

**WELCOME TO A YEAR OF LEARNING, FUN, FRIENDSHIP
AND MAKING HAPPY MEMORIES TOGETHER.**

We extend a very warm welcome to new students and families starting their school journey with us here at Brooklyn School. We also welcome back children and families returning to us. We hope that you have all had a refreshing break and are ready and enthusiastic to 'take up the challenge' to learn in new and exciting ways.

We welcome Nicole Batty to our teaching team this year. Nicole is teaching years 1 and 2 in Room 3. Other teachers working part time in the Tui Syndicate include Matt Breach, Kirsty Parun, Mary Urquhart-Hay and Bridget Bridgman as well as a team of support staff working with children individually and in small groups.

We are enjoying getting to know your children as they settle into their classes. We encourage regular contact with parents, caregivers and families. Please feel free to pop in and see us. We are always happy to meet with you to help answer any questions you may have in regards to your child's learning and welfare. However, if you would like to discuss anything in more detail, it may be best to arrange a meeting by contacting your child's class teacher.

There are a number of other opportunities during the term to meet with us about 'what and how' your child is learning. On Wednesday 13 February (week 2), we will be holding a Parent Information Evening from 5.30-6.30pm. The following week, (week 3) we look forward to meeting with you for Meet the Teacher/Parent conferences. Online booking details will be sent out shortly from the school office.

Shortly, we will be setting up digital learning journals using Seesaw. Every child can share their learning in 'real time.' You will be invoiced \$5 to cover the cost of this for each child. We will let you know when the blogs are up and running.



Tui Syndicate Newsletter

Term 1 2019

What our learning looks like ...

Reading

At junior level, children are first learning to decode text to read. Once they can do this, the focus moves more to reading for information. We encourage 'reading for enjoyment' and the children are given many opportunities to enjoy reading in class.

We visit the school library on a regular basis. **Your child will be able to issue 1- 2 books** to take home and read. These need to be returned before any more can be issued. Classes also visit Brooklyn Library each term.

School Library Days:

Room 1 Friday
Room 2 Tuesday
Room 3 Tuesday
Room 4 Wednesday
Room 5 Wednesday

Writing

The focus is on developing the skills of writing including letter formation. **Students have individual writing goals** which are progressive. This term, the children will focus on writing from personal experience by writing recounts, description and explanations to support their inquiry learning.

Phonics

We teach the segmentation and blending of sounds plus a knowledge of the alphabetic code to support our reading and writing programmes.

Oral Language

Children are given many opportunities to share their thoughts, ideas and experiences across all areas of the curriculum. We encourage oral language to help students broaden their vocabulary, develop good listening and questioning skills and organise their ideas for writing. Children often want to bring things to share, e.g. photos, mementos, objects of interest, art creations which is great. Please note however, we have a 'no toy' policy.

Numeracy

At this level, **there is a strong focus on number knowledge, basic facts and addition and subtraction.** This term we will also look at **Statistics** where children will gather, sort and display data using tally charts and bar graphs. An important component of our maths programme, is to help children make connections with maths in everyday life. They are encouraged to work collaboratively with others to understand and solve word problems in authentic contexts.

Physical Education

We will be making the most of the summer weather and getting outside for daily fitness and P.E. most days. This term our focus will be developing skills for **athletics** in preparation for our school athletics day (see Tui Term Dates). On Monday and Friday mornings, we will participate in **Jump Jam aerobic dancing.**

Inquiry (Social Science, Science & Technology, The Arts)

Our inquiry focus this term is: **Identity: Culture and Community.** We aim to integrate Inquiry learning across

the curriculum. Children will learn the skills to communicate what they know as well as find and sort out information.

Digital Technology

Children are being encouraged to develop their digital literacy, in using a range of digital tools and in sharing their learning in different ways on their digital learning journals. The children will be given the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills and participate collaboratively with others when using tools such as: Osmos, Beebots, Brainbox Circuits, Mindstorm Lego and apps such as Book Creator.

The Arts

We provide opportunities for the children to express themselves in different ways through the visual and performing arts. This term our focus is on people and portraiture.

Other Programmes:

Kapa Haka run by Matua Breach for our Year 1 and 2 classes culminating in the Kapa Haka Festival in Term 4.

Languages: Te Reo and Mandarin (in some classes)

Learning intervention programmes for some children.

