



# Sunnyhills School



17 The Crest, Pakuranga, Auckland | 5768031 | www.sunnyhills.school.nz | Principal: Mrs Justine Driver

## Koru Newsletter

A big welcome to all new parents of the Koru Whanau for 2018 and welcome back to our parents from last year. It was lovely meeting many of you at the PTA Picnic and Meet The Teacher night. A great start has been made to the year and all children are settling well into routines and are quickly building new relationships with both children and staff.



**Last Day of Term**  
13th April

### Teaching Staff Term 1

**Room 8**  
*Mrs Adelle Grant Mrs Sarah Turner*

**Room 9**  
*Mrs Joanne Burge Miss Mikayla Bycroft*

**Room 10**  
*Miss Monique Tordeich*

**Room 21**  
*Miss Rachael Fullard*

**Room 22**  
*Mrs Pam Smail*

**Room 24**  
*Mrs Sue Dijkstra*

**Room 14**  
*Mrs Stephanie Trembath*

**Room 15**  
*Mrs Vanessa Cammell & Mrs Kylie Smith*

**Room 16**  
*Whaea Tearani Cooper*

Starting a new school year can be a big step for some children and they may take a few weeks to settle in. Those first few weeks are an important time to establish routines, set the tone, set-up books, carry out testing and get to know each other. Obviously it can be a somewhat daunting time for all children in some way or another. However, we are fostering increased independence. We expect students to come into class and organise themselves in the morning. We would like to remind you that children are required at school by **8.40 am at the latest**. Once they are organised for the day and have shared their learning with you, they are encouraged to go outside and play. **School starts at 8.50am and all parents must leave the room at this time** unless you are rostered on as a parent helper.

### Bell times for 2018:

Morning Tea 10.30 - 10.50 am  
Lunch 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Our school wide umbrella topic is Manaakitanga - Caring for Others. The Koru Whanau are about to start an Inquiry called New Zealand Heroes.

A number of people who help in our community will be visiting the school to talk to us about their roles and the Year 2 and 3 classes are visiting the Maritime Museum. While at the Museum the children will take part in a programme called 'Heroes'

### HOME TASKS

Home learning is an extension of the school programme and should support, enhance and consolidate teaching and learning. All children are expected to read each night - either their home reader, a library book, personal book or school journal. (NB; if they have passed gold level they are considered independent readers and do not necessarily get a home reader). Once your child has reached reading fluency levels (Orange onwards), they are no longer learning "how to read". The shift is "reading to learn". The texts at this level increase in length and complexity. Often one text is used over several days within the classroom and comes home for discussion, sharing and questioning. Your child may have words to learn or maths tasks to practice. There may be times a special project may be sent home to be presented, the research and processing having been completed at school. This allows us to move on to other work at school and the opportunity for you to work together with your child should you wish to. There are learning links on our school website under 'our learning'. These are also on the children's portals. Often the best thing you can do with your children after school rather than setting homework is to talk and play with them, encourage them to play with their peers and to involve them in extracurricular activities and team sports. This is where children develop their imaginations, creativity, their ability to collaborate, and all the other skills which will be vitally important to their success in the future.

Teachers welcome you into the classroom before school and are happy to briefly chat in the morning but if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, behaviour or welfare please make an appointment. Always talk with your child's teacher in the first instance. Most concerns can be addressed quickly and easily at the time. If you require further assistance please make an appointment to talk with the Team Leader.

### A FEW REMINDERS

Fitness and Physical Education is a vital part of our school programme. All children are expected to participate. Later this term Year 3 students start fitness and in Term 2, Sport with the Year 4 classes. Year 3 students will need the correct fitness gear by the beginning of Term 2. (red Sunnyhills shorts and a blue Sunnyhills shirt - which can be purchase from John Russell in Howick). These need to be named and kept in a fitness bag of some description. A sickness or an injury may limit, but not necessarily exclude, them from full participation in the programme. **If a child needs to be excused, a note is required each day.**

Swimming is compulsory. Togs and towels must be named and in a waterproof bag e.g. supermarket bag. The naming of all clothing, including shoes, is vitally important. Unnamed articles are always difficult to match to their owners.

Our half hour Bible in School classes for Year 2 and 3 are this year being held on a Tuesday from 12.00 until 12.30. These will commence in March and we welcome back our great team of Bible Teachers. If you do not wish your child to attend these lessons please put this in writing and either email your child's class teacher or send to school in a letter.

Sickness: If your child is sick or has an appointment please let the office know immediately. The preferred method is to use the form found on the website under 'contact us'. You can also ring and leave a message under the absence option or email Jenni Gibbens. If you notify the office via email, could you please also CC the teacher in.

Longer Absences: Please advise us through the school website, email the office and cc your classroom teacher into the email also. The ministry require written documentation if for example you are taking your child on holiday during the school term.

Arrival before 8.30 am: Year 1 and 2 students must wait quietly in the Koru Courtyard. Year 3 students wait on the deck outside their classroom.

Reminder we are a water only school

At this time of the year children quickly tire with the heat. Going to bed at a reasonable time gives them the best start for the next learning day.

Please endeavour to keep noise to a minimum outside the classrooms especially just before 3 pm when teachers are giving final reminders.

Each class has a Blog. Please check it regularly and leave comments. You can subscribe to the blog so that you will be notified if there are any updates via email. Instructions on how to do this are on the facebook page. There is a translation gadget on the right hand side of the Blog as well. Most classes have a weekly reminders section on the blog. This is a great way to keep your finger on the pulse as to what is happening in your child's class for that week. Mrs Driver's weekly emails also give similar information though may not be as detailed.

Uniform: If your child is unable to, for whatever reason, wear the correct uniform, they require a note. Special footwear requires a doctor's note. Please clearly name everything and regularly check that the name is still able to be clearly read. Lost property is located in the hall on the right hand side. As part of our looking good in our uniforms, all hair that is below the collar is required to be tied back in ties of our uniform colours and, if earrings are being worn they are small plain studs, not hoops. Nail and toenail polish is not to be worn at school.

Precious possessions stay at home. Your child may bring their favourite gift to share on their birthday. Students may bring balls to school but please ensure they are named and it is their responsibility. Cellphones are not generally allowed at school but if needed for after school communication need to be handed to the teacher for safe keeping till 3 pm.

Lateness: If your child is arriving to school late (ie after the 8.50), they must be signed in at the office on the tablet. Also if you are visiting during the day you need to sign in. This is Health and Safety issue so that we know who is on site.

Playgrounds: Students are not allowed to playing on the playgrounds at 3pm as we are trying to clear the grounds and get students home or to the gate to meet caregivers promptly.

We look forward to working with you all. Thank you for your support.

**KORU SCHOOL TEACHERS**