



Ngā Totara Newsletter

Term One, 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Tēnā Koutou. Welcome to the 2023 school year. We are pleased to be able to welcome back the tamariki and all the new families to our school this year. We hope that you have had a lovely, relaxing break and managed to spend some quality time with friends and whanau. There has been an extremely windy and rainy start to the beginning of the year. We are very impressed with how resilient everyone has been with the recent weather events and are hoping for a smooth/calm remainder of the term. Then we can back into our engaging learning programmes planned for Term 1.

Ngā Totara welcomes Rebekah Hagen who will be teaching Year 4 in Room 21 and Cheryl Klein in Room 18 teaching Year 3. Cheryl Klein is leading the Ngā Totara team. Linda Leong is replacing Manju Naran this term as Manju injured her leg in a flood-related accident. Zoe Jones will continue to support our team this term during organised release time. Ngā Totara consists of the following teachers:

Ruma 7: Emma Brailey emmab@sunnynookschool.nz
Ruma 18: Cheryl Klein cherylk@sunnynookschool.nz
Ruma 19: Sylvia Stirling sylvias@sunnynookschool.nz
Ruma 20: Kelley Olsen kelleyo@sunnynookschool.nz
Ruma 21: Rebekah Hagen rebekahh@sunnynookschool.nz
Ruma 22: Manju Naran manjun@sunnynookschool.nz
Linda Leong lindal@sunnynookschool.nz
Release teacher Zoe Jones zoej@sunnynookschool.nz
ESOL Teacher Emma Morrison
emmam@sunnynookschool.nz



Introducing Ngā Totara

Cheryl Klein: I am proud to be leading Ngā Totara which consists of Year 3 and 4 students. My classroom is Room 18 with an amazing group of Year 3 students. I have recently returned to the classroom after spending 5 years as a Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour where I supported students, teachers, and whanau across the North Shore. Sunnynook being one of those schools. Walking and reading are two of my favourite activities but spending time with my family is what I love the most!!!!

Manju Naran: I am looking forward to being in Room 22 with a Year 4 class this year. I love taking Art and Physical Education sessions with the class. I am looking forward to another exciting year with the team. Out of school, I spend a lot of time walking, especially around our brilliant beaches and pottering around my garden.

Linda Leong: I come to Sunnynook with a lot of experience having worked for over 20 years as a primary teacher in NZ, England and Australia. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching your tamariki over the past week and am excited to be their teacher for Term 1.

Rebekah Hagen: Kia ora! I am looking forward to the change of teaching Year 4 in Room 21 this year. I am in my fifth year of teaching at Sunnynook and love being a part of such a wonderfully diverse community. I can't wait to start the school year and get to know the students in Room 21 and their whanau. During my weekends I love spending time with friends and family, playing board games and relaxing on our farm.

Sylvia Stirling: It is a privilege to be a member of the Ngā Totara team again this year. I am looking forward to teaching Year 3 in Room 19. Building strong classroom relationships is a high priority for me. I am looking forward to getting to know my students and their whanaū. I enjoy baking, sewing and other crafts. My weekends are spent on adventures with my husband and two children (16 and 14).

Emma Brailey: I am excited to be back teaching in the Ngā Totara team again this year. You will find my students and I in Room 7. I am looking forward to building strong relationships with students and whanau and sharing my passion for teaching and learning. I especially enjoy teaching Literacy, Maths, Inquiry-based learning and the creative opportunities that The Arts provide. During the weekends and holidays, I can be found sailing around the Hauraki Gulf on our yacht 'Daydream' with my husband and two boys (13 and 5). Lots of time to read, explore and relax on the beach is had during this time.

Kelley Olsen: It is lovely to be back in Room 20 with Year 3 and 4 students. I am really looking forward to getting to know the students and their families and building strong relationships over the year. I love to teach Literacy, Maths and Art and try out new ideas in our Inquiries. Outside of school, I love to visit the beach, go boating, be creative, read and spend time with my family and friends.

What's happening in Class in Term One

Inquiry: We are excited to be a part of 'Mitey' in 2023. The "Mitey" programme targets NZ children from Years 1-8 to help them build the necessary and age-appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding they need to nurture their emotional well-being and those of others. It is led by Sir John Kirwan, designed for NZ children, delivering an evidence-based approach to help them build the necessary and age-appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding they need to nurture their emotional well-being and those of others. Mitey aligns with the NZ Curriculum and is woven into everyday teaching to spark and stimulate new learning. This integration of Mitey extends school-wide to tailored strategies that staff, family and the community can use to extend and promote overall well-being in the school setting.

