

## Rimu newsletter Term 3 2017

Kia Ora. Welcome back to Long Bay. A big thank you to everyone, parents and students, who attended the mid-year interviews last term. It was wonderful to discuss the achievements of the students and their next learning steps. We are looking forward to actioning this new student learning.

### **A reminder of Rimu team staff members and contact details.**

Room 4 Mrs Shani Simmons [shanis@longbayprimary.ac.nz](mailto:shanis@longbayprimary.ac.nz)

Room 5 Mrs Jitka Bloomfield [jitkab@longbayprimary.ac.nz](mailto:jitkab@longbayprimary.ac.nz)

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Room 7 Mrs Katherine Aitken [katherinea@longbayprimary.ac.nz](mailto: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. Please encourage your child to carry their own school bag in the morning and independently return their book bags into the classroom. 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 10:55 a.m. and a longer lunchtime from 12:30 a.m. to 1:20 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**

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. We would ask that the children wear shoes to and from school and have a warm jumper available should the weather suddenly turn cold. Younger students often misplace their possessions so finding a missing item is much easier when it is named.

**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. Students have developed their understanding of a learning- focused classroom and have set some 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' - check their learning against co-constructed success criteria alongside the teacher.

### **Learning programmes in term 3:**

#### **Curriculum Areas:**

**Oral Language:** discussions, news, presentations. Children are encouraged to share their news and discuss their ideas with others.

**News:** Your child may wish to bring a news item to share. Suggestions for ideas are current events – newspaper clippings; photographs; interesting finds and special toys. Some classes may roster news sharing days. Please check in with your child's class teacher about this.

**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 or letter sounds which eventually leads onto spelling programmes plays an important part in the teaching of reading and writing.

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. Some students spend several days reading a book in class before it is sent home. Simply enjoy a story together from your child's home library of books.

**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 and geometry (shape and space, position and orientation and transformation).

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

Another online resource is the **nzmaths website** which suggests many different ways you can support your child at home. See the link [nzmathsamilies](#) for more details.

**Written Language:** The children write in a number of ways - diary type writing, retelling of experiences (recount) and writing linked with Topic Studies – (explanations, instructions, reports and letter writing). Handwriting is an important part of learning to write as it focuses on correct pencil grip and starting letters in the correct place to facilitate accurate letter formation.

#### **Mahiro Ako:**

Rimu have recently been putting together a play session called Mahira Ako (Curious Learning). This takes place once a week and is a time where all the children have the opportunity to choose from a variety of developmental play based activities. While offering open ended play, children have the chance to explore, create, construct and gain understandings of the world around them in an interest based setting. It is inspired by our recent classroom inquiries into dirt and water and activities will support these inquiries where children will be encouraged to investigate and explore. As well supporting our Science we are offering many activities to support other areas, such as fine and gross motor skills, questioning, cooperation, communication, senses, and much more. Please see our class blogs for videos of our learning.

**Science:**

Our science goal is to have students who are curious, observe carefully and make meaning from their observations. The big ideas to consider for this term are that water flows from the land to the ocean and why that matters and getting rid of waste.

**The Arts:**

All children experience Maori, music, dance, drama and visual arts in the classroom programme. This term our specialisation classes will include Te Reo and Physical Education. These classes will begin at the start of week 6 every Wednesday till the end of the term.

As a link to our science idea of getting rid of waste we are planning a trip to the Corbyn Arts Centre where we will transform environmental and recycled resources into a fashionable lei. More details to follow.

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