

Rimu newsletter Term 1 2018

Kia Ora to all returning and families new to Long Bay Primary. We are looking forward to a super 2018.

Rimu team consists of the following classes

Room 1A Mrs Shani Simmons shanig@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 4 Mrs Jitka Bloomfield jitkab@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 5 Mrs Fenneke Gingell fennekeg@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Room 9 Mrs Tracey Hardey traceyh@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 10:55 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

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, student 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 reading log in the home learning book. Your child then needs to complete the face in the same box, indicating how they think they managed to read the text. This is a valuable self assessment and a good indicator to the teacher as to the student's confidence reading the text. **It is vital that your child read every day.**

Library days: Each class is timetabled to visit the library once a week to borrow books. Rimu team visit the library every Friday. Please 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 to achieve their learning goals. 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. 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 4, 26 February to 2 March. 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 child's class teacher know. Permission slips and the questionnaire need to be completed and returned as soon as possible.

Mahira Ako

Our Mahira Ako (Curious Learning) sessions on a Monday will continue and are very popular. Our children absolutely love the messy play activities. We do ask that this term to **please include an old shirt** as a way of keeping our students and their school uniform drier and cleaner. This shirt will be kept at school for the duration of the term and returned at the end of the term. 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. As well supporting our Science learning we are offering many activities to support other areas, such as fine and gross motor skills, questioning, cooperation, communication, senses, and much more.

Goal Setting interviews

Interviews are on Wednesday 28th February starting from 1:00 p.m. Last interviews are at 7:20 p.m. 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.

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.

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.

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