



Kōwhai Team



Term 3, 2024 Newsletter

Nau Mai, Haere Mai

Welcome back to Term 3, and a special welcome to all our new students and families.

Learning focus

Our term 3 school Whakataukī (Māori proverb) is “Tukua te wairua kia rere ki ngā taumata” (Allow one’s spirit to exercise its potential) which links to our school value Auahatanga/Creativity. We want children to be able to express themselves, and their ideas in lots of original and innovative ways. We will be exploring and talking about creativity during our Waa Hura (discovery time) sessions as well as many other parts of the day.

Inquiry

We are continuing with our topic of NZ History and the first people of Aotearoa through story telling and legends. This will incorporate art, drama, science and literacy as we focus on oral language and retelling the stories we have learned.

Literacy

Structured literacy develops a strong foundation for reading and writing. All students are exposed to the same learning as a class, together with grouped skill development to meet the learning goals for your child. The science of learning to read is about developing word recognition together with language comprehension to become a skilled reader.

Maths

Applying number knowledge to everyday situations is a key understanding for our students. Whether it be setting the table, adding pocket money, measuring ingredients, or sports, math is all around us. Please support your child to apply what they know in lots of fun ways. Card games & board games are also great at this.

Important Dates:



Wednesday 24 July

100 days at school Kōwhai celebration

Monday 29th July Mihi Whakatau

Welcome for all new families to the school

Tuesday 30th July Kōwhai school trip - Auckland Museum

Wednesday 14th August

Student-led conferences

Saturday 24th August

PTA Quiz night

Friday 13th September

School Fun Run

Newly entered students to school in Term 3 will receive a progress report once they have attended school for 6 weeks. Teachers will then arrange a time to discuss this with you.

Home Learning

Your child’s home learning book contains information on the skills that your child is practising. At this young age we ask that you practise these skills by keeping things fun, e.g. eye spy, scrabble, scavenger hunts for sounds, guess the word/number writing with chalk/sand. We believe in the huge benefits of learning through play and this is most important for your child’s developmental age. (See Building Brains - Nathan Wallis).

Fast phonics logins & passwords are in Home Learning books.



What to bring to school

- A named water bottle every day is essential. Please do not include fizzy or fruit juice in the bottle. Please do not send milk, as this is often spilt & leads to smelly carpets.
- A healthy brain snack, morning tea, and lunch. Our school is wrapper free so where possible do not include plastic or packaging.
- Please keep lollies and chocolate as a treat for home, not for eating at school.
- Please clearly name uniform items, book bags, jumpers, hats, coats etc.
- Spare clothing in case of accidents, muddy falls, fun water play etc.
- Please do not send nuts or peanut butter sandwiches to school as we have children who are fatally allergic to them.



Waa Hura Discovery Time



Our morning sessions offer open ended play, children have the chance to explore, create, construct and gain understandings in an interest based setting.

As well as supporting our science learning we are offering many activities to support other areas, such as fine and gross motor skills, math, literacy, oral language, social skills, health, and much more.

The school Day

- Classroom doors open at 8:30 a.m. Children settle better if they are early enough to unpack themselves, have a quick goodbye and settle into a play activity.
- School concludes at 2.55 pm. Please wait away from the classroom, by the benches to enable the children to organise their belongings.
- Kōwhai's library day will be Friday mornings.
- Book bags: Please help your child get into the habit of looking after books and returning books in book bags. We are unable to send library books home if your child doesn't have their book bag.

Communication

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Parents are always welcome to discuss any concerns they may have about their child's well-being or progress. We are happy to receive emails. Sometimes things can be discussed or clarified after school, however if you require longer it is advisable to make an appointment. We aim to provide a happy, secure caring environment with each child actively involved in the learning process.