

Rimu newsletter Term 4 2018

Kia Ora. Welcome back to Long Bay Primary and a last term filled with exciting opportunities for learning.

A reminder of Rimu team teacher's contact details

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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.

Hats

The children are required to bring a sunhat to school for outdoor activities in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure your child's hat is named. Unfortunately we do not allow hats to be shared. If your child has forgotten their hat, they will be asked to play in the shade at play times.

Book bags: Please help your child get into the habit of looking after books by keeping them 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 4 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. This reflection may involve making changes to improve their work if necessary, and with teacher support, consider what their next learning steps may be. It is wonderful to see how our students celebrate their successes and embrace new learning.

Learning programmes in term 4:

Curriculum Areas:

Oral Language: discussions, news, presentations. Students 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 students study all the five mathematical strands - Number, Algebra, Statistics, Geometry and Measurement. The focus for term 4 is number and algebra, probability (where students use everyday language to talk about chance) and statistical literacy (where students interpret and make statements about the data displays of others).

All students 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. Our students love to receive their gold Mathletics awards in our school assemblies which celebrates their achievements.

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 students 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:

Our Mahira Ako (Curious Learning) sessions on a Monday continue to be very popular. Students do enjoy participating in the activities. We ask to **please include an old shirt** to keep students and uniforms drier and cleaner. This shirt will be kept at school for the duration of the term and returned at the end of the term. During the open ended play experiences, students have the chance to explore, create, construct and gain understandings of the world around them in an interest based setting. This supports our Science concepts and other skills, such as fine and gross motor skills, questioning, cooperation, communication, senses. Please see our class blogs for videos of our play based learning.

The Arts:

All students experience Maori, music, dance, drama and visual arts in the classroom programme. This term our specialisation classes will include Music and Dance.

Important dates for term 4:

Thursday 15th November - Athletics day junior school

Friday 16th November - Twilight Gala

Friday 30th November - Disco

Monday 17th December - Reports and 2018 class placements home

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