



WADESTOWN SCHOOL

Living to Learn - Learning to Live

Kōwhai Team Newsletter

Term One

12th February 2019

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Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

Nau mai, haere mai; Talofa lava. Welcome to 2019 with the Kōwhai Syndicate. This is the first of our team newsletters for the year. Its primary purpose is to keep you informed of the events and learning your child will be engaged in.

During these initial days our classes will focus on familiarising the children with the new classroom, new routines, classmates and expectations.

It has been a real pleasure to meet our Year 7 children and to welcome back the Year 8 students. We anticipate we will have a great year of new learning, growth and challenges. 'Change' is the common theme throughout Wadestown School this year.

In preparation for their year, students will be setting goals: Key Competencies, Numeracy, Literacy, and Sporting, Social or Cultural. We will seek your input in this process and will discuss the goals and identify steps to achieve them at our first parent-teacher conferences.

Values and Key Competencies

During the initial weeks of this term we will be focusing on our school value of responsibility. We will also take a closer look at empathy and respect later in the term. Our school is seeking to encourage resilience amongst the students and this will be investigated and modelled during assemblies and in class. The key competency we are focusing on this term will be 'Participating and Contributing'. Your child may decide to select another key competency they wish to develop as part of their individual goal-setting.

Kōwhai Team

The Kōwhai team, led by Nick Julian, comprises of four classes this year, including Rooms 13,14,16,17.

Rm 13 Mr Nick Julian
Rm 14 Miss Cath Kirkpatrick
Rm 16 Mrs Nicki Greer
Rm 17 Mr James Shelton

Punctuality

8.30am- Students may enter into classrooms.
8.50am- First bell
8.55am- Lessons begin
10.40am- Interval
11.00am- Lessons begin
12.30pm- Lunchtime
1.30pm- Afternoon Lessons
3.00pm- Home time

Camp

This year's camp will run from Monday 25th to Friday 29th March. The Year 7 and 8 children will travel by bus to Green Pastures in Whanganui. The children have taken home the first camp newsletter asking for parent help. It included costs, and general information. It also includes the link (see below) to google forms asking for information on- medical, swimming, and dietary requirements document. Can you please fill this in before the 25th of Feb! [Camp Google Form](#)

Sun Hats- Sun hats are compulsory in term 1 for all outdoor play.

Mobile Phones- While we don't encourage students to bring in mobile phones we understand that there are circumstances where parents require their children to have their phone before and after school. Mobile phones are students' responsibility and should remain in their school bag unless specific permission has been given by a teacher. Students caught using their mobile phones during school time, without permission, will have their phone confiscated, handed into the office and their parents will need to come in to have it returned.

Email- All students have their own email address. These are only to be used for school purposes.

Communication with Teachers- The best way to communicate with your classroom teacher is through an interview or telephone conversation. If you do need to communicate via email, please keep it brief. Teachers will only be checking their emails from 3.00pm to 5.30pm on weekdays.

Naming Uniforms and Equipment

It's been great to have so many students arrive with their required stationery ready to go on our first day of school. Please make sure all items of school uniform are named.

Student Behaviour

In the Kōwhai Syndicate students are expected to behave with respect, consideration and empathy. They are expected to participate, contribute and persevere in all learning activities.

When indiscretions do occur, most can be verbally addressed by a teacher, but in the instance where consequences are appropriate one or more of the following may happen: a discussion between the people involved, a letter of apology, a 'think sheet', time spent walking with the duty teacher, playground rubbish collection, a phone call home.

English

Our learning focus is on using inference and identifying key ideas. Our instructional group reading activities will be underway next week.

The writing programme will begin by examining formal letter writing and journal writing (expressive writing). Later in the term we will look at descriptive writing and recounts. The letter writing will help our Year 8s prepare for their leadership application letters and it will give the Year 7s an opportunity to introduce themselves to us. They will write about their lives, interests and concerns. We will write daily journal entries as we draw closer to camp and during our time at camp. We will use also the letters and journal writing as a springboard for conversations and goal setting.

Mathematics

Our Mathematics programme is underway. There will be an interchange between Rooms 13, 14, 16 and 17 during Maths to target students' learning needs. These may change during the year, depending on the topics being studied. Our first learning focus is on number knowledge and strategies for problem solving, addition and subtraction, basic facts.

Science

Our whole school focus on Science continues this year. In the first term we will be exploring the nature of science and science skills. We will look at the kind of skills, attitudes, models and processes required in science and will carry out experiments related to the four different strands, The Physical World, The Material World, The Living World, and Planet Earth and Beyond. These will be engaging, hands-on experiments, selected to excite the students about the subject and provoke their curiosity. The experiments will also provide models for the children as they begin to think about how they will conduct their Science Fair investigations.

Homework

Homework begins next week. Students will receive spelling, mathematics, and Action English tasks each week. Your classroom teacher will explain when these are due at parent information evening and via an email.

The children will be expected to read every day. Occasionally they will be asked to complete reading activities during class time related to the books they are reading at home. In addition to this from time to time there may be homework reading tasks set. Please make time to take an interest in your child's reading and to support them should they require assistance with their homework.

The *Action English* texts will be used again. *Action English* is essentially a language/ grammar workbook which will be checked and marked every Friday.

Maths homework will involve memorising the basic facts (times tables), completing *Dragon Maths* tasks (an activity book) and *Mathletics* tasks set by the teacher. Your classroom teacher will provide a thorough breakdown of homework tasks and deadlines during our Information Evening.

ICT in the Classroom

All the students in the Kōwhai syndicate have been given email addresses and passwords. These will enable them to access g-mail and all of the related Google applications. We will be using Google Docs (or

'Drive'). This will be used for learning purposes and to access shared documents. Emails are only to be used for school purposes. Students have been allocated the use of one Chromebook between two students. It is their responsibility to look after it and use it in accordance with the school ICT agreement.

BYOD (Bring your own device)

Students are allowed to bring in their own devices to use during class time. Parents and students need to read and sign the BYOD agreement. Within each classroom there is an opportunity to lock away BYOD devices.

Te Reo Maori

The focus for study this term is Ko Au which means (I / me / myself). The students will be extending their knowledge of vocabulary relating to immediate family and wider whānau. This will include simple phrases, sentence structures, questions and answers.

Kapa Haka

This has already started and will take place, with our wonderful kapa haka kaiako (Hemi Prime), on Thursdays from 11.45am to 12.30am .

Technology

Technology will begin in week three on Tuesday. It is held at Karori West Normal School and we will be travelling by bus. The children will need to arrive at school at 8:30 am to have the roll taken. Buses leave school at 8.40am. There will be a group of 12 students staying at school to do coding with Mr Shelton. Children arriving late will join this class and stay with them all morning. Students will require hair ties if they have long hair and all students will need footwear that covers their feet, i.e., no jandals, sandals, etc.

Parent Information Evening

For the Kōwhai Syndicate this will take place on the 27th of Feb from 7-8.30pm, starting in the hall and finishing in your child's classroom. This will be an opportunity to learn more about how things operate in the syndicate and in the classroom.

Please feel free to email us should you wish to discuss anything about your child or to arrange a time to meet.

Nāku, nā (Yours faithfully)

Nick Julian, Nicki Greer, Cath Kirkpatrick, James Shelton

Term Fees

Year 7 and 8

Action English Book	\$16
Dragon Maths Book	\$16
Mathletics Subscription	\$20
Technology Materials Fee	\$50

Year 8

Toastmasters Leadership Manual	\$12
Visit to Government House- Bus	\$6