



## ~ Ngā Kōwhai Newsletter for Term 2 ~

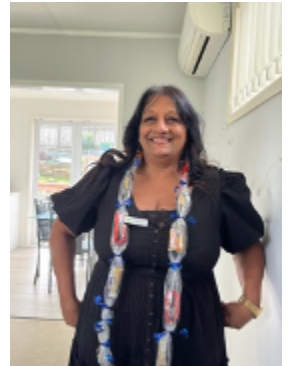
8 May 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Kia ora! Welcome back for a busy and fun Term Two full of learning. We started the term with a Pōwhiri to welcome our new staff, students and whānau to our school community. I would like to extend a very special welcome to our new families who have joined us here at Sunnynook Primary School. If this is your first child to start school, we understand what a special and significant milestone this is for your family. It is our aim to make this transition as smooth and as enjoyable as possible. Please remember to read the school newsletter or check out the school website for all upcoming events and key dates.

### Welcome to Our Ngā Kōwhai Team

Ngā Kōwhai is excited to welcome Mrs Pravina Patel to our team this term. Mrs Patel will be opening our New Entrant/Year One class in Week 4. Mrs Patel enjoyed relieving at Sunnynook School in Term One and is looking forward to welcoming and working with our newest tamariki starting their school journey.



### Inquiry Topic

This term our inquiry topic is a science based topic looking at the Material World. We will be learning about solids, liquids and gases and how materials can change through force, heating and cooling. We will be carrying out lots of exciting experiments and using our senses to make observations about what is happening.

### 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 includes learning number identification, counting, patterns, place value, addition, subtraction, fractions and early multiplication and division. This term we are also learning about measurement with a focus on length and area. There are lots of practical maths activities that can be done at home such as measuring ingredients when baking (one cup, half a cup etc) to help develop key mathematical concepts. Please refer to the 'How to Help at Home' sheet in your child's home learning book.

### Literacy

This term our teachers will continue their work building the children's capabilities in reading and writing through the Better Start Literacy Approach. Please read the weekly sheet that comes home in your child's home learning book to see how you can support them with their learning at home. The weekly sheet provides information about the sounds your child has been introduced to this week, new vocabulary words and lots of fun practical activities to do at home. If your child brings home a reader, please refer to the notes at the back of the reader where there are activities you can do at home to support their learning.

### Health

Ngā Kōwhai are starting the term learning how to be fire wise. Through the programme 'Get Firewise', we will be learning how to be safe around matches and lighters, what to do if we hear a smoke alarm going off and what to do if there is a fire. We will also be receiving a visit from a firefighter. Please look out for a special 'Get Firewise' story in your child's bookbag. There are lots of valuable activities in this book such as planning an escape route and organising a safe meeting place for your whanau. Once we have finished Firewise, we will continue our work with Mitey focusing on feelings and how to be a good friend.

### School Values and Capabilities

This term we are going to be having a focus on our school value of responsibility. To be responsible means to make good choices (kind, respectful, fair), be dependable (trustworthy, show integrity) and to take account of your actions (owning up, being honest).

At home, you could help your child to build their responsibility by ensuring they pack their own school bag each morning. Making a checklist with all the things they need is a great way to support them in becoming independent in this. Please ensure your child is carrying their own bag to school and unpacking it by themselves when they arrive at school.

### Toys from Home

Thank you for helping us to ensure that children are not bringing toys and other treasures from home as it is upsetting for children when things are lost or broken. This includes items such as Pokemon cards. Children are always welcome to bring a ball to school, however it must be carried in a bag.

### Book Bags and Home Learning Books

Please ensure your child is bringing their book bag to school each day and check your child's bookbag for notices and information and keep it clear of 'treasures'. Regular cleanouts may be required. Please also ensure that the home learning book is kept in the book bag so home learning sheets and activities can be glued in.

### Assembly

Our Year 1 students, Rooms 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be hosting a school assembly on Monday 29 May at 12pm. You are welcome to attend this assembly.

### Cross Country

This term the children will all participate in our school cross country on Tuesday 30 May with a save day of Thursday 1 June. This is a fun event and we build the children up to be successful. It is recommended that you also take your child for a run to support their developing skills.

Weather permitting, Year 1 will be practising each Tuesday and Thursday and Year 2 will be practising each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You are welcome to send along running shoes for your child to change into on these days.

### Aotearoa New Zealand Histories

As part of teaching and learning in this new curriculum area, we would like to collect and collate stories from our local community. Do you have any information, stories and/or photos passed on to you and your whānau that you would be able to share with us. If you do, please contact Bedelia Matthew at [bedeliam@sunnynookschool.nz](mailto:bedeliam@sunnynookschool.nz).

Ngā mihi nui,



Mrs Sian Brown

Ngā Kōwhai Team Leader (Years 0-2)

On behalf of the Ngā Kōwhai Teachers

Mrs Pravina Patel, Mrs Sheetal Batra, Ms Belinda Heays, Miss Ashley Harding, Miss Jessica Fifield, Miss Lucy Insull and Mrs Bedelia Matthee.

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