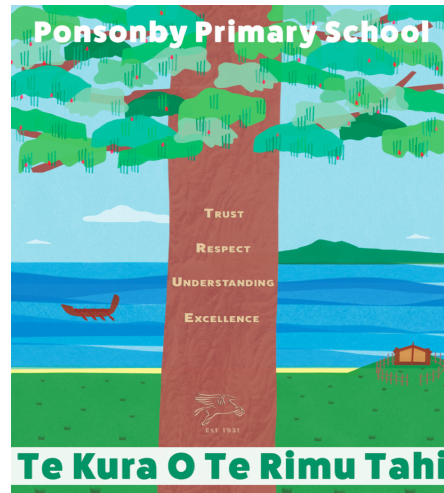


# Ponsonby Primary School



## Transition to School 2023 Term 4

Our Year 0 Year 1 and Year 2 classes are known as the Kakariki Syndicate.

The teachers taking our Year 0/1 classes are

Ms Miriam Harford	Room 20
Mrs Annika Khouri and Ms Shewanthi Nanayakkara	Room 19
Mrs Debbie Fox	Room 18
Mrs Anna Wylie	Room 21

Our Associate Principal Miriam Harford is the leader of the Kakariki Syndicate.

Our Deputy Principal Susan Robins works very closely alongside the Kakariki Syndicate.



# Prior to Starting School

- Karla Hobday, our Office Manager, will contact you three to four weeks before your child's start date to arrange two school visits.
- If you are a new family to the school, Karla will also schedule an enrollment meeting with the Principal which is conducted before your child starts school.
- There are two pre-school visits. Usually The first one is with a parent present and the second one is independently (*Drop and Go*).
- These visits are held on Wednesday mornings. Please arrive at 8.30am so that we have time to show your child around before the 8.50am bell. Your child will join in the morning classroom programme and can be picked up at 11am. They are welcome to stay and socialise until the end of morning tea at 11.30am. This gives your child the chance to socialise with classmates during the Morning Tea break. Please arrive at 11am for your child.
- Please ensure your child has appropriate food and their drink bottle.
- Please purchase the stationery and hand it to the classroom teacher. There is no need to cover or name any of this stationery apart from the book bag.
- Every child uses a chair bag in the classroom to help keep their belongings tidy. These can be purchased from [www.chairbags.co.nz](http://www.chairbags.co.nz)
- Please ensure your child has a school bag that is able to fit all their belongings in it. It will need to fit their lunchbox, book bag and a change of clothes. A swim bag is very helpful in Term 1 and the end of Term 4.

## First Day of School

- The classroom opens at 8.30am every day. Please arrive before 8.45am so that there is time for your child to put their belongings away.
- Drop and Go is our procedure. It is a lot more settling and easier for your child – we know this can be hard for the parents, but our experience shows us that it is more effective.
- **We are no longer doing the 2 o'clock finish for the first week. Your child will finish at 3pm.**
- In general there is a 'NO TOYS' rule in our school.
- Children are allowed to play with their bikes and scooters during the playtime break. They must have a helmet to use these at school and stay on their own wheels.
- Your child will be given a buddy to show them around at Morning Tea and Lunchtime breaks.

# Curriculum

We teach everything! English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Technology and Te Reo.

## English

*Reading* – A reading book will come home every night except Friday. This is a book that your child should be able to read independently and read for enjoyment. Encourage and support your child as they need it with these books.

- Encourage your child to hold their own book.
- Pointing to each word is the first reading skill to develop.
- Your child will be given high frequency words to learn that will support their reading.
- A poetry book will come home every Friday for weekend reading.
- Children are able to get a book issued from the library each week. Please check your class library day and ensure the books are returned in a timely fashion.

*Phonics/ Handwriting / Writing* – We use a variety of strategies to teach the children letter names, sounds and formations as part of our Spelling and Writing programme.