Home Learning

Our aim for home learning is to create positive habits and reinforce essential literacy and numeracy learning. We encourage you to support this by engaging with your child to listen, encourage, check and provide feedback on how they are going.

Home learning consists of:

Reading: The children will take home a reading book that they have read in class, most days from Monday to Thursday. We encourage the children to read to an adult or other family member each day.

Poetry: Every Friday your child will take home their poetry book with a new poem to read over the weekend. Poems will usually be chosen to support something they are learning at school such as the phonic sound of the week, inquiry learning or something topical such as a celebration.

Spelling: The children will also take home their spelling notebook each day to learn 3-5 words a week. The focus will be on learning the **essential words** which make up the majority of our writing and the words we read. The words that they need to know will be written into their notebook and highlighted once they can write the words correctly and independently. Other words will be added from their writing and reading books. Each week, our buddy classes visit to test the students and to celebrate their success. We really appreciate your assistance in encouraging your child to learn their words.

Numeracy: For our new entrant/year 1 children we suggest **Maths is Fun**

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/index.htm>

For children in year 2, we suggest the following free online websites to support the learning of number knowledge, basic facts and mathematical ideas:

Prototec <http://www.maths.prototec.co.nz/> and **e-ako nz**

maths <http://e-ako.nzmaths.co.nz/>

For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Being independent

In the Tui Syndicate we encourage our children to become more independent and responsible for organising themselves.

It would be great to see our children showing their independence by:

- Putting their bags and jackets in their cubby hole and packing and unpacking their own bags.
- Putting their reading books, spelling notebooks, library books and anything else they return to school, in the right places.
- Getting their drink bottles out of their bags and taking to the nominated place.
- Sharing their feelings with their teacher and friends.



REMINDERS

WASTE FREE LUNCHES

We really encourage the children to have waste free lunch boxes. It would be super if your child could bring their lunch in containers, reusable bags or paper wrap instead of glad wrap.



SCHOOL HOURS and ABSENCES

Please ensure that your child **arrives between 8.30 and 8.50am**. This gives them enough time to organise themselves ready to start their learning at 8.55am. Please also ensure that your child is picked up at 3pm each day. Teachers will not let your child leave until they are collected. We also ask that you do not drop your child off at school before 8.30am as this is a time for teacher meetings and preparation.



If your child is sick or absent for any reason, please take the time to notify us using the school app or phone the school **absence answer phone on (04)3897658 ext.1 before 9.15am**. For extended periods of absence, please email both your child's teacher and the school office. We remind you that it is important to sign your child in at the office if they arrive after 8.55am. Similarly, please remember to sign your child out if they need to leave school during school hours. Thank you.



We always appreciate parent help during our writing sessions. Please contact your child's teacher if are able to assist.

SUN HATS and CLOTHING

As a school requirement, your child must have a named red or blue bucket or wide brimmed sunhat at school at all times during terms 1 and 4. Bucket hats can be purchased from the school office.



It is important that children **wear appropriate shoes** and clothing so that they can be active. We prefer that children do not wear jandals to school and wear shoes that they can manage independently.

WATER BOTTLES and BRAIN FOOD

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle that they can access in class throughout the day. We are a water only school. We also encourage children to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat as a brain snack between the start of the school day and morning tea.



TISSUES

We request that every child brings to school a box of tissues. Please pass these on to your child's teacher. Thank you.





Book room assistance

If you have 15-20 minutes at pick up or drop off time or any other time, we would be grateful for help to put reading books away in the book room. If you are able to help out, please talk to your child's classroom teacher.



Tui Term Dates

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| Week 1 | Whole School Wainui Picnic: Friday 8 February | Week 6 | School athletics: Wednesday 13 March at Athletic Park in Newtown Friday, Athletics postponement day |
| Week 2 | Information Evening: Wednesday 13 February 5.30 – 6.30pm | Week 7 | |
| Week 3 | Meet the Teacher Interviews Central Park visit with Buddy Classes: Friday 22 February | Week 8 | |
| Week 4 | | Week 9 | |
| Week 5 | | Week 10 | Open afternoon: Thursday 11 April tbc Tui hosting Assembly Friday 12.00pm tbc |

Thank you for your support and here's to a great year,

Karen, Margaret, Brie, Nicole, Greg

Contact details:

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Room 4 Karen Overell (Syndicate Leader) karen.overell@brooklynprimary.school.nz

Room 5 Greg Kyle greg.kyle@brooklynprimary.school.nz

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