



Tuesday 13th February

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to those of you who are joining the Kōwhai team for the first time this year and welcome back to those who were with us last year. By now you will be aware that we have two new teachers joining the team this year. Emma Neru Walters has moved from the Kahikatea team to work in Ruma Kea, Finella Sweeney is new(ish) to our school, having worked part time in the Pohutukawa team last year, she is now joining us full time as the teacher of Ruma Kōkako. Sally Ratchford continues to teach in Rūma Kākāriki. We also feel very lucky to have a support crew in Susan Moore who will be working part time to allow teachers to be released from class as needed, and Jannien Kamphuis who will run an Environmental Science programme for us every three weeks throughout term one. Please feel welcome to pop in and say hello to your child's teacher, however, should you require a meeting to discuss your child or our program for the year, it is important that you email to make an appointment.

Stationery

Thank you all for being so organised with your children's stationery. The only item not available through the online stationery pack is our Spelling Activity Book (Switch onto Spelling). Year three students will need to purchase one of these (available for \$6.00 through the school office). We have copies for the year four students from last year. If your child took their book home at the end of last year, please send it back to school.

Meeting the Teaching Team

We would like to invite you to meet the Kōwhai teaching team on Thursday 15th February between 4pm and 5pm. The aim of this meeting is to have an informal get together. If you require a private meeting, please email your child's teacher to arrange an appointment.

Staying in Touch

Any questions, concerns, or information can be emailed to your child/ren's teacher (see email addresses below). Emails are checked at the beginning, middle and end of each week day. If you have an urgent message please call and speak to the office staff, who will ensure the message is passed on (04 233 1339). Seesaw is also a great way to send us messages and keep up to date with what your child/ren does at school each week.

We use Seesaw to share day to day experiences and learning with you. If you have not yet signed up to Seesaw please make sure you do so as soon as possible. We are happy to help you if you are not sure how to go about it. A copy of your child's home learning code will be available on Thursday at our Meet the Teacher session.

Home Based Learning

Our aim is to keep our home based program as flexible as possible to support those families who like to learn and/or play together as well as those who want to focus on specific learning goals for their children. If you and your child/ren are too busy to complete home tasks during

the week, please do not feel guilty. Simply check the “We were too busy” section of the homework activity on Seesaw.

We will post activities on Seesaw each week and send home a list of words to support your child’s spelling progress. They can complete their activities and post them for us to see. We recommend some maths and some reading each week, however if this is something your child is already competent with, we suggest you encourage other activities that would develop their life skills (such as cooking or baking for the family).

School Based Learning.

As always we will have a strong focus on Numeracy, Reading Comprehension and Writing throughout the year. During term one we will also be looking at Statistics, Drama, Physical Fitness, Athletics, and building good working relationships within our class and team. Our Inquiry learning this term will be based around how to develop and maintain positive friendships.

To help our tamariki settle as quickly and easily into their new learning year, we would very much appreciate your support with a few things. These include:

- Ensuring they have a named sun hat that can be kept at school during the term
- Sending a named water bottle that can also stay at school
- Keeping your child/ren at home if they are sick

Finally, please do not linger at school after dropping your child/ren off. If they are reluctant to let you go, let their teacher know so we can support you to distract them. Similarly, please wait for the end of day bell before coming to the door of your child’s classroom, as your gorgeous and loving faces can be very distracting right when we are trying to finish off our day.

We appreciate that this is a lot of information to take in. Should you misplace any letters from us and/or need to remind yourself of any of the information contained in them, you can find a copy on our school webpage. Simply log on to www.paremata.school.nz, go to class pages, and click on Kōwhai Team.

We are looking forward to a great year working with you and your children. All support given is greatly appreciated, so if you have any brilliant (or even mildly interesting) ideas to make our year even better, please get in touch. Also, if you are available to help out as a volunteer on a regular basis, please let us know - I am sure we could find something for you to help us with!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Sally Ratchford, Emma Neru Walters, Finella Sweeney, Susan Moore, and Jannien Kamphuis

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