- We are doing the Yolanda Soryl Phonics programme in Kakariki
- We practise the formation of letters daily and you can support this with more practice at home.
- When writing children are encouraged to write the dominant sounds they can hear. (Phoneme)

## Mathematics

We use the Numeracy Project to help our children gain an understanding of numbers and a lot of these activities are hands-on. Your child will be learning to identify numbers, count forwards and backwards and use materials to solve problems. They will also enjoy activities that cover Algebra, Statistics, Measurement and Geometry. This is known as Strand Mathematics. We are also completing Lucie Cheeseman's Inquiry approach to Maths this year working in trios.

There are a lot of ways you can support your child's number knowledge at home.

- Counting forwards and backward
- Counting sets of objects
- Number identification
- Card and board games with dice
- Mathematics

## Health and Physical Education

We do 10 minutes of fitness every morning with our shake and wake. Keeping kids active at school is a superb way to increase learning focus.

Term 1- Swimming

Term 2- Cross country, ball skills & skills rotation

Term 3- Ball skills rotation with Year 6 Health & Wellbeing group

Term 4- Athletics

Swimming is compulsory and structured lessons are taken in Term 1. The pool will reopen again in Term 4. There is also supervised swimming at lunchtime when the weather permits. **A swim cap must be worn at all times.**

If your child is unable to participate in any of the physical activities we are doing, please send an email or talk to the teacher in the morning.

## The Arts - Visual Art, Dance, Drama and Music

*Visual Art* - Your child will get to use a variety of mediums to express themselves. Every child works towards an individual piece of art in the Art Exhibition. This is one of the school highlights each year.

*Dance* - There are lunchtime dance sessions taken by older students which the Kakariki children really enjoy. Class and syndicate dances are presented throughout the year at assemblies.

*Drama* - Drama is integrated within the classroom programme.

*Music* - Music is also integrated within the classroom programme. Children are able to take advantage of Musical Jam sessions with Lewis Eady throughout the term. We have syndicate singing each Friday also.

Music Rotation in Term 3

## Te Reo

Te Reo and Tikanga Maori are integrated within all areas of the curriculum. Your child will develop language skills through songs and simple classroom games and instructions.

## The Broader Curriculum

Including:

Pegasus Flier

Play Based Learning

Key Competencies

Playing alongside each other

How to problem solve

How to label and recognise feelings

How to be helpful

How to control their impulses

## Digital Learning

We use a range of online tools in the classroom to enrich your child's learning. Some of these tools we use may be used at home and are able to be downloaded onto a tablet or phone. Please note that some of these applications have a small cost.

<https://volandasoryl.com/primary-phonics/app/> - This app compliments the phonics programme we use in class. It teaches children to hear, read and write each letter of the alphabet in short, fun, 5 minute lessons.

[www.mathseeds.co.nz](http://www.mathseeds.co.nz) - Every child receives a login for this website. This is where they can reinforce number knowledge through games and set activities. Children's log ins are glued in the front cover of their homework book.

## Supporting your child's learning at home

- Lots of reading. This includes your child reading and you reading to your child.
- Board games.
- Everyday Maths (shopping, cooking, counting, setting the table etc.)
- Writing their first and last name with lower case mainly.
- Practice high frequency words as they are sent home.
- Complete reading homework



# General

## Clothing

- Please name every item of clothing.
- Lost property: at school we encourage children to look after their own belongings. If something has been lost then please check the lost property on the mezzanine floor of the hall.
- In Terms 1 and 4 brimmed sunhats **with no straps** are compulsory. Please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school and ensure their clothing covers their shoulders and back.
- Velcro shoes are a good idea until your child is able to tie their own shoelaces. It would be much appreciated if these lessons could take place at home. Footwear needs to be comfortable, practical and safe.
- When your child starts school could you please send along a woman's t-shirt, to be used during Art lessons.

