



Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

Welcome to the 2025 school year! We are delighted to welcome back our tamariki and warmly welcome all the new families joining our school community. We hope you enjoyed a restful and relaxing break, spending quality time with friends and whānau.

Over the past weeks, our teachers have been busy fostering strong relationships with the tamariki in their classes. Building these connections is essential for creating a positive and supportive classroom environment, which will set the tone for a successful year ahead. We look forward to working together to support our tamariki as they grow, learn and thrive throughout the year.

Ngā Tōtara welcomes Bedelia Matthee who will lead the team and teach Year 3 in Room 18 and Ms Kammaya Cooper who will teach Year 3 in Room 8.

Ngā Tōtara team Y3/4 Teachers:

Rūma 18, Year 3: Bedelia Matthee bedeliam@sunnynookschool.nz
(Teamleader)

Rūma 7, Year 3: Emma Brailey emmab@sunnynookschool.nz

Rūma 8, Year 3: Kammaya Cooper kamayac@sunnynookschool.nz

Rūma 19, Year 4: Kaitlin Hubble kaitlinh@sunnynookschool.nz

Rūma 20, Year 3/4: Kelley Olsen kelleyo@sunnynookschool.nz

Rūma 22, Year 4: Manju Naran manjun@sunnynookschool.nz



Introducing Ngā Totara

Bedelia Matthee: This year, I am excited to lead Ngā Tōtara, a team comprising Year 3 and 4 students. I am teaching an amazing group of Year 3 learners in Room 18, and I look forward to all the experiences and growth this year will bring. Over the past three years, I have had the privilege of teaching Year 2 ākonga, and before that, I spent six wonderful years working with New Entrants/Year 1 ākonga at Sunnynook School. These experiences have shaped my passion for nurturing young minds and fostering a love for learning. I love spending time with my two tamariki (4 & 6) on weekends and holidays, visiting our local beaches, playgrounds and beautiful parks.

Manju Naran: I'm looking forward to being in the newly renovated Room 22 again, with a brilliant Year 4 class. The areas around our class offer so many exciting learning spaces, which we look forward to utilising completely. I enjoy exploring Visual Art with the class. I also look forward to another exciting year with the Ngā Tōtara team. In my free time, I enjoy exploring our many wonderful beaches and walking trails. I also enjoy spending time in my garden.

Kaitlin Hubble : I am excited to be teaching an awesome class of Year 4's this year. Usually, you would find me in Room 21, however this year I have moved down to Room 19. I am looking forward to an exciting year of learning! During the weekends I love to spend time with my husband and two boys (4 & 2), you'll find us at

lots of playgrounds around the North Shore. I also enjoy mornings at my local Parkrun and going to Mangakino to wakeboard.

Emma Brailey: I am excited to be back teaching in Room 7 with some amazing Year 3 students. I am looking forward to connecting with both tamariki and whānau as the school year begins. During the weekends and holidays, I love spending time with friends and family. Sailing around the Hauraki Gulf on our yacht 'Daydream' with my husband and two boys (15 and 7) is a highlight. During this time I especially enjoy reading, exploring new places and relaxing on the beach.

Kelley Olsen: It is wonderful 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, be creative, cook, read and spend time with my family and friends.

Kammaya Cooper: This year, I am excited and looking forward to joining the Sunnynook Primary hapori with my daughter, who will join the Ngā Kōwhai whānau. I will be teaching in Room 8 with some awesome year 3 ākonga. I look forward to getting to know and building strong, positive relationships with the students and their families. I value quality time spent with my family and friends. I enjoy being able to spend time back home, reconnecting with my loved ones and regrounding myself.

Learning taking place in Classes, Term 1

Inquiry: Our theme for inquiry across the whole school in 2025 is 'Patterns'. We are looking forward to the many open-ended opportunities this will provide as we explore patterns in many ways. More information will follow once our tamariki are engaged in the inquiry process. This year we continue to integrate the MITEY programme. Our MITEY focus is to: identify and share what makes me 'me', share ideas about the way our classroom environment contributes to the mental health and well-being of class members and have selected the following book *The Curious Ar-Chew* by Sarah Grundy, to explore the importance of friendship in an engaging and relatable way.

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 in this term is Measurement. We will focus on creating and using appropriate units and devices to measure length and area.

Writing: Our writing programme will include the continuation of The Code spelling programme and 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). We will also have a deliberate focus on teaching handwriting to develop fluency and legibility.

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 as well as developing their comprehension skills. 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 (email the photos to the class teacher to share on Mondays and Tuesdays) that they can share and talk about with the class.

P.E: Each Wednesday afternoon, we will focus on Summer ball skills for our sports rotation. As a team, we have fitness on 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, bright accessories, coloured hair ties and coloured socks are not allowed. **School shoes must be completely black and socks are black or navy blue.** 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. Labelling your child's clothing clearly 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: This year for home learning the tamariki will have a menu of tasks each week. Some of these tasks will be compulsory and some will be voluntary. Our home learning will recognise the many after-school activities that the children participate in and we acknowledge these as part of the home learning programme. We will also be adding in some citizenship activities such as helping prepare a family meal.

In the Ngā Tōtara 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. 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.

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 allowed to play on the playground before or after school as there is no active supervision provided by teachers during these times. 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 pm. You and your child must know where they are 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 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 whānau 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.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to our learning journey in Term 1.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ngā Tōtara Team