



KOWHAI TERM 3 2023 NEWSLETTER

Teacher emails

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Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to Term 3 and a special welcome to all our new students and their families

We are pleased to welcome back Dee McGibbon and Helen Fairclough to the Kōwhai team. Dee in Room 6, and Helen in Room 4 with our Year 0 students.

This Term's Highlights

Week 1: Friday 21st July 12.30pm, Matariki assembly and PTA Donut day (pre order)
Week 2: Friday 28th July 100 days of school celebration (details to follow on Seesaw)
Week 4: School wide math week
Week 5: School Production:
August 15th Junior School Evening Production, August 17th Junior School Matinee and Evening Production
Week 9: Fun mud run
New students to school in Term 3
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.

Science

For Matariki we have focused on the star 'Tupuarangi', which represents food and growth above the ground and the birds connected to this growth. This leads into our inquiry into NZ trees, the life cycle of trees, and how we use trees. We will continue to focus on being kaitiaki (guardians), as we explore our environment.

Literacy timetable

We are currently trialling switching our literacy programme to the mornings and our Waa Hura (Discovery time) to after morning tea. This is to maximise differentiation and focus.

Term 3 focus

Our term 3 school Whakataukī (Māori proverb) is "*Tukua te wairua kia rere ki ngā taumata*" (*Allow one's spirit to exercise its potential*) which links to our school value **Auahatanga/Creativity**. We want children to be able to express themselves, and their ideas in lots of original and innovative ways. We will be exploring and talking about creativity during our Waa Hura (discovery time) sessions as well as many other parts of the day.



Home Learning

- Your child's home learning book contains information on the skills that your child is practising. At this young age we ask that you practise these skills by keeping things fun, e.g. eye spy, board/card games, scavenger hunts for sounds, guess the word/number, writing with chalk/sand. We believe in the huge benefits of learning through play and this is the most important for your child's developmental age. ([Building Brains - Nathan Wallis](#)).
- All students have online access to Reading Eggs and Math Seeds. Logins and passwords are in Home Learning books. We recommend using 'Fast Phonics' under reading eggs to begin building literacy skills. There are also lots of lovely books for reading in the Reading Eggspress library.
- Kōwhai visits the library weekly. Please ensure library books are returned on time so your child can borrow new books. Children must have a book bag to be able to take home books.

Assessment for Learning

Throughout the year, classroom programmes foster an understanding that your child is in charge of their learning. Students are developing their understanding of a learning-focused classroom and have learning and personal goals to achieve as the year progresses. In term 3, students will continue to reflect on the learning process and are being asked to 'self-assess' - to check their learning against co-constructed success criteria alongside the teacher.

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 us.

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.**
- 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.

Communication

Parents are always welcome to discuss any concerns they 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.

Ngā mihi

Kowhai team class teachers

Tarina MacKay, Irene Hayakawa, Jitka Bloomfield, Dee McGibbon, Helen Fairclough

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.

Oral language/news

At times your child may wish to bring a news item to share. Suggestions for ideas are current events - newspaper clippings; photographs; interesting finds and unusual or special toys.

Toys: Toys or non-school items such as jewellery can be a distraction in class 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.