

# Kowhai Syndicate 2019 - Term 1 Newsletter



Kia ora Whanau,

Welcome back to everyone and a special welcome to all the children and families who are new to Ngaio School and Kowhai Syndicate. We hope you had a relaxing holiday and are looking forward to working with you this year.

## Our Team

Meet the Kowhai teaching team. Please feel free to contact your child's class teacher at any point during the year.

Room 1 Charmaine Carlaw - [c.carlaw@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:c.carlaw@ngaio.school.nz) and Donna Beechey - [d.beechey@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:d.beechey@ngaio.school.nz)

Room 2 Gillian Goldring - [g.goldring@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:g.goldring@ngaio.school.nz) and Kathy Yamada - [k.yamada@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:k.yamada@ngaio.school.nz)

Room 3 Karen Doogan - [k.doogan@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:k.doogan@ngaio.school.nz) (Senior Teacher)

## Important Dates:

Tuesday 12th February	Meet the Teacher and School Picnic
Friday 15th February	Swimming & Gymnastics begin
Wed 20 & Thurs 21st March	Goal Setting Parent Meetings

## General Information

The focus in all classrooms for the first few weeks will be about establishing class routines. One of the Key Competencies we will explore is 'Managing Self'. We ask that students take responsibility for unpacking their school bags in the morning, bringing reading folders into the classroom and putting their books and other items into the correct baskets.

At the end of the day the students will pack their bags before they go home. This is the beginning of getting the students to become independent in the classroom and take responsibility for themselves.

The children know that the 8.55 am bell is telling them that they need to get themselves organised and onto the mat. It is a good idea for children to be at school early so that they can greet and meet their friends, have time to play and say their goodbyes.

Teachers are in their classrooms from 8.30 am in the mornings so the best time to discuss any issues or concerns with them is between **8.30-8.45 am**. Teachers are more than happy to meet with you at other times.

### Absences / Late to school



Please email the office for all absences and copy your classroom teacher in as well.

[absences@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:absences@ngaio.school.nz)

If you are collecting your child early or arriving late to school, you will also need to sign in at the office. This is necessary for emergencies so we have an accurate record of who is at school.

### Lost Property

Each term we gather a large amount of lost property.

Please ensure all items of clothing are named for easy identification. The lost property basket is located in the entry corridor to the Kowhai classrooms.



### School Lunch Orders

Students can order lunch from school on Mondays and Wednesdays via Lunches Unlimited. Sushi is available on a Tuesday and Subway is available on Thursday. All the information about ordering a school lunch can be found on the Ngaio School website.



### School Communication

The school newsletter is emailed home to families. Paper copies can be requested from the office. Our school website and Facebook page are updated regularly with photographs, children's work and reminders. All students across Ngaio have a Seesaw account as a way of sharing their learning with whanau. If you require support accessing your child's seesaw account please contact your child's teacher.

If you have a query please contact your child's class teacher. They are best equipped to answer your questions directly or refer you to the right person. Karen Doogan is the team leader of Kowhai.



### Sunsmart

Ngaio School is a sunsmart school. During Terms 1 and 4 all children need to be wearing a wide brim hat outside. If children do not have a hat, they will be asked to play in a shaded area during break times. School hats can be purchased from the office. We encourage parents to sunblock their child each morning. Sun cream lotion is available in all classrooms.

### Goal Setting Parent Meeting

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, teachers across the school will meet with parents and children to provide the opportunity to discuss your child's learning.

For students just starting school this year –a meeting will be arranged after your child has been at school for 10 weeks. Learning goals for the year will be set at this meeting. You will receive an email nearer the time if you need to book an interview for the goal setting meetings.

### Swimming and Gymnastics:

In Term One on Friday, Kowhai children will receive a 30-minute swimming lesson and a 30-minute gymnastics session with Easyswim. Children will need togs, goggles and a towel as well as comfortable clothing and a hat for the outdoor gymnastics sessions. Please ensure all clothing is clearly named. These sessions will start in Week 3 of the term.

