

TŌTARA NEWSLETTER TERM ONE 2018

To the Parents/Caregivers of the students in Tōtara

Welcome to the Tōtara team for 2018. We hope you all have enjoyed a fantastic and relaxing summer holiday. We look forward to getting to know the students in our classes and working with them in class, team and school learning programmes. We warmly welcome our new students to the school and trust they will make friends and settle quickly into their new classes.

This year Tōtara will consist of two year 5 classes and one year 4/5 class. Mrs Edgoose in Room 6 will be teaching year 4/5; Mr Keoghan, Room 7 and Mrs Walker Bell, Room 8 will be teaching year 5.

There will be opportunities for students to join a variety of lunchtime and extra curricula activities like sports teams, music groups, and the gardening group.

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.

The school has a compulsory sun hat policy and all students are required to wear an appropriate sun hat when participating in outdoor activities. To be sun safe, students who forget their sun hats will need to stay in a designated shade area. We also encourage students to use sun cream.

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. Suitable footwear is expected. No boots, jandals, crocs or shoes that are not appropriate for running in. Plain white or navy headbands are acceptable : please, no fancy hair accessories. As everyone is wearing our school uniform please do label all items of clothing.

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 labeled in an envelope with your child's name, room number and the purpose for the money.

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 regular homework. Homework may consist of reading, spelling, maths and integrated topic work.

Homework will begin in week 3. Individual class teachers will explain to their students the expectations and routines.

Term one promises to be interesting and exciting. We are very fortunate to be able to continue with the arts and physical education specialisation programme. Te Reo will be integrated into the daily programme to encourage use in authentic contexts. A swimming programme has been planned and the attached letter gives more information on this.

Literacy skills will be developed through instructional programmes and applied within integrated inquiry contexts. Planning, drafting, self/peer assessing, editing and publishing skills will be developed so students can begin to apply these skills independently. Active listening, speaking clearly, recording legibly and presenting to a high standard will be a focus.

Mathematics programmes will be based around Statistics (collecting and plotting data) and Measurement (time and length). With the Number 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. relays, circuits and small games. Our swimming programme is at Northern Arena and runs over a two week block, with the students swimming each day.

Our integrated inquiry will be based around the theme 'Collaboration and Growth'. This will be looking at how we can support each other, share our knowledge and grow as a class to be the best learner we can be. This concept will be explored in a range of authentic contexts.

Home learning tasks will be pasted into home learning books. Home learning provides a valuable independent learning opportunity for students. The aim is for students to practise and consolidate skills implemented in the classroom programme with an emphasis on literacy, numeracy and thinking. Students will be expected to revise spelling and read on a daily basis. A multiplication grid and basic fact sheets will be provided to support students with numeracy. Additional tasks will be given in a grid format. This will be fully discussed with students before it is sent home. All Totara teachers will be using the same format. We will be using a year long grid system which will encourage home learning in a range of areas. Discussion around quality, presentation and task expectations will be given to students. The format of the home learning aims to ensure that the individual needs of each student in the team are met effectively. Tasks will be designed

to cater for all ability levels. A high standard of achievement and presentation is encouraged in this area of independent learning. Members of quality learning communities draw strength from their ability to collaborate and support each other. The students will therefore be required to evaluate their own and others' work as well as seek feedback and feed-forward from parents and teachers during and after they have presented their home learning to the class.

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 e-mail addresses are -

Mrs Ellis Walker Bell - Team Leader - ellisw@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mrs Di Edgoose dianee@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mr John Keoghan - johnk@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Forthcoming

Swimming at Northern Arena, Silverdale - Monday 5th March to 15th March (daily).

School Swimming Sports - Friday 16th March Year 4 to 6

Goal Setting Conferences - Wednesday 28 February. An opportunity for parents to meet with the teacher to discuss their child's learning and progress and to establish learning goals.

We look forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

Kind regards,

Tōtara Teachers.