



Te Wana Hub Term 1 2021 Newsletter

New Entrants/Year 1

Ka Tū Te Wana, Ka Tū Tahi

Kia Ora Koutou

Welcome to the Te Wana Hub! We are looking forward to meeting you, and working together to give your child a happy and positive start to their time at school.

We will be sending out a regular “Heads Up” email letting you know what is happening in our classes. We will be using Seesaw to do this, so please make sure that you have access to your child's learning journal and talk to your child's teacher if you don't. The following is to give you an overview of what will be happening this term, and some useful information too. Sharon Thompson will be away from school as she has family needs and Christine Macilquham will be teaching her class.

Important Dates

- Monday 8/2 - Waitangi Day, school CLOSED
- Tuesday 9/2 9am – Powhiri to welcome new children and their families
- Tuesday 16/2 - Informal Meet the Teacher 3 - 6pm, in your child's room
- Monday 8/3 - Powhiri to welcome new children and their families
- Saturday 20/3 - School Triathlon
- Thursday 1/4 - Triathlon Assembly

- Friday 2/4 - Good Friday, school CLOSED
- Monday 5/4 - Easter Monday, school CLOSED
- Tuesday 6/4 - Easter Break, school CLOSED
- Wednesday 7/4 - TOD, school CLOSED
- Friday 16/4 - End of term 1
- Monday 3/5 - Term 2 starts

The school website and Facebook page are great places to check for any other events that may pop up during the term. Also please view the school newsletter which will keep you informed of any changes or added events over the term.

Curriculum Focus

During the first few weeks of school we will be establishing our class programmes and routines, as the children settle and transition into their new classes. We will not be sending reading books home during this time.

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: “All About Me!”, “Our Community”, and “Mini Beasts.” As a part of the “Our Community” topic we will be taking some “exploration” walks to various places in the community - weather permitting! If you are interested in coming on these walks with us please talk to your child's teacher.

Each class also has timetabled sessions in Te Manawa (our developmental learning space) each week.

We do Physical Education at least twice a week for 20 -30 minutes. To start the term we will be training daily for our school Triathlon.

We have Junior Kapa Haka, Te Reo, Pasifika and KURA sessions each week, as well as a Te Wana Hui. As you can see it is a very full week!

KURA

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

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, or check out our school website for further information on our PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) school.

ICT

In Te Wana the children use iPads for the following:

- To complete set learning tasks in Seesaw
- To use relevant learning apps during Reading and Maths rotations
- To post to their Seesaw learning journal

Children may NOT use iPads unsupervised or at morning tea/lunch breaks.

Children in Te Wana will be working on the following skills:

- How to turn an iPad on/off
- How to turn the volume up/down
- How to find and open relevant apps for Reading and Maths activities
- How to take a photo/delete a photo
- How to connect to their learning journal on Seesaw
- How to complete a set learning task on Seesaw
- How to upload a photo to their learning journal in Seesaw
- How to add a voice caption/explanation to their photo in Seesaw

Homework

Please check your child's book bag each day and fill out their reading log. In general a book will 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.

Hats

We are a Sun Smart school. As such we have a "no hat, no play" policy in terms 1 and 4, and encourage children to still use hats in terms 2 & 3. If possible, it is a good idea to get a hat that can be left in their school bags. We recommend putting some sunscreen on your child before they come to school in the morning.

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, e.g. plastic containers.

Spare Clothes

Just a reminder that it is a good idea to pack a change of spare clothes for your child. If you wish you are welcome to leave a plastic bag with spare clothes hanging on your child's bag hook at school. We recommend labelling your child's clothing.

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. The school app is another great way to keep up with upcoming events. Go to the app store or Google play and search for SchoolAppsNZ. Download the free app. Enter Titahi Bay School. As well as the school calendar, you can pay online for school lunches and notify the office if your child will be absent.

We look forward to teaching your child, and working with you to help him/her to 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, kristina.stevens@titahibay.school.nz, or try and catch us before or after school.

Kind Regards,

Te Wana Hub

Fiona Fitzgerald-Room 6 (Hub Leader)

Sharon Thompson- Room 5

Kristina Stevens- Room 4