Mathematics: In Maths, our focus is Inquiry-Based Maths, a problem-solving-based approach that encourages diverse thinking and allows children to develop their mathematical understanding through a range of strategies. Each class will focus on Mathematical strategies and Number Knowledge in addition and subtraction based on the needs of individual learners. Our strand this term is Statistics. Statistical investigations provide links between other areas of the mathematical strands.

Writing: Our writing programme will focus on the students writing for a range of different purposes linked to the curriculum, drawing on their knowledge, skills, and attitudes. about themselves, their families, interests, likes and dislikes and retelling our adventures in a variety of different ways. We will be practising the writing skills we have and working on the basic structure that meets their purpose for writing (for example, a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end).

Reading: The students will read, respond to, and think critically about fiction and non-fiction texts at their level. The students will be focusing on reading with independence and fluency. In recognising that the children in Years 3 and 4 are working at various learning levels in reading we encourage the less independent readers to take the time to practise their reading decoding skills (working out what the words say) and reading fluency. More independent readers are learning new words/vocabulary and their meanings, and are working on developing a deeper understanding and comprehension of the texts.

Oral Language: Oral language is one of the foundations of early literacy. Having skills in listening, and talking are precursors to developing skills in reading and writing. Oral language is needed to negotiate social situations, create meaning in the world around them, and access all the curriculum areas. In Term 1 we will be identifying what makes a successful listener and a successful speaker and practising these skills daily. We will be encouraging students to talk about their experiences by retelling what they have been doing with a focus on the 5 W's- when, where, what, who and why. How can you help? Please talk with your child about their experiences (walks, playdates, sports, visits with family etc) using the 5W's and take some photos (send them to the class teacher) that they can share and talk about with the class.

P.E.: Each Wednesday afternoon, for our sports rotation, we will be focussing on Summer ball skills. As a team, we have fitness Tuesday & Thursday mornings.

Visual Arts: This term we will be looking at Self - Portraits. Self-portraits are a great way to support children's self-concept and identity, as well as creativity and fine motor skills. In this learning activity, children will be encouraged to identify their facial features in their reflection, interpret their positioning and replicate them on paper.

Reminders

Summer Uniform/Hats: Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform to school, jewellery or bright accessories /socks are not allowed. School shoes must be black and socks are a dark colour. In Term 1, all students must wear a Sunnynook School hat for outside play and learning. Please name your child's hat and ensure that it is at school each day. Hats are available to purchase from the school office. Clearly labelling your child's clothing is a great help as things do go missing. If your child has lost or misplaced anything please check the lost property box in the hall.

Home Learning Expectations: In the Ngā Totara team, it is an expectation that all children read every day. This could be a library book, a poem or a reader sent home by the teacher. Books will be sent home from Week 3. Each class will have a slightly different routine which will be shared with you via your child's teacher. Please ensure they have a book bag or they won't be able to take home a book.

We also recognise that many children take part in other after-school activities and acknowledge that these are part of the children's home learning programmes too. Families are therefore encouraged to organise their own home learning programmes to fit in with the various other activities and commitments that they have.

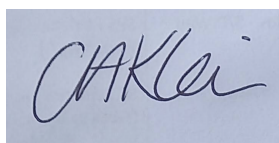
Bell Times: At Sunnynook Primary, a bell is rung at 8.30 am to let children know that the classrooms are open. Children are not to arrive at school earlier than 8.30 am. You can book before-school care at SKIDS which is located in the Sunnynook School Hall. Children are not to play on the playground before or after school. Ensure your child arrives at school with enough time for them to get organised and ready for learning. All children leave school at 3.00, it is important that you and your child are aware of where they are being picked up from or where they are meant to be after school.

Due to the many allergies that our students have it is not appropriate to share food, this includes birthdays or celebrations. If you want your child wants to share a treat with the class on their birthday or other celebrations i.e. Easter or Christmas, please make these non-edible treats like stickers, balloons, pencils etc.

We believe that it is important to have regular communication between whanau and the school. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to approach your class teacher or send an email. If your concern may need some time to discuss or is sensitive, please make an appointment. If we are concerned about your child we will bring this to your attention as soon as possible.

We look forward to an exciting Term 1 in the Year 3/4 Team.

Cheryl Klein (Team Leader),

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Cheryl Klein', on a light blue rectangular background.

On behalf of the Ngā Totara Teachers; Manju Naran, Kelley Olsen, Rebekah Hagen, Sylvia Stirling, Emma Brailey, Zoe Jones and Linda Leong

