

Kowhai Syndicate News

Term 2, 2019



What a great Term 1 we had together!

We had a great day out at Capital E and everyone tried so hard at our Athletics day. We can't wait to see that same enthusiasm at Cross-Country this term!

We hope you all had a lovely relaxing break together over the holidays. It is nice to be back at school, with a lovely bunch of smiling, eager children.

We welcome all new children and their families. This term we are super excited to welcome Lisa Cowley back to our Kowhai team. Lisa will be starting a New Entrant class in Room 10.



Important Information for the term!

Term Two Planning

Planning for the syndicate is undertaken jointly and we have planned an exciting programme for this term.

This term our topic will be based around books and creating rich learning experiences from them. We will also be learning dances from different countries which the children will share with you later in the term.

During week 3 & 4 we will have Harold the Giraffe visiting us from Life Education Trust. We will focus on Appreciating others differences. The children love this and we will send workbooks home so you can support their learning in this area.



Cross-Country - 24th May

*This term we will be practising for our school wide Cross-Country. It is really important that children are dressed appropriately **every day** for this including good running shoes and clothing. Children are welcome to leave some shoes at school to ensure this happens. It is important we positively encourage children to participate in the Cross-Country practices as well as the actual event to build on our school wide values.*



Team Time:

Each Friday Kowhai Syndicate get together for a bit of team time fun. Each week the teachers set up a different activity. This may include gardening, construction, chalk, painting, insect hunts, water play and the list goes on.

We believe it is important for our children to be interacting with each other through activities that encourage collaboration, reflection, critical thinking, creative thinking, negotiation, discussion and hands on learning.

Could you please send your child along with a rain jacket, gumboots and a change of clothes so we can still head out if it's wet. If you would like to help us run an activity please let us know, we are always happy for helpers!



Arrival at School

To promote independence it is encouraged for your child to be dropped at school on time.

The first bell rings at 8.55am. Arriving before this bell will give them time to put their belongings in the correct places themselves, and have time to settle in for the day ahead.

SCHOOL OPENING TIME FOR STUDENT ARRIVAL - This term, when the weather is fine, students who arrive at school before 8.30am will be asked to play and socialise outside until 8.30am (there will be an 8.30am bell). Many teachers are busy preparing for the day or in meetings at that time and are often not in the classroom. This means we are unable to supervise students as well as we would like to at that time. The ideal time to arrive at school is between 8.30 and 8.50 am, however we appreciate that for some families this is not possible.



Clothing With the cooler months coming, it is also very important to dress appropriately for the weather. Children are encouraged to leave their shoes outside of the classroom over the next two terms and are welcome to bring some snuggly socks or slippers for inside the classroom.

It is also a great idea to have **a change of clothing in your child's school bag.**

How you can help!

Your participation is valued. We encourage you to help us in any of the following ways if you are able:

- by parent-helping in the classroom (when your child is fully settled)
- by helping with the making, maintenance and storage of resources
- by accompanying your child's class on trips
- by sending resources to school (eg cardboard, paper, boxes, magazines, ice-cream containers etc)
- By supporting the Parent Teacher Association
- assisting in the Kowhai Garden
- by sharing your special skills, talents or interests

Please discuss with your child's teacher the most appropriate times for parent help. Parents are reminded that information acquired whilst assisting a class is confidential.

Homework

For children in Kowhai Syndicate homework will mainly involve reading their reading book and the learning of number knowledge. They may not have a new book everyday and sometimes they will bring home other reading material to share with you. Number knowledge activities will be put in your child's notebook. We encourage you to practise these activities daily, as number knowledge is key to making progress in mathematics.



Home

Learning Challenges:

For those that would like more homework The Home Learning Programme is for you. It consists of a set of optional significant home learning challenges for students at each level of the school. These can be found on the school website.

Jelly Beans Music

From week 6 this term the Year 2's will be involved in a music programme. This will be held on Thursdays and is being provided by a Jelly beans Music teacher. Each class will have a lesson of around 30 minutes which will include singing, rhythmic development, movement, performance skills - through percussion, aural (listening) skills, composing and improvising. This is a one off opportunity to trial the programme for free - lucky us!



Important dates for your diary so far!

Powhiri to welcome new students: 14th May

Cross-Country: 24th May

Matariki Concert: 27th June

Kowhai Celebration: 3rd July

School Assemblies: 17th May, 14th June, 5th July

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another great term,
Kind Regards,

The Kowhai Syndicate Team,
Kate, Kansas, Jeanelle, Alice, Shannon & Lisa

