



# Kōwhai Community 2017

"It wasn't like this when I went to school"

*"If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow."  
(John Dewey 1859-1952)*



## Similarities and Differences

### *Previous Years*

Children were ability grouped for instructional reading and maths with a teacher

Reading and maths groups were taken in the classroom while the teacher is also monitoring other children in the room

The children were all writing at the same time and the teacher would be working with small groups while the other children were writing independently

While not with the teacher for Reading, Writing or Maths the children participated in teacher set activities including worksheets, games and activities

There was one teacher who stayed with you all year whether you had a good relationship or not

A single classroom reflecting a traditional industrial-age factory model of education

### *This Year*

Children are ability grouped for instructional reading and maths with a teacher

Reading and maths groups are taken in a quiet break out room free from distraction and classroom noise

Children write in small groups immediately after their reading group and either work with a teacher or write independently

While not with the teacher for Reading, Writing or Maths the children participate in PLAY. The play is self-chosen and is improving their self-management, risk taking, oral language and negotiation skills

There are 6 teachers, one who is dedicated to your child's emotional wellbeing (pod teacher) and 5 others who your child is free to interact with

A purpose built innovative learning environment that is future focused, promoting collaboration, flexibility and creativity

# WHY PLAY?

## THROUGH PLAY CHILDREN WILL:

- engage in problem-solving
- test out ideas
- ask questions
- build new understandings
- take risks
- engage in conversations with peers
- learn to negotiate
- learn to manage themselves
- wonder
- loose themselves in imaginary worlds
- take on the role of someone different
- practise fine motor skills necessary for writing
- form new friendships
- have the freedom to follow their interests
- be creative
- show innovation
- show resilience
- show respect
- show determination
- have fun
- enjoy learning



"Almost all creativity involves purposeful play."

-Abraham Maslow

*"Play is the highest form of research" – Albert Einstein*

## WHY NOW?

- a decline in oral language skills was noticed
- a decline in social skills was noticed
- an increase in anxiety was noticed
- new building, new way of working
- increased demand for creativity
- increased need for resilience
- future focus teaching
- International Education shift in thinking to reflect future work environments



"Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play, children learn how to learn."

-O. Fred Donaldson

