

~ 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, either with your first child or if you have moved to Sunnynook Primary. 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. You may have noticed that previously we have had separate Year Zero/One and Two teams, however this year we have merged them, and the team is operating under the Ngā Kōwhai name. We hope everyone has been enjoying the summer days and is ready for fun and learning at school.

Successfully navigating times of change, or transition, is very important to us at Sunnynook. 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: rachaelfc@sunnynookschool.nz Our school receptionist Mrs Nadine Hollier, in the office, can help arrange a meeting time or pass on a message also.

Ngā Kōwhai Teachers

Our Team is led by Ms Rachael Findlay-Clarke, in Room 11. Rachael has been at Sunnynook for over 10 years and prior to 2019 held the Year Two Team leader role. Rachael has strong interest in language acquisition and special needs. Rachael's interests include quilting and keeping up with her two boys.

Mrs Sian Brown, in Room 9, is an experienced junior school teacher. She has particular interests in teaching reading and innovative teaching methods. Sian has two children and enjoys walking with her family. She also loves good coffee!

Mrs Sheetal Batra, in Room 10, is an experienced New Entrant teacher, with International School experience. Sheetal enjoys painting and makes amazing Indian cuisine. She enjoys creating crafts and art with the children and teaching mathematics.

Miss Jessica Fifield is teaching a composite Year One and Two class, in Room 14. Jessica enjoys playing netball and is the teacher in-charge of Travelwise for our school. She enjoys teaching physical education and reading.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Lucy Insull to Sunnynook Primary this year. She loves a good spin class and her fur babies – a fluffy dog Charlie, and her cat Toby. Lucy loves teaching health and wellbeing and integrating this in the curriculum.

Miss Karen Swinton is in Room 16. She enjoys teaching mathematics and In her spare time Karen likes to knit and spend time with her family and her ginger cat, Bobby.

We are pleased to have Mrs Bedelia Mathee in our team, who this year is teaching Year Two in Room 17. Bedelia has two young children and enjoys paddle boarding. Bedelia has a particular interest in wellbeing and early literacy.

Learning Areas

Topic & Inquiry

In the first few weeks, in Year 0/1, we are learning about our school, building friendships and how we learn at school, while Rooms 14, 15, 16 and 17 are learning about being Active Learners. We will all learn about Our Senses: Ngā Rongo, later in the term.

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 focus on simple 2D shapes at the Year 0/1 level and move into learning about 3D shapes in Year 2. Later in the term we will start learning about time, using words such as day, night, morning, afternoon, names of the seasons and months of the year. Some children may be ready to learn about hours.

Home Learning Books and Reading

Our home learning books contain poems, letter/sound and phonics activities that we have worked on in class, along with other home learning activities. Please talk about these, and read the poems, with your child. Most importantly, please read with your child every night. When children have a good knowledge of letters and their sounds, and how to blend these, they may start to bring home readers. For those children who are already reading we aim to send home books Monday to Friday for every child, however they may have the same book for more than one night. This will become consistent from Week Five. Although small, the reading books are very costly. For this reason all books must travel to and from school in a book bag. We see the benefit of families who value and focus on reading to and with their children in the progress they make.

Library Days

Classes visit the Library once a week, at which time the children may borrow one or two books for the week. These are chosen by your child. Please read them at home more than once as there is a significant benefit to repeated reading and knowing a story well. Please return the book on the next library day.

Room 9	Tuesday	Room 10	Monday
Room 11	Tuesday	Room 14	Thursday
Room 15	Friday	Room 16	Friday
Room 17	Monday		

Positional Words

Please help your child to understand positional words such as in, on, under, behind and in front. We use these words a lot in the classroom. If children do not understand these words it can stop them from being able to follow instructions independently.

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. We recognise the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 lockdowns last year, so this year we are working to settle the children into school with increased play frequency. PRIME Time usually runs on Wednesday afternoons, however this may also happen at other times this term. This is a great opportunity for children to work with their friends from other classes and forge friendships with others who have similar interests. At this time we are looking for donations of unwanted small cars and small toy animals. These would be most appreciated.

Swimming

Children in Rooms 16, 14, 15, 17 and 10 will have swimming lessons this term. Please help your child to learn to independently dress themselves. A hair wrap, for those with long hair, will help keep t-shirts dry after swimming, if you have one.

Administration

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. If a child is hungry between breaks we allow them to eat more from their lunch box. 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. Please be aware that we do not share food and this includes for children's birthdays or cultural celebrations.

Nuts

This year we have a number of children across the team who are sensitive to nuts, with reactions ranging from a more minor reaction to anaphylaxis. For this reason we are asking that parents please keep nuts at home, including nutella and peanut butter on sandwiches.

Book Bags

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.

Packing Bags

Our Year Two children should be able to pack their school bags both at home and at school for themselves now. This is a vital skill as all Ngā Kōwhai children are required to pack their own bag at the end of the school day. To help your child be successful with this, a large back pack is needed. We suggest the book bag goes at the back with the lunch box at the front, at the bottom of the bag. This gives space to pop the sweatshirt on top when it gets cooler. Bags with a side water bottle pocket are recommended. Please also ensure that your child has a change of undies and shorts. We recommend that they are stored in the front pocket of their bag. We have noticed that some of the children's bags are quite small making this step towards independence increasingly difficult.

End of the Day

The end of the day rolls around very quickly and with Covid restrictions we have moved junior pick up to 2.50pm for the safety of your child. This enables you to take the extra minute to buckle your child in at the drop off zone. We are noticing however that some children are not being picked up at this time and we ask you to be prompt. It helps your child to develop a consistent routine by having the same pick up place. Please ensure that your child's teacher knows where you will collect them from.

School Uniform

We have been pleased to see the school uniform being worn neatly across the team. If you are interested in second hand uniforms please watch the newsletter and PTA facebook group for the next second hand uniform sale. Hats are required in Terms One and Four. Those children without hats are required to play in specific areas.

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. We also ask that each child brings a colouring/ activity book, that stays at school, for use at wet lunch times. Additionally if you find any items that belong at school please return them as soon as possible.

We are excited for 2022 and the learning and fun it will bring.

Ngā mihi nui,



Ms Rachael Findlay-Clarke
Ngā Kōwhai Team Leader

On behalf of the Ngā Kōwhai Teachers

Mrs Sheetal Batra, Mrs Sian Brown, Miss Jessica Fifield, Miss Lucy Insull, Mrs Bedelia Mathee and Miss Karen Swinton

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