



KOWHAI TERM 4 2023 NEWSLETTER

Teacher emails

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Nau mai, haere mai, welcome back to Term 4 and a special welcome to all our new students and their families

We are pleased and excited to welcome Ashlee Reid and Ellie Slater to the Kōwhai teaching team this term. Ellie is teaching in Room 3 and Ashlee in Room 1.

This Term's Highlights

Week 3: Junior school athletics 1st Nov

Week 7: Camp day at school (details to follow)

Week 10: Reports and class placements go home, meet your new teacher

14th December: Last day of school for the term

[Newly entered students to school in Term 4](#)

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.

Waa Hura (discovery time)

Our students naturally explore and learn through play. As well as our regular sessions across the week we will be spending more time in the bush areas later in the term.

During these sessions we are aiming for our students to build relationships, be creative, problem solve, take risks and use their innate curiosity to drive their own learning. The teachers use waa hura time to notice students' interests and discoveries. We observe student's passions and support students to grow their social and emotional skills necessary in everyday life.

Topic

We have concluded our topic on NZ trees, and our focus this term will be the life cycles of plants, animals and humans. Our focus will be on how living things grow and change and how we have grown and changed through our years. This will link to our 'Mitey' program as we identify our personal strengths, as well as our roles and responsibilities in our whanau, school and communities.

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, 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 will be visiting 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.

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

What to bring to school

- **Sunhats** are compulsory for terms 1 and 4 for outdoor activities. If your child has forgotten their hat, they will be asked to play in the shade at play times. Hats can be left at school in the classroom box. **Please name** your child's hat.
- 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.

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.

Communication

Please regularly check the messages on Seesaw (you should receive a notification if you are connected). This is how the school and the Kōwhai classes communicate important information and upcoming events. You can also contact the class teacher using the emails above or through Seesaw. Parents are always welcome to discuss any concerns they 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

Tarina MacKay, Jitka Bloomfield, Ellie Slater, Dee McGibbon, Helen Fairclough, Ashlee Reid