

TŌTARA NEWSLETTER TERM THREE 2017

To the Parents/Caregivers of the students in Tōtara

Welcome back to the Tōtara team for term three. We hope you all enjoyed a fantastic and relaxing holiday. We warmly welcome our new students to the school and trust they will make friends and settle quickly into their new classes.

To help your child settle quickly into class routines could you please ensure they arrive at school after 8.30 am, but before the 8.55 am morning bell. School starts at 8.55 am. The school day finishes at 2.55pm. Remember classrooms will be locked until 8:30am.

Students should be wearing our school uniform with pride. It is important that the correct uniform is worn however we do understand that there may be times when it is necessary for non-regulation items to worn. An explanatory note would be appreciated. The colder season continues so students should have a school jumper and a raincoat available. If girls are wearing tights, they must be navy or black.

As everyone is wearing our school uniform ***please do label all items of clothing***. Please also name all your child's items, especially rulers, coloured pencils, rubbers etc. Teachers expect students to look after their possessions and to take responsibility for putting things in the right places. Students should not bring money to school unless it is requested by the teacher/school. Any money sent to school needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name, room number and the purpose, in an envelope.

Parent help is always welcome and there are many tasks that you can do to assist. For example supervising with trips outside the classroom, coaching or helping with sports teams etc. Please contact your child's teacher if you wish to help. Also we do appreciate assistance with school-wide programmes such as Bookworm and sporting events.

Students will receive a home learning sheet this term, which will give the students a selection of activities to select from. Reading, spelling and basic facts practice does need to continue as well. The home learning tasks are not due until the last week of the term.

Term three will be busy and action-packed. One of the main focus areas for our year 5's is camp, which will be in week 9. There will be more information in regards to this coming home regularly. Please make sure any information is read and any questions directed to your child's classroom teacher. We have a learning programme planned that will incorporate activities directed towards camp. The year 4's will be involved in these activities as well, and during camp week, they will be participating in an alternative programme, which will cover the key competencies of relating to others, managing self and participating and contributing.

We are very fortunate to be able to continue the specialisation programmes, which includes one change. We will carry on with the dance, drama and physical education programmes and Te Reo will now be included. Music will be taught within the classroom programmes.

Literacy skills will be developed through instructional programmes and applied within integrated studies contexts. Planning, drafting, proofreading, editing and publishing skills will be developed so students can begin to apply these skills independently. The students will be using the Long Bay writing carriages within their literacy programme so please ask them why and how they are using these to help their learning. Active listening, speaking clearly, recording legibly and presenting to a high standard will be a focus. Our writing focus this term is journal and instructional writing. Oral language is a major learning area in term three with the Tōtara team learning how to write and present a speech. Students will then be involved in a school speech competition. More information will follow in regards to this.

Mathematics programmes will be based around measurement (area and perimeter), geometry (position and orientation) and Number and Algebra. With the Number and Algebra programme, we will be grouping within the class, based on the needs of the students.

The physical education programme includes daily physical activities i.e. Jump Jam, shuttle runs, small games, etc. Our physical activity programme will be looking at catching, throwing and striking. The context for these will be invasion games, such as tapuwae, basketball and striking games like volleyball.

Our learning inquiry will be focussed on social science, health and science. The social science/health focus will be digital citizenship as we feel there continues to be a need for further learning and consolidation in this area. Science continues to be an ongoing focus. We are still in the process of planning this.

Please feel welcome to pop into the classroom before and after school to view your child's work. There may be times when you wish to discuss your child with us. If we are not immediately available, we will arrange a convenient time to talk. It is very important to have good communication between home and school and we hope you would contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

Our email addresses are :

Mrs Edgoose - Team Leader dianee@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mr Keoghlan - johnk@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mr Anderson - stevea@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Upcoming

Calendar Art - Week 1 : from Monday 24th July

Kristin Winter Sports Day (for those in selected teams) - Week 3 : Friday 11th August

Portraits and Class Photos - Week 4 :Monday 14th August

World of Maths - Week 4 : Thursday 17th August

Team Photos - Week 6 : Thursday 31st August

School Disco - Week 8 - Friday 15th September

School Camp for Year 5 and 6 - Week 9 : Monday 18th September to Friday 22nd September (more information to follow)

ICAS EXAM Dates for Term Three, for registered students

Tuesday 1st August - ICAS English

Tuesday 15th August - ICAS Maths

We look forward to an enjoyable and productive term.

Kind regards,

Tōtara Teachers.