

# Tōtara Team Term One Newsletter 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A very warm welcome back to school for 2022. We hope you have had a relaxing and refreshing summer break with your whānau. A massive welcome to our new pupils, we trust you will settle in quickly to your new classes and school.

This year the Tōtara team will consist of three classes working as a collaborative space upstairs in Tiaho Mai (Rooms 23, 24 and 25). Room 25 with Mr John Keogh (Monday - Wednesday) and Mrs Nikki Douglas (Thursday - Friday), Room 24 with Miss Elisha Russell and Room 23 with Miss Tiffany Driver (Team Leader). However, currently under red light settings Room 25 is in the library and Room 23 and 24 have split the space into two. We will review this as settings change. It is all about keeping everyone safe and healthy.

## Modern Learning Environments

*Students have their main homeroom teacher who is the point of contact (assessing, reporting, checking-in etc)*

There are many benefits to MLE's. Students have a chance to work across spaces and collaborate with different teachers and peers. As needs evolve, groups can be flexible to ensure all learners are thriving appropriately. Our team of teachers have up to date pedagogy surrounding this environment and are also committed to be flexible and adapt alongside our learners. Please rest assured during the current situation, we are operating as single units indoors.

## Senior Student Leadership

As seniors, there will be many opportunities for students to join a range of lunchtime and extracurricular activities like sports teams, music groups, and the enviro/health groups. There are also many opportunities for Year 6 students to take on leadership roles and contribute to the school community with monitor responsibilities such as office duties, wet day monitors, librarians, and sports monitors. These are all currently on hold due to Red Light Settings but plans are in motion to get these going as soon as we can.

## Learning

This Term our overall topic is "Our Place". Our place within our classroom, our community and our country. We will look at how events of the past have shaped NZ and still have an impact today. We will also look at "Our Place" meaning our classroom and how we can all demonstrate the Long Bay Way in all that we do. We are committed to understanding and learning about each other as people and learners.

From 28th Feb-17th March students will attend Life Education.

Our focus will be on systems in the body/Human Biology. This learning will be our Science focus and also coincide with our Mental Health Well-Being Programme we are implementing this year called "Mitey."

For Mathematics we are focussing on Addition and Subtraction strategies. Our strand is Statistics and Measurement with a focus on Length and Graphing.

It is an expectation that students know their times tables and we encourage them to practise these at home weekly. Students will bring home Basic Facts to practise on a Friday and these will be tested the following week.

We are linking the arts with oral language and literacy this term with a focus on Plays! Our writing focus is to entertain (Recounts, Poetry, Character Description and Narratives) and to inform (Explanations, Fact Files).

Spelling, Grammar and Handwriting will be linked to rotations in class. Students will begin receiving spelling to practise at home from about Week 3.

We will slowly be gathering up to date assessment data this term to ensure that learning is pitched correctly and students' needs are being met.

We aim to hold Goal Setting with students at the mid-point of this term.

In classes we will also be focussing on Digital Citizenship and integrating tools into daily programmes.

This term the students will receive specialist lessons (Weeks 6-10)

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Rooms 23 and 24: Music and Drama  
Room 25: Digital Technology and Art  
*Next term these will swap.*

P.E/ Fitness will be implemented daily in classes. There will be no swimming this term due to red light settings.

### Outdoor Education

**Waterwise begins in Week 3!** Year 6's have all the information they need (a letter went home this week). Please let your child's teacher know if you need another one. **We are in urgent need of parent help to ensure this can happen on Thursday afternoons.** You will receive all the necessary training.

### Seesaw

We use Seesaw to communicate student learning at home! We aim to post weekly updates about class and student progress. Any relevant notices and messages will be posted so please join if you can. By now you should have received a family log-in from your child's class teacher. Please get in touch if you have not and need another code.

### Footwear / Uniform

We are committed to daily fitness/P.E. Please ensure your child is wearing the correct footwear.

In Terms 1 and 4 sun hats are compulsory. Please ensure your child comes to school with a hat.

### Money

Students should not bring money to school unless it is requested by the teacher/school. Any money sent to school needs to be clearly labeled with your child's name, room number and the purpose, in an envelope. Many payments will now be able to be made through the LBP Shop, which can be found on the school website.

EZ Lunch - for more information about lunch orders please visit [www.ezlunch.co.nz](http://www.ezlunch.co.nz)

### Masks/Covid Reminders

Masks need to be worn all day in class. Thank you for supporting your children with this. Please ensure they come to school with a water bottle. We keep these in their bags so they can head outside for constant sips and mask breaks. We aim to learn outside as much as possible!

### Communication

If you would like to talk to your child's teacher about any matter, please email the teacher concerned. They can then either address the matter through email or arrange a suitable time to meet, if required. Unless urgent, we will endeavour to reply as soon as possible. Our work hours are between 8am and 5pm.

### Important Dates:

Thursday's from 24th Feb- 31st March (Year 6 Water Wise) Tōtara will be in the afternoon.  
Goal Setting Interviews on Wednesday 23 March. School will finish for the day at 12:30pm  
Wednesday 13th April: Last Day of Term One

We appreciate your on-going support with the flexibility of the ever changing school term.

Ngā mihi,

Tōtara Team: Tiffany Driver (Team Leader), Elisha Russell, John Keoghan and Nikki Douglas

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