



Welcome to the Kowhai Learning Community

Introductions

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Timetable

A copy of our current timetable is included with this pack and will be displayed in our learning community.

Arriving at school / signing in

- on arrival, please allow your child to hang their own bag on their coat-hook, and to put their reading packet in their pod box.
- after signing in, children are free to play either inside or outside.
- parents are welcome to stay and play with their child - we do ask that you sign in at the office if you will be with us for more than thirty minutes.

Literacy

- children are in ability-based groups - monitored by teachers and adjusted as necessary.
- children work with a teacher four times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday) on reading and writing.
- children write independently (without any help) twice a week. This writing is not checked or marked by a teacher.
- reading books are left in reading packets for the week, to provide a choice of titles for your child to read at home.
- children may complete follow-up worksheets based on the book they have read, or an element of phonics or handwriting.
- includes elements of oral language (vocabulary development), phonics and handwriting, depending on the specific needs of the children.

Fitness

- usually small group games (as the weather allows).
- the focus of this is to participate and have fun.

Feed and read

- please provide your child with a piece of fruit that they can open and eat independently.

Maths

- our current focus is on number identification and number sequencing (counting forwards and backwards).
- children are in ability-based groups, based on specific needs depending on the area of study.

Afternoon

- our afternoon programme will cover the arts (music, dance, drama, visual art), inquiry (science, social sciences, health, technology) and p.e.
- Children will work in their pod groups with different teachers according to teacher strength and interest.

Library

- we visit the library on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon in our pod groups.
- children can issue two books each week for two weeks.
- return books to school in reading packets please. Library books stay in reading packets and we take reading packets to the library to return and issue new books. This helps children to keep track of their own books, and helps to keep the books safe.

Thursday

- when children arrive at school, they need to take their reading books out of their reading packets and sort books into piles.
- we are based in pod groups for the morning (9.00 - 10.00) and have small group activities focused on oral language, mindfulness, digital citizenship, caring for others etc
- class teachers are released for two hours to allow for planning, administration tasks and to meet together. During this time the children have specialist teachers in visual art, p.e., dance, drama, mindfulness and music.
- instead of reading we have a poem each Thursday - usually based loosely on something that has happened during the week or an area of interest - children will read their poem, circle high-frequency or interest words in crayon and glue their poem into their book to share with you.

Homework

- reading books are sent home Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and a poem on Thursday nights. Please encourage your child to read on a daily basis. Books would have been previously read at school, but repetition is important to build confidence and fluency. Please keep a record of all books read, along with a comment, in yellow reading logs. These books must be returned to school in reading packets on a daily basis, for teachers to check and issue stickers when applicable.

Parent help

- we are very keen for parent help, at any point in the day! If you are available to help, please come and see us to confirm a time that suits us all. If you have any 'specialist' skills that you think would be useful, please let us know!

Communication

- we have our own class blog (or 'blob', depending who you're talking to) - you'll find it at kowhai.weebly.com. We are trying to update this regularly (weekly) - but it does get tricky when things get busy! The children love receiving comments, and we do share these in class.
- K.I.T. notices will be sent electronically - via our class blog. We will send an email with a link to the blog at the end of each week.
- seesaw - we will be using seesaw to allow the children to share their learning and progress with parents, and so that you can see what happens during the day. We are hoping to send home parent log-in information by the end of the week.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, or any great ideas, please come in and see us.