Parent help would be much appreciated for getting children changed. Please let your child's teacher know if you are able to assist with this. The timetable is below:

Room	Swimming	Gymnastics
1	9.05am - 9.35am	9.35am - 10.05am
2	9.35am - 10.05am	10.00am - 10.30am
3	10.05am - 10.30am	9.05am - 9.35am



### Meet the Teacher Evening

Parents are welcome to attend our Meet the Teacher Picnic on Tuesday 12 February. Families are invited to hear an overview of how their child's class will run in 2019. There are 2 presentation times for you to choose from. The first from 5.45 - 6.10pm and the second will run from 6.15 - 6.45pm **You are welcome to eat a picnic tea on our school field from 4.45pm.**

### Cummings Park Library

Classes will be visiting Cummings Park library again in Term One. If you are able to walk there and back to help with supervision, please contact your child's teacher.

Room 1 - Friday 8th March: 10 - 11am

Room 2 - Friday 15th March: 2 - 3pm

Room 3 - Friday 22nd March: 2 - 3pm



### Classroom Help

We appreciate all offers of parental help in and outside of the classroom. At the beginning of the year we are establishing routines

and building relationships with the students in our classes, therefore we may not require help within the classroom programme in the first few weeks of the term. Class teachers will be asking for parent volunteers later in the term.

### Teacher Release

Classroom release for all Kowhai teachers occurs on a Wednesday. Teachers are released on rotation for a part of the day for meetings, to observe other teachers in action, complete assessment and for planning purposes. Where possible, the same release teacher is used in each classroom.

Karen is also released on a Thursday for Senior Teacher duties.

<b>Spare Clothes:</b> Every now and then, children have accidents at school and a spare set of clothes is needed. It would be helpful if children could keep a spare set of clothes in a plastic bag in their school bag.	<b>Collecting Children:</b> At the end of the day children will be dismissed from class. Please wait for your children outside to help minimise congestion in the corridors. It is a good idea to arrange a meeting place to make it easier for your child to find you when it is busy outside.	<b>Seesaw &amp; Class Blogs</b> As well as individual seesaw posts, items of interest are posted to class blogs. These blogs have been created as a way to share the learning journey between home and school. Blogs can be viewed via the school website. Follow the syndicate link and select Kowhai and your child's class.
--	--	---

### Term One Programmes

**Topic Health –** Ko au tēnei - All About Me

The children will focus on building positive relationships with other people and exploring what it is that makes them special.



#### Reading

Reading books will go home most nights from Monday - Thursday. The reading books that your child brings home should be easy for them to read. On Fridays, children will bring home their poetry books, which need to be returned to school every Monday.

#### Children will bring reading books home from Week 3 onwards.

Each class will visit the school library each week. Children are able to choose 1-2 library books to take home and enjoy. The books are then returned the following week, in time for new books to be issued. Books can be returned to the classroom earlier if you wish. The library is also open during lunchtimes for children to independently issue and return books. Please help your child to remember their library books each week, so

they can return them and get new books issued. Classes visit the library on the following days:

Room 1 - Tuesday      Room 2 - Wednesday      Room 3 - Tuesday

#### Mathematics

In Term One our focus will be on developing number knowledge. Children will learn to identify, order and write numerals correctly. The children will also be exploring aspects of Time. We will sequence days of the week, months of the year and incorporate our knowledge of the seasons in relation to the passage of time.

#### Writing

The focus for writing in junior classes will be on recounting personal experiences (such as our holidays or adventures with family) and writing personal descriptions (such as friends, family and pets).



#### Te Reo

Each week Matua Alwyn supports children across the school to learn and improve their te reo Māori. Students will enjoy weekly waiata sessions and within our classroom programmes Alwyn will teach days of the week, numbers and some basic commands. (e.g. "kia pai te turu" - push in your chair)

*Karen Doogan, Charmaine Carlaw, Donna Beechey, Gillian Goldring and Kathy Yamada*



