

TŌTARA NEWSLETTER TERM FOUR 2018

To the Parents/Caregivers of the students in Tōtara

Welcome back to the Tōtara team for term four.

We hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing break. This term we hope the weather improves and we can enjoy the sun. Because of this, all students are expected to wear a hat whenever they are outside in term four. Please label the hats as well as other items of clothing as this makes it easier to return mislaid items to their owners and hopefully to reduce the amount of lost property. This is particularly important if your child is wearing a 'recycled item' as often the name in the garment is that of an ex student. We do expect students in Tōtara to be responsible for their possessions. Students should be wearing our school uniform with pride. They should be wearing suitable footwear. A reminder that jewellery should not be worn at school.

Please do send an e-mail to either the school office or your child's class teacher if your child is going to be absent from school. A reminder that school begins at 8.55am in the morning. If students arrive after this time they need to go to the school office. They will receive a 'late pass' to take to their teacher, to ensure all children are safely accounted for.

Please support your child by helping them to be organised, to have their books at school and to have named pencils, glue sticks, etc. Remember we are wrapper free for school lunches. Please use containers or lunch paper rather than plastic wrap or packets. This is to create a rubbish free environment and encourages sustainability with resources and we would appreciate your help with this.

We are very fortunate to be able to continue with the specialisation programme. We will be participating in the dance and music programme. Te Reo will be integrated into the daily programme to encourage use in authentic contexts.

Literacy skills will be developed through instructional programmes and applied within integrated studies contexts. 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 continues to be a focus. Our focus this term is poetry and narratives.

Mathematics programmes will be based around algebra. We will also continue to build knowledge skills through workshops targeting specific needs.

The physical education programme will focus on run, jump and throw skills, which will prepare the students for our annual athletics day. We will also be looking at striking and fielding skills. Totara students will also be taking part in weekly Taekwondo sessions this term.

As you may be aware, the new building is now complete and we had a formal blessing during the school break. Totara team are very fortunate to be moving into the upper story of the building. This will be a gradual process over the first few weeks of the term. We are all very excited about the move and have been preparing the children for this gradually over the year. If you have any questions regarding this, please do come and chat with us.

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

Mrs Edgoose - dianee@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mr Keoghan - johnk@longbayprimary.ac.nz

We look forward to an enjoyable and productive term.

Kind regards,

Tōtara Teachers.

Important Dates to remember:

Taekwondo for Totara Team students - every Friday from 19th November to 7th December.

Monday 22nd October - Labour Day - School will be closed on this day.

Tuesday 6th November - Totara Trip to the Stardome Observatory (details to come).

Monday 19th November - Senior Athletics Day.

Thursday 15th November - Junior Athletics Day.

Friday 16th November - Long Bay Primary School Gala.

Tuesday 20th November - save day for Senior Athletics.

Friday 23rd November - Onepoto Kapahaka Festival.

Tuesday 27th November - Cluster Athletics at Kristen School.

Wednesday 28th November - save day for Cluster Athletics.

Friday 30th November - PTA Disco.

Friday 7th December - Carols on the Green.

Tuesday 18th December - End of Year Reports go home.

Thursday 20th December - Final day of school for 2018 - school will close at 12.30pm.