

Koru Newsletter, Term 2, 2017

Kia Ora,

We hope those children and families that were with us last term have had a happy fun filled break, and welcome to the new children and families joining us this term.

We will be sending out a regular “Heads Up” email letting you know what is coming up for the week ahead. The following is to give you an overview of what will be happening this term, and some useful information for new families.

Important Dates

- Mon 8/5 and Tues 6/6, 9am – Powhiri to welcome new children and their families.
- Week 2 Thurs 11/5 – School Cross Country
- Week 2 Fri 12/5 – Electives start
- Week 4 – Book Week
- Week 4 Thurs 25/5 – House Event, Dress Up day
- Week 6 Mon 5/6 – Queens Birthday school closed
- Week 8 Fri 23/6 – Sharing assembly for Electives
- Week 9 Fri 30/6 – School photos
- Week 10 Mon 3/7, Tues 4/7, Wed 5/7 – Interviews
NB: school will close at 2pm on Mon 3/7, and Tues 4/7
- Term 2 ends Friday 7/7, Term 3 starts Monday 24/7

Curriculum Focus

Literacy programmes (Spelling, Oral Language, Writing, Reading and Printing), and Maths programmes are taught daily. The afternoon programme is largely developmental, integrating Inquiry (topic), with Art and other experiences.

Our Inquiry topics for term one are: “Being a KURA Kid” and “Water”

Each class also has two timetabled sessions in Te Manawa (our Developmental Learning Space) per week.

We do Physical Education twice a week for 20 -30 minutes. To start the term we will be training daily for our school Cross Country. Later in the term we will focus on Jump Jam and Large Ball Skills.

We will join Rakau for “Hui” on a Friday afternoon, 2:30pm in the hall. You are welcome to join us.

We will attach a copy of our class timetable and the long term plan to this letter.

KURA

For those of you new to our school, we talk a lot with our children about being KURA. This stands for Kindness, Unity, Respect and Achieve. It is the foundation for social lessons that we work on with the children throughout the year, and is big part of who we are at Titahi Bay School.

Each day the teacher will choose a KURA kid, someone who has demonstrated the KURA values during the day.

We also have an individual/class reward system used in class to encourage and praise positive behaviour. Children may receive small prizes when they have reached a specific target or goal.

We are happy to explain this further in person if you have any questions.

Homework

Please check your child's book bag each day and fill out their reading log. In general a book should come home Monday through to Thursday and a Poem book will come home on a Friday.

It is important that your child learn their alphabet as quickly as possible to help them in their reading and writing. Please help your child to practise any letters they need to learn.

High frequency words will be sent home for your child to learn. Being able to recognise these quickly will make a huge difference in your child's reading development. Your child can also practise spelling a few of these.

Some resources to help with counting practise may also be sent home.

Reports and Parent Interviews

In week 10 of this term you will get the chance to have an interview with your child's teacher. This is an opportunity to talk through how your child is progressing with their learning, set some goals for them to work on, and find out how you can support their learning at home. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you make the time to meet with your child's teacher. There is information on our school website about how to book an interview time.

Cross Country

Our school Cross Country is being held Thursday of week 2 (11/5). We will be training every day at school, so please ensure your child comes to school in appropriate footwear for running.

Hats

It is not compulsory for children to wear a sunhat in terms 2&3. However, as a Sun Smart school, we still encourage children to so. If possible, it is a good idea to get a hat that can be left at school.

Milk in Schools

Every day after lunch your child will be offered a small carton of milk. They do not have to drink this if they don't wish to. If your child is allergic to milk, or you do not wish them to have milk, please let us know as soon as possible.

Recycling and "Rubbish Free" Lunches

We actively promote the concepts of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle with the children. As such we would appreciate it if you could try and use reusable options when packing your child's lunch, eg: plastic containers.

Pak 'N Save Receipts

For every Pak 'N Save receipt the school is given, we can claim a percentage back as a fundraiser. The money we get from this funds equipment for our developmental play area Te Manawa. So if you, or any of your family members shop at Pak 'N Save, could you please send the receipts to the school office.

Spare Clothes

Just a reminder that it is a good idea to pack a change of spare clothes for your child, especially in this wet muddy weather. If you want you are welcome to leave a plastic bag with spare clothes hanging on your child's bag hook at school.

Communication

Please feel free to visit your child's classroom regularly. Parent involvement in a child's education is essential. Talk to your child and their teacher about the things that they have been doing at school, and ask your child's teacher about ways that you can support our classroom programmes.

Communication is very important, and email is often the most effective way for us to contact parents as individuals and as a group. Please make sure that your child's teacher has your current email address.

Our school website <http://www.titahibay.school.nz/> , has information about our school and what's happening. We also have a Facebook page – if you have a Facebook account you can like us and then you will see posts, including updates/reminders about school events.

We look forward to teaching your child, and working with you to help them be a happy and successful learner. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We can be emailed at:

fiona.fitzgerald@titahibay.school.nz, sharon.thompson@titahibay.school.nz ,
sarah.taylor@titahibay.school.nz , or try and catch us before and after school.

Kind Regards,

Koru Team

Fiona Fitzgerald, Sharon Thompson and Sarah Taylor