

Manuka Newsletter Term 1

Welcome to the Manuka 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 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.

Please read this newsletter to find out what to expect in the Manuka team this term, and feel free to contact us if you need more information.

Manuka Teachers

Manuka consists of three Year 2 and 3 classes; Kate Porter in Room 10, Rebekah Webb in Room 11 and Dianne Mayall in Room 12.

Rebekah is an experienced teacher who is new to Long Bay Primary. She brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Manuka team, and we are very excited to have her.

We look forward to building relationships with all children and their families. If for some reason your classroom teacher isn't available for a chat, please speak to one of the other teacher's, who will be happy to help you.

Curriculum

Inquiry- Manuka students will be learning about the Awaruku Bush. Our focus for term 1 is on the bugs and insects.

Literacy- Guided reading groups will start in week 2. Please look in book bags for their reading books. On Friday's, the reading focus is a poem. The poem book will be sent home so your child can share the poem with you. For writing, the children will be learning about planning, drafting, self-assessing and publishing writing through letter, recount and creative writing.

Mathematics- Maths programmes will be based around statistics (collecting and plotting data) and measurement (length, weight and height). With the number programme, we will be grouping within the class, based on the needs of the students.

Physical Education-The physical education programme includes daily physical activities i.e. relays, circuits and small games. It will also include a focus on catching and throwing activities.

Our Learning Space

The Manuka team classrooms are rooms 10, 11 and 12. It is a flexible learning space, meaning that we often have an open learning space, but we will regularly shut the doors to make individual classrooms when it is needed.

Room 10 is currently being renovated to turn it into a full size classroom. It is due to be finished approximately around the middle of February.

While this is occurring, Room 10 will be sharing Room 12. It is a double sized room and easily accommodates both classrooms.

Room 11 is accessed by going through Room 12. Part of Room 11 is being used to store the excess Room 10 furniture, so it is shut off for the short term.

Once the renovation is complete, the students will provide input into the setup of the classrooms so they can make it their own space. We are very excited to see what ideas they will share!

School Uniform

Hats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4.

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.

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 be worn. An explanatory note would be appreciated.
Please make sure all clothes are named.

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Home Learning

Home learning is kept pretty simple in this year group. We ask that students read their readers to someone at home, and encourage parents and caregivers to read to their children as well.

Each child is asked to earn at least 500 points on Mathletics every week. Let us know if they are unable to access a computer at home and we will try to give them some extra time in class.

Spelling words are glued into home learning books every Monday. Our spelling programme is based on developing common sound and blends knowledge. We test the students on Fridays, and they can receive reward stickers for getting them correct.

Lunches

We are a wrapper free school. Please remember to use reusable lunch bags, containers, and wraps instead of plastic wrap, and avoid sending food that has a wrapper.

It is very important that lunches **do not include egg or nuts**, as we have students in Manuka team who are highly allergic.

All children will need to have a named water bottle. We encourage students to take these home regularly for cleaning.

Parent helpers

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, reading with children etc.

We would particularly appreciate it if some parents could help out with returning reading books. We read a lot of different books in a week at this age group and would be grateful for the assistance. We are also happy to show you the shelving system for the books.

Please contact your child's teacher if you are able to help.

School Routines

8:30am - Road patrol begins and students start arriving at school.

8:55am - The bell rings and school starts. The roll is taken at this time. If a student is late then they will need to stop in at the office to receive a late pass.

10:30- 10:55 - Morning tea break.

12:30- 1:20 - Lunchtime

2:55- School ends.

Library Times

The Manuka classes have the library booked for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Students will need to bring their book bags to be able to issue books. Books are issued for 2 weeks and then they need to be either returned or renewed.

Room 12 - Tuesday 2:15-2:55

Room 11- 1:30-2:15

Room 10- 2:15- 2:55

Books can be returned via the library returns box if they would like to return the books outside of the classroom times. The library is also open at lunchtime.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 6th February - Waitangi Day

Tuesday 12th February- Tennis taster session

Wednesday 20th February- Goal Setting Interviews. School closes at 12:30pm.

Monday 18th March- Teacher Only Day

Swimming

The Manuka Team will be attending swimming lessons for two weeks at the beginning of term 2. Please see the swimming notices for more information.