



## Junior Team Newsletter Term 1 2021



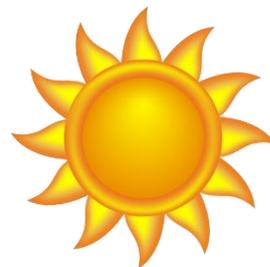
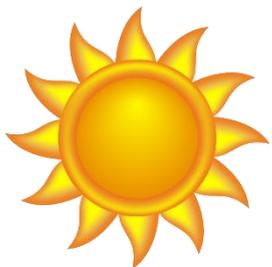
Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to another busy term at school. The children are all settling into their new classrooms and happily learning their new routines. It is great to see them all back with happy faces, making new friends and reconnecting with old ones. We welcome all our new pupils and their whanau to our junior team and look forward to working with you. This term we are also lucky to welcome Miss Lines and Mr Knauf to our junior team.

A reminder that class begins at 8.55am, with the first bell ringing at 8.55am in preparation for a prompt start at 9am. **It is important your child arrives by 8.45am** to have enough time to hang up their bag and get prepared for the day. Children who arrive late have missed important messages and have an unsettled start to the day. Please remember to ring the office before 9am if your child is sick and not coming to school and send your child to the office if they arrive late so we can update the attendance records. **Students are welcome to arrive from 8.15am onwards. Teachers are unavailable to supervise children before 8.15am and are busy preparing for lessons.**

Now we are back at school, it is important to remember the following sun smart reminders:

- Your child needs a named bucket hat at school each day to wear outside at school.
- Ensure your child wears sun appropriate clothing - **clothing that covers shoulders. Please refrain from sending your child in tops with shoestring straps as little shoulders burn very quickly.**
- Please apply sunblock to your child each morning before coming to school.



- Your child is welcome to bring sunblock to reapply during the day if needed. Please ensure your child is able to apply sunblock independently - this may require you giving them a sunblock applying lesson at home.

## **Independence**

Here at school we are fostering independence, children managing themselves and their belongings and knowing they are capable of doing so. We ask for your support with this by having your children walk in and out of school (not being carried or in a push chair/buggy), **carrying their own bags** and having an expectation they can get themselves ready for the day once they have arrived (put library bags away, drink bottles in the right spot etc). They may need your support to learn these tasks but they are vital skills for independence.

## **Contacting Teachers**

Schools are busy places with lots going on, especially before school. We are always available before or after school to answer those quick questions. If you require a more in depth discussion about your child and their learning, please make a time with your class teacher so proper time can be given to your query. You are also able to message teachers via Seesaw however please don't expect an instant response as teachers are busy working with children during the day and we don't have an expectation that teachers are responding to messages after working hours.

## **Stationery**

Thank you to those parents who have purchased stationery and sent to school already. It makes for a smooth and organised start to the year.

## **Food for school**

A reminder that we have a munch crunch break at approximately 10am each day to keep our brains and bodies refuelled through until morning tea time. Snacks for this break need to be fruit, vegetables or nuts only. We appreciate your support with this. Water only in drink bottles please, with no fruit juices or flavoured milk being sent to school. Please also ensure no lollies or chocolate bars are sent to school in lunch boxes, healthy brains need healthy food.

## **Play**

We have been making the transition to a more play based curriculum in our junior school over the past couple of years. Some who have had children in our junior team during this time, will have noticed our changes. This has been a time of teacher learning and studying after school, along with many professional conversations and some visits to other schools for observation. We recognise that play is the important learning of our students no matter how old they are. If you would like to discuss this further, please see your classroom teacher or pop up to the office to see Catherine.

## **Seesaw**

Following our successful use of Seesaw in the last few years, we will continue using this app in 2021. This app allows both students and teachers to keep you informed of what is happening at school and lets you share in your child's learning journey. This video clip gives you an insight into Seesaw and how you can give feedback on your child's work:

<http://seesaw.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6bc9e1387cbecd8e6385e0f0c&id=afab046f6a&e=caecfd4200> .

This year we will continue towards students gaining more independence in using the app and sharing their work by themselves. Teachers will be sending home an information letter over the next couple of weeks letting you know how you can sign up with Seesaw. Catherine Cooper (Associate Principal) is happy to help should need support installing the app onto your phone or device. We would love as many of our parents as possible to be accessing this wonderful app this year so please come and see Catherine if you need some help with this.

### **Clothing**

Please ensure all your child's clothing is named. It makes it much easier when clothing is picked up outside to return to the correct owner. It is also a good idea to keep a spare set of clothes in school bags too as we only have a small quantity of emergency clothing here and not always of the right size for your child.

### **Water Week/Ngamotu Beach Trip**

Usually during our hot and sunny summers we have a water play time to help cool students down in the afternoon. Due to water restrictions, we will have our water play slightly differently to comply with hose pipe restrictions. We welcome children to bring water guns and a change of clothes/togs with rash shirt for water fun. Teachers will use Seesaw to inform you of what days your child's class has water play.

We will be heading off for our annual team beach trips. The dates are as follows:

22nd February                      Rooms: He Kākano, 7, 8

23rd February                      Rooms: 5, 11, 12, 17

We do require and appreciate parent help for these trips so please have a think if you are able to be free to help. Last year we had one group of classes miss out due to lack of parent help. Maybe there is a grandparent who could assist? A notice about these trips will come home soon.

### **Swimming Lessons**

As in previous years, our junior team will be having swimming lessons at the Aquatic Centre. **This year we will be having swimming lessons beginning Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.** The cost of lessons and transport (approximately \$18,000) is mostly met by grants from places such as TSB Community Trust, Lions Foundation, NZCT along with support from our school Fundraising and Social Committee and school budgets. Each junior child receives 9 lessons over a 3-week period. In previous years' parents have paid approximately \$3.50 per lesson towards this however **this year that cost will be met by the school.**

### **Reading Books**

After having a loss of close to \$3000 in books either damaged or not returned to school, we will no longer be sending guided reading books home as has happened in the past. Books printed by the government from our 'Ready to Read' series may come home as we have access to larger quantities of these and they remain free to schools.

## Learning

This term we are having a focus on social and emotional learning, along with the language of friendship and play. Our school values of Te Taura Whiri (The Strong Rope) support our learning and growing at school:

**AKO** - we are all learners and teachers.

**KAITIAKITANGA** - we are the guardians (kaitiaki) of our environment.

**WHANAUNGATANGA** - we are whanau/family.

Please come and see us if you have any questions or queries. We look forward to working with you as a partnership this year to support your child's learning.

Ngā mihi

Catherine Cooper (Associate Principal), Mrs Belinda Baldwin, Miss Grace Lines (He Kākano), Anitra Roberts (Rm 7), Mr Brogan Knauf (Rm 17), Mrs Janet Muggeridge and Mrs Kim Ramsay (Room 12), Miss Laura George (Room 8), Mrs Diane Smith (Room 11), Julie-Anne Hall (Room 5).



Catherine Cooper



Brogan Knauf



Diane Smith



Grace Lines/Belinda Baldwin



Kim Ramsay



Anitra Roberts/Laura George



Julie-Anne Hall



Janet Muggeridge