

TŌTARA NEWSLETTER TERM ONE 2019

Dear parents/caregivers

Welcome to the Tōtara team for 2019. We hope you all have enjoyed a fantastic and relaxing summer holiday. We look forward to getting to know the students in our team and working with them in class and the 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 the Tōtara team will be sharing the upper level of the new building. We are a Year 4 and 5 team. Mrs Walker Bell (Y5) will be Room 23, Mrs Hohāia (Y5) will be Room 24 and Mr Keoghan (Y4/5) will be Room 25. The official name for the upper floor of the build is Te Ao Marama (which loosely translates to 'enlightenment' - coming from initial learnings to being full of light).

To help your child settle quickly into class routines could you please ensure they arrive at school after 8.30 a.m, but before the 8.55 a.m morning bell. School starts at 8.55 a.m. The school day finishes at 2.55 p.m.

The school has a compulsory sun hat policy for term 1 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. 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 labelled in an envelope with your child's name, room number and the purpose for the money.

Parent help is always welcome - supervising with trips outside the classroom, coaching or helping with sports teams etc. Please contact your child's teacher if you wish to help.

Students will receive home learning. This will consist of a variety of activities for students to complete throughout the year. Home learning books will come home in week 2. Some students will bring home daily readers. Spellings will be sent home weekly and helpful websites to support learning will be suggested. Totara teachers will explain fully to the students the expectations of home learning.

Our specialisation programme, which involves opportunities for the students to experience dance, music, drama and P.E, will continue. Totara students will participate in dance and drama during term 1. P.E and Te Reo will be covered in class.

Our learning program will cover literacy, numeracy, science, the arts, eLearning, Te Reo and physical education. We will be delivering our learning through a mixture of levelled grouping, small group and whole class instruction. Students will be encouraged to think deeply and to foster a questioning and inquisitive mind.

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 Kathryn Hohāia - kathrynh@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mr John Keoghan - johnk@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Forthcoming

Swimming at Northern Arena, Silverdale - Monday 4th March to 14th March (daily).

School Swimming Sports - Friday 15th March Year 4 to 6

Goal Setting Conferences - Wednesday 20th 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.