

Rimu newsletter Term 1 2017

Kia Ora to all returning and families new to Long Bay Primary. We are looking forward to a super 2017.

Rimu team consists of the following classes

Room 4 Miss Shani Gledhill shanig@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 5 Mrs Jitka Bloomfield jitkab@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 6 Mrs Tracey Hardey traceyh@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 7 Mrs Katherine Aitken katherinea@longbayprimary.ac.nz

The school day

Classroom doors open at 8:30 a.m. allowing time for students to unpack their equipment and settle into the classroom. At this time we encourage the students to be independent when returning book bags, water bottles etc to the correct place. Students are not allowed to play on the playground before school starts. Learning time starts at 8:55 a.m. There is a short morning tea break from 10:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. and a longer lunchtime from 12:30 a.m. to 1:25 p.m. In the first ten minutes of lunch students are supervised where they are encouraged to eat most or all of their lunch. Please consider this when packing school lunches. Each child needs 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 don't send nuts or peanut butter sandwiches to school as we have children who are fatally allergic to them.** School concludes at 2:55 p.m. Once again student independence is encouraged e.g. finding shoes or jumpers.

Communication

It is important to read the school newsletter for dates and information about school events. We encourage parents to ask questions and have conversations with the class teacher. As before and after school are a busy time could you please let the class teacher know if you would like a special time to discuss a student in more detail. Teacher emails are included at the top of this letter.

School uniform

Younger students often misplace their possessions so finding a missing item is much easier when it is named. All uniform items, book bags, hats etc need to be clearly named. If your child has to wear a non-uniform item could you please let the class teacher know. Sun hats are compulsory in term 1 and 4. We do not encourage the sharing of hats. If your child does not have a hat they will be asked to play in the shade to keep them sunsafe.

Reading experiences involve shared books, graded readers, poems, own choice books, visits to the library, guided silent reading and buddy reading. 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. As part of home learning we encourage students to read every day with an adult. Upon completion of reading the assigned book parents are to enter the title and date in the new yellow reading log. Your child then needs to complete the face in the same box, indicating how they think they managed to read the text. The front of the yellow reading log explains this clearly. This is a valuable self assessment and a good indicator to the teacher as to the suitability of the text. These reading logs are very motivating for the children, also offering valuable tips for parents to assist with reading homework.

Library days: Each class is timetabled to visit the library once a week to borrow books. Please check in with the class teacher to find out what day of the week it is and return the books on time so your child can borrow new books each week.

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 class reading books, library books and poetry books from rain and food/drink spills.

Learning focus in Long Bay classes

Throughout the year, classroom programmes foster an understanding that your child is in charge of their learning. Learning intentions are developed from initial/on-going assessments and are clearly communicated to the children - as are the reasons for the learning. The children are actively involved in the development of success criteria. These criteria map out the processes the children need to follow to achieve a piece of learning. By reflecting on the learning processes the children are able to gauge where they are in their learning and ways to improve outcomes. Hence the name "Assessment for Learning." In term 1 the children develop a clear understanding of what is a learning-focused classroom.

The Long Bay Way characters are an integral part of the classroom programme. These are supportive spider, tidy tui, trying turtle, listening lizard and busy butterfly. These characters help our students to understand more easily the values that Long Bay wishes to foster throughout the school. We want students to learn by working hard; to persevere; to care for themselves, each other and our environment.

Swimming

Year 1 and 2 students swim every day in week 5 and Year 3 students swim every day in week 6 and 7.

Each child has a half an hour swimming lesson at Northern Arena swim school. Children will travel to the pool by bus. Letters have been sent home detailing costs and swimming times. We also ask that you complete an ability questionnaire. Your child will be grouped with reference to the questionnaire and after initial observations by the swimming instructors. If you are able to help with dressing children, please let your class teacher know. Permission slips and the questionnaire need to be returned to the class teacher as soon as possible.

Goal Setting interviews

Wednesday 22nd February starting from 1:00 p.m. Last interviews are at 7:20 p.m.

Teachers will have completed assessments in reading, writing and mathematics and will be basing initial learning goals on these assessments. It is hoped that the interview will foster a two way discussion on how to best support your child's learning needs. Interviews are for ten minutes. We do encourage students to come to the goal setting interview. Should you need more time for discussion, please arrange a further appointment with your class teacher.

The school runs a book worm programme and writer's support group for children who need a boost with their reading or writing. The programmes run throughout the year. Parent help is needed to run these programmes. Please see your classroom teacher if you can help.

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. We aim to provide a happy, secure caring environment with each child actively involved in the learning process.

Yours sincerely,
Rimu team class teachers