

Rimu newsletter Term 2 2018

Kia Ora. Welcome back to Long Bay.

A reminder of Rimu team staff members and contact details.

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The school day

We are pleased that so many of our students are developing independence when arriving and leaving school. Encourage your child to carry their own school bag in the morning and independently return their book bags into the classroom. Classroom doors open at 8:30 a.m. allowing time for students to unpack their equipment and settle 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, flavoured milk 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. As winter is approaching 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.

This term we would like to trial students having 2 pairs of shoes at school, a warm inside pair e.g. slippers, and weather proof outdoor shoes e.g. sensible closed shoes that are mostly waterproof. No gumboots or fashionable boots please as these are difficult for children to run in. As winter approaches, our students can get their shoes wet at lunch and morning tea and it will be useful to have spare indoor shoes that are easy to put on and take off independently. Shoes with laces are only encouraged if your child can tie their laces by themselves.

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. In term 2 children continue to develop an understanding of a learning-focused classroom. This term they are beginning to reflect on the learning process and are being asked to 'self-assess' to check where they are in their learning.

Rimu team blog

Our team blog gives our school community an insight into our student's learning. I would encourage you to view the blog on a regular basis to see what your child has been learning and enjoying at school. The blog address is <https://rimuteamlbps.blogspot.co.nz/>

Learning programmes in term 2:

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. This term we would like to encourage your child to bring interesting finds from home related to science. For example,

magnets, x-rays, shells, plants, insects in resin. 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 and 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 daily 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 Statistics (sorting and graphing information). 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.

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.

Integrated Studies: Social Studies, Health and P.E. and e Learning.

Weeks 1-2: Rimu team are participating in the Life Education programme in the first 2 weeks of this term. We will be learning about our amazing bodies and how our organs work.

The key questions we will be exploring are:

What do all living things need to stay alive?

What's inside our bodies?

What makes our bodies work?

Week 3 is anti-bullying week. Our main focus will be to work together as a team to be kind to others.

From week 4 we will have a class science focus depending on the student's interests and questions about our bodies. More information to follow.

In e-Learning, we will continue to develop an understanding of digital citizenship. It is important that children have an awareness of how to be net safe, are considerate when using devices and can work collaboratively with others.

Physical Education: We are looking forward to improving our running fitness this term with our Year 1-3 Cross Country taking place on Friday 15th June.

The Arts: All children experience Te Reo, music, dance, drama and visual arts in the classroom programme. This term Room 1A will participate in specialist physical education and specialist Te Reo on Wednesdays and rooms 4, 5 and 9 will participate in specialist dance and specialist drama on Tuesdays.

Important dates for term 2:

Teacher only day Friday 1st June.

Year 1-3 cross country Friday 15 June.

School disco and Mid year reports home Friday 29th June.

Mid year progress conference Wednesday 4th July.

Mid Year Interviews

Student Achievement Conferences on Wednesday 4th July starting from 1:00 p.m.

Last interviews are at 7:20 p.m.

We encourage our students to attend and participate in these discussions.

Rimu teachers will have completed assessments in reading, writing and mathematics with each child and will be basing discussions 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. 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.

Rimu team would like to invite our parents to school for a team breakfast later this term. We found our fruit kebab lunch in term one to be a great success where parents had the opportunity to get to know each other and meet their children's friends and their parents. Should you be willing to help please keep a lookout for a letter with more details to follow.

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