

# Kōwhai Newsletter Term 1 2017



Hello and welcome to term 1. A warm welcome to our new children and their families.

## Staffing:

We have a strong and experienced team of teachers in Kōwhai.

Room 1 - Year 0 and 1 students - Mrs Helen Fairclough [helenf@longbayprimary.ac.nz](mailto:helenf@longbayprimary.ac.nz) and supported by Mrs. Tarina MacKay

Room 2 -Year 0 and 1 students - Mrs Deidre McGibbon [deem@longbayprimary.ac.nz](mailto:deem@longbayprimary.ac.nz)

Some gentle prompts to ease the children into school routines. The **school day** begins at 8:55 a.m. Children settle better if they are early enough to unpack themselves and have a little play. Children can work quietly in the classroom after 8:30 a.m. but are **not allowed to play on the playground before school**.

**Lunch time** is from 12:30 p.m. The children are supervised during lunch eating. Please be aware of what constitutes a moderate amount of food for your child at lunch time. Some children struggle to get through the amount of food packed in their lunch boxes. Try to avoid too many high sugar, high colour foods and drinks. These can have an impact on children's behaviour and energy levels for the rest of the school day. **Please don't send nuts or peanut butter sandwiches to school as we have children who are fatally allergic to them.**

**Home time** is 2:55 p.m. The end of the day is a busy time and we would ask that you wait away from the classroom, by the blue benches, to enable the children to organise their belongings.

**Developing independence:** Please encourage your child to take responsibility for belongings and to develop a sense of ownership about school. Have your child carry their own school bag in the morning and independently return their book bags into the classroom. If your child is having problems separating from you in the mornings, please make sure you arrive well before the bell. It is a good idea to find a buddy for your child to play with. Work towards your child entering school by themselves or with a friend. If you are concerned about anything, please ask. We are happy to help.

**Toys in school:** Toys or non-school items such as bracelets can be a distraction in class and are very likely to go missing. We would therefore ask that **all non-school items are left at home** unless it is a very special item for news.

**Water:** It is essential that every child comes to school with a water bottle. Young children find it very hard to drink adequately from a fountain. Unfortunately, fruit juices and sparkling drinks make everyone more dehydrated. Water is cheap, helps a person concentrate and wards off tiredness.

**Uniform and Named Items:** We would appreciate it if you could put your child's name on their clothing, including hats and shoes (where possible) and on lunch boxes and drink bottles. This helps with reducing the amount of lost property at our



school. We encourage all the children to put anything they take off straight into their bags or bag hooks and would appreciate your support with this. We would appreciate the children wearing the correct uniform at all times. We do understand that there may be times when it is necessary for non-regulation items to be worn. An explanatory note would be appreciated. We would also ask that children have **spare clothing** in case of muddy falls, fun times in the water play etc.

### **Hats**

The children are required to bring a sunhat to school for outdoor activities in terms 1 and 4. Ideally the hat can be left hanging in your child's classroom or in their tote tray. The Long Bay bucket hat is ideal. Please ensure your child's hat is named. Unfortunately we do not allow hats to be shared. If your child has forgotten their hat, they will be asked to play in the shade at play times.

**Head Lice**. These little creatures love a clean head of soft hair and unfortunately appear too often in the junior classes of schools. In this instance, prevention is definitely better than the cure. Thorough brushing and combing nightly from the back of the head (child's head down) is a good technique as lice are fragile and are easily killed if touched. Lice do not jump but are quick to move to another host when heads touch. All long hair (below shoulder) should be tied back - braided is best. We encourage all parents to check your child's hair regularly - at least once a week and treat promptly, if necessary. Do let your class teacher know. Letters from school will offer guidance about head lice treatments and may prevent further infestations.

### **Curriculum Areas:**

**Oral Language:** interpersonal discussions, news, presentations, drama, questioning.

**News days:** 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.

**Reading** is an integral part of all curriculum areas and the classroom programme. Reading experiences involve shared books, graded readers, poems, own choice books, visits to the library, guided silent reading, buddy reading. The teaching of **phonics** which eventually leads onto spelling programmes plays an important part in the teaching of reading and writing.

**Homework:** Reading materials will come home on a daily basis. This may be in the form of instructional readers, library books, poem books or the children's own written work. Home reading should be encouraged as it develops good reading habits. If for some reason a reader does not come home, please do not assume that reading has not taken place that day, simply enjoy a story together from your child's home library of books. **Essential words:** On a weekly basis, children working at emergent levels or early red 1 will receive "key words" to practise.

**Library Days:** Each class is timetabled to visit the library once a week to borrow books. **Room 1 visits the library on Monday and Room 2 on Thursday.**

Special routines are an important part of the daily life at school, particularly for junior children and we would ask that all books are returned on time. There are library boxes in the classrooms if you wish to return a book earlier.

**Book bags:** Please help your child get into the habit of looking after books and returning books in book bags. **The book bags protect our precious readers (and library books) from the rain and food/drink spills.** Please record the title of each instructional reader your child brings home in the back of the homework book.

**Mathematics:** The children study all the five mathematical strands - Number, Algebra, Statistics, Geometry and Measurement which encompasses time and temperature, mass, length, capacity and volume. Focus strands for this term are number knowledge and strategies; passing time, geometry - 2D and 3D shapes.

**At home, encourage your child to...**

Count out groups of objects. Count by rote to 10, 20, 50, 100 and above.

Counting backwards from 10, 20 up to 100 and above.

Stating numbers that come before or after numbers.

Skip counting in 2's, 5's, 10's. Basic facts to 10.



All children are signed up to use **Mathletics** this year. The cost for this comes from the activity fee. They can also use this website from home as they are given a username and password.

**Written Language:** The children write daily in a number of ways - diary type writing, retelling of experiences (recount).

Writing linked with Topic Studies - (explanations, instructions, reports and letter writing). Handwriting.

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**Parent Help in Classrooms:** We welcome parent help in a variety of ways, so if you have some spare time and would like to help out in your child's classroom, please contact your child's teacher.

Parents are always welcome to come and discuss any concerns they may have about their child's well-being or progress. Please feel free to email as well. Sometimes things can be discussed or clarified before or 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. We look forward to sharing this special time in your child's development with you!

Yours sincerely,  
Helen Fairclough (team leader), Dee McGibbon, Tarina MacKay

