kindness to everyone and everything in our environment. This will become part of your child's everyday language as part of the Kōwhai team.

## 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, oral language, cooperation, communication, the senses, and much more.

## PMP

Our Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP) will run on a Monday morning for the Kōwhai team. It is a programme to assist the development of children's foundational skills for learning such as maintaining focus, crossing the midline, gross motor skills which then assists with the development of fine motor skills, essential in the learning of reading and writing.

## This Term's Highlights

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

**Week 4-6:** Life Education Caravan

**Meet the teacher online:** 23<sup>rd</sup> February, details to follow

### Progress Reports

**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.**

## Parent help

We welcome parent help in a variety of ways, particularly as our Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP) gets underway. If you have some spare time and would like to help out with PMP or in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher. We will let you know when we can have you in school given our current Covid restrictions.

Ngā mihi

Kowhai team class teachers

Room 2: Tarina MacKay, Room 3: Irene Hayakawa, Room 5: Jitka Bloomfield, Room 6: Susie Stringer