

# Kōwhai Syndicate News

## Term 4, 2019



*We hope you all had an amazing break over the holidays and have adjusted well to daylight savings time. It is lovely to see everyone back and hear all about their holidays. We have a busy but fun filled term planned ahead and can't wait to share it with you.*

*We had such a successful Term 3 with so much happening. We loved having so many grandparents come and see all the children's lovely work. The children were so excited to share their writing, art and play games with them. We had a great trip to Te Papa which tied in nicely with our topic of sustainability, as well as a whole school clean up and making beeswax wraps.*

*We were sad to farewell Kate Excell at the end of last term. We wish her all the best in her role as Deputy Principal at Pauatahanui School. We welcome Kirstin Toleman back into Room 9 for this term and as team leader for the syndicate. We also welcome Natasha Culevski to the Kōwhai team. She has started our next New Entrant class in Room 7 and we are excited to meet all the new children and their families.*

### Important Information for the term!

#### Change of Clothing

*It is also a great idea to have **a change of clothing in your child's school bag**. There is only a very limited supply of clothing in the office for when children have accidents or slip over, so it's good to have their own supply on hand if needed. Thanks!*

#### Swimming

*We have swimming in weeks 3,4,7,8, & 9. We are lucky enough to have the easyswim instructors with us for weeks 3 & 4. If you could please ensure your child is wearing clothes and shoes that they can easily self manage.*

#### Slip, Slop, Slap

*Children are required to wear **sun hats** and **sunsmart tops** outside the classroom during terms one and four. The hat needs to cover the ears and back of the neck. Shoulders need to be covered. **Please apply sunscreen before school**. There is sunscreen available at school for reapplying. There are Plimmerton School hats available for purchase at the office.*



#### Team Time:

*Each Friday Kōwhai 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.*

*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 own belongings in the correct places, 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.

## 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
- By supporting the Parent Teacher Association
- 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.

## Kōwhai Celebration

On Monday 16th December our syndicate will have some time to celebrate our time in Kowhai. We are hoping to run a range of fun activities and challenges on the field from 11.30 - 1 pm followed by eating lunch together under the trees. We will send out more information in the coming weeks.

## Term 4 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 **safety** and we will be creating rich learning experiences for our students to get involved in. We will be running the **Firewise programme** with a visit by the firefighters planned for Tuesday 19th November.

To complement our swimming programme and our focus on safety, the Easyswim instructors will be taking each class for a series of **water safety lessons** in Week 9 of this term.

To continue our passion for the environment, **Sustainable Coastlines** will be visiting our classes on Tuesday 5th November followed by a beach clean up (if the weather plays the game!)

## Important dates for your diary so far!

**Pōwhiri to welcome new students:** October 22nd

**School Assemblies:**

**Firewise Visit:** Tuesday 19th November

**School Gala:** Saturday 16th November

**Swimming:** Weeks 3,4,7,8 & 9.

**Sustainable Coastlines:** Tuesday 5th November

**Kowhai Celebration:** Monday 16th December 11.30 -1pm

**Last day of school:** Wednesday 18th December

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another great term.

Kind Regards,

The Kōwhai Syndicate Team,  
**Kirstin, Kansas, Jeanelle, Nadia,  
Shannon, Lisa & Natasha.**