## Health

- Headlice is an ongoing concern. When we have an outbreak, we send a letter home to every child in that class so that they can be checked and treatment carried out if necessary. If your child has head lice please notify the classroom teacher immediately and begin treatment. We encourage all parents to do a thorough check and treat if necessary during the holidays as this is a good time to break the cycle.
- **Could you please supply one large box of tissues** when your child starts school.
- Please ensure that your child is independent in their toileting and are familiar with the school toilets.
- Please talk to your child's teacher if you are concerned about any negative interactions in the classroom or the playground. We have a no tolerance attitude and take this very seriously.

## Break Times

There are always 3 teachers on duty at Morning Tea and Lunch and all areas of the school are covered.

At lunch eating time children sit together with a teacher supervising. They are required to sit for at least 10 minutes. When they have finished eating they put their hand up and the duty teacher will check that they have eaten a reasonable amount before going off to play.

We encourage children to take their rubbish home as this allows parents to see what has been eaten and reduces rubbish in the playground.

**We have children at our school who have SERIOUS nut allergies. We please ask that you refrain from sending nut sandwiches or nut products to school.**

We have systems in place (i.e buddies, friendship bus) so that new children have opportunities to develop friendships and to ensure that playground times are fun.

## Developing Independence

We strongly believe that children starting school should be developing independent habits so that they prepare themselves for increased responsibility during their learning as they move through the school.

You can support this by encouraging your child to hang up their own bags, put their belongings away and sign in for the day. At home time they are responsible for packing up their own belongings.

## Parent Help

We do appreciate help from parents in the classroom. Please chat to your child's teacher to organise a time to come in and help. It is preferable to help without the distraction of younger siblings. There will be occasions when we need parent helpers for class trips and event days.

## Absences and After School Pick-up

If your child is unable to attend school due to sickness or family circumstances, please phone the office and let them know before 8.45am or use the online absence tool on the school website.

- Any child who is not in class on the mat and ready for the roll at 8.50am will be marked absent and a phone call will be made to find out where they are.
- If your child arrives after the roll has been called, they will need to go to the office to collect a late slip. This slip is then given to the classroom teacher.

At the end of the day at 3pm, could you please wait outside and your child will come to you once the bell has rung. It is important to arrange a pick-up routine for your child after school, i.e a particular place to meet or wait.

There is an after-school care programme on site. Please ask the office for the details of this.

**If you are planning a family holiday and you will be away for more than four days, you must email the Principal and apply for leave.**

## School News and Notices

### We have a new parent app. @school

The school push-outs are emailed every Friday and have information about important dates at school. These also contain a weekly update from the Principal.

**Some notices are sent home via the book bag. Please check the bookbag daily to ensure none of these are missed as many of these require an action.**

There is a notice whiteboard in your child's classroom and this has weekly reminders and information. Information will also be added to the new notices board at the top of the stairs.

## Assessment

When your child has been at school a few weeks, we carry out an informal 5 year check to identify what stage they are at so we can design a programme suitable for their needs and strengths. We will send a note home/email asking you to make a time to come in and meet with us to talk through this assessment.

There are student led-conferences throughout the year as well as parent interviews to discuss reports.

We are also available for quick chats before and after school but if it is something that needs to be discussed at length it is best to make an appointment with your child's teacher.

## Payment

The easiest way to pay for activities at school is to pay through the Ponsonby Primary School website. There is a blue school payment button at the bottom of the homepage. Register to create an account for your family - it is very easy and only takes 1 minute to fill in. All Kakariki Activity fees will be found under the Kakariki Syndicate Activity Costs. Click on this, choose what you are paying for and then you can use your credit card to top up your account and pay. This is the same place that you can order Ezi Lunch from.

## Things to Remember

- School bag size
- Stationery list
- Chair bag
- Sneaky Snack, Morning Tea and Lunch
- Drink Bottle
- Named brimmed hat
- House Shirt
- Classroom opens at **8:30am** and be here before **8.45am**
- **There is no 2pm finish.**
- Download the new app as your child starts

## Instagram

We share our learning through our private school account. Please request to follow us so you don't miss out!

**@ponsonbyprimary**



## Contact Details

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(09) 376 3568

[www.ponsprim.school.nz](http://www.ponsprim.school.nz)

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## Notes