



KOWHAI TERM 2 2023 NEWSLETTER

Teacher emails

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

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 mindset, giving things a go, and building resilience. The literal meaning of the whakataukī 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.

Literacy

Our structured literacy programme ensures a strong foundation for reading and writing. This includes developing phonological and phonemic awareness skills, together with language comprehension. Phonological awareness includes finding rhyme, syllables, blending and segmenting phonemes (sounds) in words, and orally hearing and counting words in a sentence. We cultivate language comprehension through our reading, storytelling, sharing news and poems.

Maths

Number knowledge and basic facts will continue to be a focus. We will be learning about measurement and length later in the term.

Mitey

We will be learning how to identify different feelings that we experience, and describe how we experience these feelings in different situations.

Keeping Ourselves Safe

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

This term's highlights

Week 1-5: Our specialisation programmes for the term begin

Week 7, 9th June: Junior school Cross Country

Week 9: Mid-Year reports emailed home

Newly entered students to school in Term 2

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.

Production

This term we will begin practises for our Term 3 school production. Each class will be performing their own piece, so watch out for some new song lyrics or dance moves from your child.

Home learning

- Home learning books contain the skills your child is learning to develop. These include alphabet sounds to practice for reading and writing, decodable words, and heart words. Please help your child to practice these skills. Make it fun by playing games, e.g. eye spy, doing scavenger hunts for sounds, guess the word by segmenting sounds, writing with chalk, in sand, painting etc.
- All students have online access to Fast Phonics, Reading Eggs and Math Seeds. Logins and passwords are in Home Learning books. These online programmes are an enjoyable way to consolidate learning from school.
- Kōwhai visits the library weekly. Please ensure library books are returned 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

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.
- **School concludes at 2:55 p.m.** Please wait away from the classroom, by the blue benches, to enable children to organise their belongings.

No Toys/Jewellery in school please: Toys and other non-school items can be a distraction and are very likely to go missing. We would ask that all non-school items are left at home unless it is a very special item for news.

Parent help

We welcome parent help in a variety of ways. If you have some spare time and would like to help out in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher.

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 chat we can make an appointment time. We look forward to another successful term working together.

Ngā mihi

Kowhai team class teachers

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

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, 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.

Waa Hura - Discovery Time

Our morning sessions offer open ended play, children have the chance to explore, create, construct and gain understanding of the world around them in an interest based setting. We support our science learning through play, and offer many activities to support other areas, such as fine and gross motor skills, problem solving, questioning, cooperation, communication, the senses, and much more.



New sandpit/kitchen area

We are excited to have our new sandpit and mud kitchen area almost completed. We are now looking for donations of play equipment, e.g, sandpit toys, kitchenware and bins for storage.