



Kia ora Whānau

Warm welcome to you all! We hope everyone had a relaxing holiday and look forward to working with you and your child this year. Each term a newsletter will be sent with information regarding the term ahead.

### Our Team

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

Rūma 1 Christina Johnstone - [c.johnstone@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:c.johnstone@ngaio.school.nz)

Rūma 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) (on Friday)

Rūma 3 Karen Doogan (Team Leader) – [k.doogan@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:k.doogan@ngaio.school.nz) and Karen Lewes - [k.lewes@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:k.lewes@ngaio.school.nz) (on Thursday)

### Important Dates:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Tuesday 11th February (Picnic 5-5:40pm) and Wednesday 12th February. | <b><i>“Knowing Me Knowing You” Meetings</i></b> -Student/Parent/Teacher Relationship Meetings - Please bring along your completed “Knowing Me” sheet to share at the meeting. |
| Wednesday 12th February  | Swimming & Gymnastics begin   |
| Friday 28 February - 8.00am in Room 4                                | New Families’ breakfast   |
| Tuesday 3 March - 9.15am<br>Ngaio Town Hall - Koha entry             | Junior School Assembly  |

|                            | Rūma Tāhi       | Rūma Rua        | Rūma Toru       |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Swimming - Wednesday       | 9.30 - 10.00am  | 10.00 - 10.30am | 9.00 - 9.30am   |
| School Library - Wednesday | 11.00 - 11.30am | 11.30 - 12.00pm | 12.00 - 12.25pm |



All offers of parent help for assisting children get changed before and after our swimming lessons are welcome! See your child's teacher if you can assist with this.

Please can students from Rūma Toru wear their swimming togs under clothing to school on Wednesdays, as our lesson starts at 9.05am.

### Key Competency - Managing Self

While 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’. This involves managing our own belongings, behaviour and responses.

We ask that students take responsibility for unpacking their school bags in the morning, bringing reading folders into the classroom and putting their own books and other items into the correct baskets.

At the end of the day the students will pack their bags before they go home. The skills required to ‘manage self’ may take some time, but starting this process is closely linked to getting students to develop greater independence within the classroom and take responsibility for themselves and their actions.

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.



### New Families' Breakfast - Friday 28 March - 8.00 - 9.00am

All welcome to our first new families' breakfast, even if you have been before. This is a great way for families to meet each other and to welcome our new 2020 arrivals.

Breakfast will be served in Rūma 4 in Kōwhai block from 8.00am. (right of main doors)

Come along and meet other families of Ngaio School.

RSVP by Monday 24 February to [pta@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:pta@ngaio.school.nz)

#### 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 Kōwhai 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 will be updated regularly with photographs, children's work and reminders. All students across Ngaio have a Seesaw account as a way of sharing their learning directly with whānau. 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 Kōwhai.



#### 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 also available in all classrooms.

#### Swimming and Gymnastics:

On Wednesdays in Term One, Kōwhai children will receive a 30-minute swimming lesson with Easyswim. Teachers will also lead gymnastics lessons during the week. Children will need togs, goggles and a towel for swimming.

**Please ensure all clothing is clearly named.** These sessions will start in week 2 of the term.

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

| Rūma | Swimming          | Gymnastics  |
|------|-------------------|---|
| 1    | 9.05am - 9.35am   | Kōwhai syndicate gymnastics will be timetabled during an afternoon block. |
| 2    | 9.35am - 10.05am  |   |
| 3    | 10.05am - 10.30am |   |



#### Parent Helpers:

**Swimming:** Parent help is required to assist children changing 'before' and 'after' swimming lessons.

**Shelving books:** Parent Help is required to 're-shelve' the classroom reading books. If you have any free time (any time that suits you works for us) and would like to help with this, then please see Karen Doogan in Rūma 3.




## Assembly:

We will be having a Junior School Assembly in the Ngaio Town Hall. Our assembly will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at 9.15am. As the hire of the hall is an additional cost for our school we would kindly welcome a koha placed into a donation box at the door.

## Teacher Release

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

In Kōwhai, Gillian Goldring teaches in Rūma 2 from Monday to Thursday and Kathy Yamada teaches in the classroom on Fridays. Karen Doogan is also released on a Thursday for Team Leader duties.

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|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Spare Clothes:</b></p>  <p>Every now and then, children have accidents at school and a spare set of clothes is needed.</p> <p>It would be helpful if children could keep a spare set of clothes in a plastic bag in their school bag.</p> | <p><b>Collecting Children:</b></p>  <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p><b>Seesaw - Class Blogs</b></p>  <p>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, select Kōwhai and your child's class.</p> |
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## Term One Programmes

### Topic Social Science - "I am a Ngaio Learner"

The children will focus on building positive relationships with other people and exploring what it is that makes them special. As a syndicate, we will also 'unpack' our Ngaio School values and explore what each of these mean to us.



### Literacy

Reading books will go home most nights. The reading book that your child brings home should be easy for them to read, while they build fluency and confidence. The Kōwhai Syndicate all use a yellow reading log book to encourage home reading communication. Please ensure you sign the reading log and return both the reading book and reading log to school the following day.

As we will visit the school library on a Wednesday, Library books will come home as part of our reading programme.

On Fridays, children will bring home their poetry books, which then need to be returned to school every Monday.

### Our formal reading programme will begin from week 3 onwards.

Each class will visit the school library weekly. 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.

Kōwhai classes will visit the school library on Wednesday in Term One:

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



### Numeracy



Across the term, our focus will be on developing number knowledge. Children will learn to identify, write and order numerals correctly. The children will also be exploring aspects of Statistics and 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. Children will learn how to gather information, display this on a graph and be able to interpret and explain what it all means.

## Te Reo

Each week Matua Alwyn supports staff & children across the school to learn and improve their te reo Māori. Children will learn to use te reo Māori names for days of the week, numbers and some basic commands. (e.g. "kia pai te tūru" - push in your chair)

*The Kowhai Team*

*Karen Doogan, Karen Lewes, Gillian Goldring, Kathy Yamada and Christina Johnstone*