

~ Ngā Kōwhai Newsletter for Term 1 ~

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Kia ora! Firstly I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined us here at Sunnynook Primary School. Having your first child start school is a significant milestone. It is our aim to make this transition as smooth and as enjoyable as possible. I would also like to extend a warm 'welcome back' to those families who had children in Ngā Kōwhai last year or are returning with siblings. We hope everyone has managed to stay safe and dry during this tumultuous weather and are ready for a school year full of fun and learning.

Our Team is led by Mrs Sian Brown, teaching Year 1 in Room 9. Also teaching Year 1 we have Mrs Sheetal Batra in Room 10, Ms Belinda Heays in Room 11 and Miss Ashley Harding in Room 12. Teaching our Year 2 children we have Miss Jessica Fifield in Room 14, Miss Lucy Insull in Room 15 and Mrs Bedelia Matthee in Room 16.



We know that things are not always smooth. If you or your child have a problem at school please first speak to your class teacher, however if you would like further help please email the Team Leader: sianb@sunnynookschool.nz. Our school receptionist Mrs Nadine Hollier, can help arrange a meeting time or pass on a message also.

Start of the Day

Classrooms open at 8.30am each morning ready for the start of the school day at 8.50am. The time between 8.30 and 8.50am is very important for children. It is a time for the children to unpack their water bottle and book bag and organise them in the classroom. We encourage the children to do these jobs independently in order to develop responsibility and self-management skills. It is also a time to catch up with friends and socialise before learning commences.

End of the Day

School finishes for the day at 3pm. Please ensure that your child knows their end of day plan. If there are any changes to their usual pick up plan, such as going home with a friend, please let your child's teacher know. Please be aware that we are not always able to check our emails during the school day so any last minute changes must be communicated via the school office 09 4106534 who will then get a message to your child.

If you need to collect your child early for an appointment, please go to the school office first to sign your child out. A message will then be sent to your child who will meet you at the office.

Hats

School hats **must** be worn in Terms 1 and 4 of the school year. Hats are easily lost so please ensure they are clearly named. Children who do not have a hat are required to play under the old shade area. Please help your child to remember to pack their hat in their school bag each morning. New hats can be purchased from the school office or <https://www.argyleonline.co.nz/>.

Uniform and Spare Clothes

Please ensure that all school uniform items are clearly named, especially hats and jumpers. As accidents can happen, please pack a spare change of clothes in your child's school bag. On wet days, children can wear gumboots to school but should bring their school shoes to change into to wear in the classroom.

Lunch Eating

We encourage your child to eat as much of their lunch as possible. As packaging can be tricky for children to manage, please ensure your child can open all the items for themselves before sending it to school as part of their lunch box. Some days children will eat more and other days less. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle at school for them to use during the day. At Sunnynook we have a water-only policy. We recommend that all containers are named. Lollies and chocolate must not be included in lunchboxes and when possible please avoid nuts including peanut butter. Please be aware that we do not share food and this includes for children's birthdays or cultural celebrations.

Book Bags and Home Learning Books

The book bag acts as an important link between home and school. Please check it each night for notices and information (most notices come home on a Thursday) and keep it clear of 'treasures'. Regular cleanouts may be required. From week five, the home learning books will contain poems and letter/sound activities that we have worked on in class. There will also be an information sheet sharing vocabulary words and sounds that your child has focussed on that week with activities you can do at home to help consolidate this learning. The vocabulary words are linked to a story your child has been reading in class to expand your child's spoken vocabulary in both English and Te Reo Māori. These words do not need to be read or spelt by your child.

A new reader will come home approximately once a week starting from week 5. This is a book that has been read in class over multiple days and will be well known to your child. Reading at home is a time to consolidate new learning and to celebrate with whānau. Our Phonics Plus readers have loads of amazing activities at the back of the book that you can do at home if you would like to extend your child's learning. We see the benefit of families who value and focus on reading to and with their children. Please note that in New Entrant/Year 1 classes readers will not start coming home until your child is ready for them. Instead, they may have a bag with letter sound tiles where they can practice early reading skills such as blending and segmenting sounds to read and make words.

Library Days

Classes visit the Library once a week, at which time the children may borrow two books for the week. Please return the book on the next library day.

Room 9	Tuesday	Room 14	Friday
Room 10	Thursday	Room 15	Monday
Room 11	Monday	Room 16	Friday
Room 12	Tuesday		

Toys from Home

Thank you to all parents for helping us to ensure that children are not bringing toys and other treasures from home. It is often upsetting for children when things are lost or broken. Children are always welcome to bring a ball to school, however it must be carried in a bag and clearly named.

Ngā Kōwhai Teddy Bear Day and Picnic

On Friday 3 March, Ngā Kōwhai will be having a Teddy Bear Day. The children will be able to bring their favourite soft toy to school for a fun-filled day. This will include a Teddy Bear's picnic and play which you are invited to join us for from 12 til 12.45pm on the school field. More information and an invitation will be coming home closer to the date.

PRIME Time

This stands for Play, Relationships, Innovation and Meaningful Exploration. During this time children are free to use their initiative and make choices about what they would like to do from a range of activities that are on offer. PRIME Time runs on Wednesday afternoons. This is a great opportunity for children to work with their friends from across the team and forge friendships with others who have similar interests. We are looking for donations of unwanted small toy cars and animals. These would be most appreciated.

Inquiry Topic

This year, we will be starting our journey with Mitey which is an evidence based approach to mental health education. In term one, our topic 'My Kāhahu' will focus on our identities, our feelings and others' feelings. As part of this topic we will be sending home a brown paper bag activity. Children choose 5 small items (or photos of precious items rather than bringing them in) that are important to them to put in their paper bag. This could be photos of their whānau or a special holiday or celebration, a favourite toy or activity,

something from their culture or language. The children will be able to share their items and why they included them with the class. Some children may like to practice this at home first to feel more confident sharing with the class. Paper bags and instructions will be sent home.

Mathematics

In the early years, our mathematics programme focuses mainly on Number. We aim to help our students develop a solid foundation of knowledge of the number system. This term, we will also learn about simple 2D and 3D shapes.

Swimming

Rooms 12, 14, 15 and 16 will have swimming lessons in Term 1. The other Ngā Kōwhai classes will be swimming in Term 4. Children will need to bring names togs, towel and goggles in a separate bag. More information will come out about this closer to your child's swimming time.

Ngā mihi nui,



Mrs Sian Brown
Ngā Kōwhai Team Leader

On behalf of the Ngā Kōwhai Teachers

Mrs Sheetal Batra, Ms Belinda Heays, Miss Ashley Harding, Miss Jessica Fifield, Miss Lucy Insull and Mrs Bedelia Mathee

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