

Kapokapowai Newsletter Term 1 2024



February 2024



Kia ora! My name is Kira Smith (Whaea Kira) and I am beyond excited to be teaching in the Year 2 room this year! I am originally from Colorado, USA where I was a primary teacher for 13 years. My husband and I recently moved to Whakatāne because of its inclusive community, rich history, and access to many outdoor activities. We love to hike and camp with our dog Penny, go diving for kaimoana, and I've recently started surfing! I have only just started my journey in te reo Māori and have much to learn, so this is one of my main goals this year. I look forward to getting to know you all individually throughout the year so we can partner to help all tamariki reach their goals as well. Ngā mihi!

Calendar

Feb 6 Waitangi Day

Feb 14 Whānau hui 1pm to 5.30 pm

Feb 15 Whānau hui continued 3pm to 6.30 pm

March 7 Possible Trip to Ohope Beach (to be confirmed) Postponement date March 8.

March 25 Good Friday

April 1, 2 Easter Monday and Tuesday

April 12: Last day of Term 1.



You will receive an invite to join our class Seesaw. This app is designed to give you an insight into school life with learning stories, photos and videos of your child at school that you can share and talk about with them and is a great way for you to be part of their learning. We also share notices and information with you. Please turn on notifications and check regularly for new posts.

Kia Ora te Whānau!

Welcome to Kapokapowai 16 for 2024. Our junior school team are called **Te Aitanga Pepeke**- the insect world, and room 16 is named Kapokapowai -dragonfly. We are a Learning Through Play year 2 class, which helps them to develop a positive image of themselves as learners as well as being Allandale Kinder Kids. Below is some information about our school and class that may be useful.

Attendance

Coming to school is essential to the learning success of tamariki. Any absences mean they miss out on the practice they need to consolidate new learning. Of course if they are unwell they will need to stay home. Please contact the school office on 07 3087645 or text me on 022 097 0469 if your tamariki are not able to attend with a brief explanation of the reason, as unexplained absences are recorded as truant. You can also report an absence on our school website.

<https://www.allandale.school.nz/>

Sunhat Pōtae



We are a sun-safe school and this term all tamariki are expected to wear a sunhat. It is a good idea that they have a named hat that stays at school as this is one less thing for them to remember each morning. Our tamariki do a lot of their learning outside at this time of the year so a sunhat is essential. **If they forget their hat they will have to play inside during learning through play time if it is sunny, and in the shade at morning tea and lunch play times.**

Uniform

Please ensure your tamariki has the **correct uniform** and that it is **named**. It is a good idea to name sweatshirts, jackets, shoes, hats, lunchboxes and drink bottles, too. This way we have a much better chance of returning lost items. The lost property at school is sorted weekly and named items are returned to their owners.

Structured Literacy



We use a structured literacy approach when teaching reading and writing. The children learn the sounds and formations of groups of letters in a particular sequence and practise segmenting, blending and writing words with these letters. They also learn spelling rules. This approach supports tamariki to read and write independently. The tamariki will be given some weekly homework to help consolidate their learning.



Later this term our tamariki will be learning about reducing waste from

Zero Waste Education NZ LTD. This unit focuses on items of rubbish commonly found in the children's homes. They are asked to consider the question "Is that really rubbish?"

Allandale Kind Of Kids

The Kapokapowai tamariki are learning how to be Allandale kind of kids.



Whānau Groups

There are four whānau groups, each representing a significant toka, rock, in our local area and represented by a colour

Toka-Tapu-green,
Te-Toka-ā-Houmea-purple,
Hine-tū-Ahoanga-orange,
Pōhaturoa-pink.

Whānaungatanga

This term we will be focussing on our school value of *Whānaungatanga* which speaks of belonging, connection and relationships, created through shared experiences and working together.

Inquiry Learning

We will be learning about **Nga Awa**, the rivers in our local area. We will also hear the pūrākau of Te Waka Mātaatua and the pūrākau of Wairaka.



Te Reo Maori

This term the tamariki will be practising their mihimihi and pepeha, greetings, and kupu for how they are feeling. They will also be learning some school waiata and karakia.

Drop offs and pickups.

The morning bell is at 8.45. A good time to arrive at school is between 8.15 a.m. and 8.40 a.m. so tamariki can relax, play with their friends, and get ready for the day. The final bell is at 2.40.



PR1ME Maths

This year we are introducing PR1ME maths as our approach for delivering the maths curriculum. Like structured literacy, it builds on number knowledge in a way that allows tamariki to become independent and confident problem solvers. During the year we will be sharing some ideas on how you can support maths learning at home.

Homework

Home-school partnerships are so important. Your child needs to know that we are working together to support them to be successful learners. Please remind your tamariki to bring their book bag each day and contact us if you have any questions.

Swimming

Please make sure your child has their togs and towel every **Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday**. We will be building confidence in, on, and under the water with a particular focus on learning some water safety skills.

Learning Through Play



We are enjoying our wonderful outdoor and indoor spaces when playing and learning which provides lots of opportunities for tamariki to explore their urges, interests and all learning areas of the NZ Curriculum: science, technology, health, phys ed, social sciences, arts, numeracy, literacy and the key competencies. We are always on the lookout for new resources, so if you think you have something we could use, please let us know. We recommend popping some spare clothes, including underwear, into school bags so tamariki can change if needed after the fun of messy play and water play.

Morning Tea, Lunch and Drink Bottles

The tamariki receive a healthy school lunch as well as fresh fruit daily. The breakfast club is also available from 8 a.m. You may still want to send them along with some healthy snacks such as carrot sticks, cucumber slices, raisins, cheese, yoghurt or sandwiches for morning tea. Please use containers where possible to minimise rubbish. Any packets children do bring will go home in their lunchboxes. We have water fountains for the children to use and they are welcome to bring their own water bottle. We are a water-only school, so no juice please!

Contacting Me

Please feel free to contact me if you have anything you would like to discuss. You can phone the school office, 3087645, and leave a message and you can also use Seesaw, phone or email to make contact.

Thanks for your support

Ngā mihi
Kira Smith

Email: kiras@allandale.school.nz



