

Kapa Kowhai News Term 1, 2017

He waka eke noa - We're all in this together



Dear Parents and Whanau

We look forward to the opportunity to work together to provide the best learning opportunities for your child this year.

The teachers who will be sharing this learning journey with you and your child are:

Room 19	Katy Harris
Room 20	Denise Lawson / Morag Bleckmann (Friday)
Room 21	Melinda Narayan
Room 22	Breanne Mackinnon / Helen Addison - Team Leader (Thursday)
Room 23	Atama Cassidy

Our Term One Learning Focus

Our Learning Focus for Term One is based on developing understandings of the following:

- Identity is what makes us different
- Belonging is what makes us the same
- There is responsibility in belonging
- Art helps us share who we are and what is important to us

We will initially focus on developing the children's knowledge and understanding of who they are and where they come from. We will then broaden our inquiry into what makes us a community of learners and how best we can function; to enable us all to learn and play effectively and happily together.

The Key Competencies:

The New Zealand Curriculum outlines the 5 *Key Competencies*. These are the capabilities people have, and need to develop, to live and learn today and in the future. They are represented by the following icons and words.

Using language, symbols, and text: We use these in all subject areas as a way to communicate ideas	Thinking: Being curious and thinking of creative solutions to problems	Managing Self: Being independent	Relating to others: Being open-minded, respectful and caring	Participating and contributing: Sharing ideas and cooperating



Growth Mindset:

Effort and attitude are developed and reinforced through helping everyone in our school community to develop a 'growth mindset'. Children can be taught that if they work hard and persevere they can become smarter. One key aspect of developing a growth mindset is to understand the workings of our brain (neuroscience) and how it grows when we learn. Look out for workshops coming up which will give greater clarity to you around how having a growth mindset impacts on you and your child.

Home Learning:

For Term One the home learning your child needs to do will focus on Reading. Please make sure that you take time to read to your child - to have them read to you - and to share your thoughts about what has been read - every night.



PE: Swimming



This year we are organising our swimming sessions differently. We will be teaching swimming in concentrated blocks, rather than weekly sessions over the term. Kowhai Team will have our swimming sessions from -

Monday 19th February to Friday the 2nd of March. During this time, your child will need to bring their swimming gear; togs, towel, swim cap & goggles in a named bag every day. Each class will have had a one-off evaluation session in the first week of school.

Regular term dates/days to remember:

Library days:

Each class visits our school library once a week. Please help your child to remember to return their library book on the day below:



Room 19	Room 20	Room 21	Room 22	Room 23
Tuesday	Monday	Tuesday	Friday	Monday

★ Each child needs to have a book bag to protect their library books. Most children will have one from last year, but please contact the office if you need to purchase one.

Assemblies:

We get together as a team once a fortnight to share our learning, sing a few songs and discuss matters that apply to all of the children. We will share what we have been doing, welcome new students and celebrate successes. If you child is going to be performing or hosting at assembly you will be notified beforehand. Kowhai assemblies will be in the PAC at 2.30 pm every second Tuesday from the 20th February onwards.

Meet the Family:

At our first parent teacher meeting of the year we would like to learn all about your child. This is your opportunity to share the following information - What are their strengths? Do you have any concerns? What you see their needs as being? (social, emotional or academic). What do we need to know? We want to to build a positive home/school partnership in order to deliver a programme which best suits our learners.



When? Wednesday 7th February - school finishes at 12:45pm
 Thursday 8th February - school finishes at 3pm.

Please see the school newsletter for information on how to book a time.

