

Welcome to Room 1

2021



Communication

We like to communicate as much as possible between home and school. Here are some ways we do this:

Skool Loop

Search for the Skool Loop App in your app store, download and choose Mangatawhiri School. This app allows any school notices to be sent straight to your phone.

Seesaw

This is an online portfolio of your child's learning. It continues throughout your child's time at our school and can be downloaded at any time or when they leave at Year 8. Seesaw is also the way we report on your child's learning so it is very important that you can access this. Please ensure you have the **Seesaw Family** app as this is different to the Seesaw class app.

Weekly Class Emails

We send weekly class emails each Friday. These have some highlights from the week as well as reminders for the week to come. Please let me know if you aren't receiving them.

Weekly Newsletter

Our School Newsletter comes out every Monday. It is your choice on how you wish to receive this - email, access on Skool Loop or School Website. Please make sure you read this.

School Mobile

Mangatawhiri School has a school mobile which you can use to text messages if needed. The number is

0274 980 070.

Questions or Concerns

Please remember that if you have any questions or concerns, always go to your child's home room teacher first. Robyn Davis, robynd@mangatawhirischool.nz the Junior School leader is your next port of call. If we have concerns we will contact you.

Welcome

Welcome to Term 3 in Room 1. I am very excited about the term ahead and have lots of fun and exciting learning planned. Starting school can be a little daunting for children and parents alike as there is so much to learn. If you have any questions, pop in and see me or drop an email. I will be more than happy to answer them.

Cracking the Code

Cracking the Code is the approach we will be using for our reading and writing program this year. In Room 1 we will be focussing a lot of phonological awareness skills such as rhyme, patterns and syllables. There will be a big emphasis on phonemic awareness, where children will work on groups of letters with recognition of the individual letters and the sound/s these letters make when we read. If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to ask.

Home Learning

Children will be bringing home a Home Learning book in their book bags. This will include various types of reading i.e. poems, simple sentences, letter and word work. Please try to read to your child every night and remember to include these in your child's reading log. Your child will also have a notebook which will include the letters and heart words your child is working on when ready.

We endeavour every week to visit the school library so children can explore a range of text. Please pack your child's library bag and books every Tuesday and Friday ready for our visits.

Helping your child

Please continue to encourage your child to become more independent by having them carry their school bags, letting them dress themselves, putting their own shoes on and getting their morning classroom jobs done. This is all part of learning how to manage themselves and it builds children into more independent learners in the long run.

Other things to NOTE - Please:

- have a change of clothes in your child's school bag
- bring a named drink bottle every day
- Practice opening packets and containers at home that will be in their lunchboxes
- bring book bags every day
- name EVERYTHING!



Other Information

- Ice blocks are for sale each day after lunch during term 1 &4 for 50c.
- Cookies can be purchased at morning tea for \$1.
- The school has a bike track. You are welcome to bring your bike and helmet and safe footwear to ride during the day. We have a locked shed that bikes get left in overnight if you would like to leave your bikes at school.



Child's Portfolio

It's great to be able to read your child's portfolio if you have one from ECE days. It's very useful to see what your child has enjoyed over previous experiences and see what I can link to the future.

At Mangatawhiri we use SeeSaw to communicate and show what your child has been learning at school similar to StoryPark or Educa for those who are familiar with those.

Before your child starts

It is very helpful if your child has their stationary before they start school. I have labels for the children's books so they match the boxes where they are stored along with title pages which your child is welcomed to colour in before they start.. I also have a paper feather for your child to colour so they can have a sense of belonging contributing to our class korowai, along with their tote tray label so this can be all organised on their first day.

Tiredness in the first few weeks

Tiredness is very common in the first month of your child starting school, especially if they are not used to being away from you all 5 days a week. Even the children who have been in ECE five days experience a different type of tiredness due to the different routine and experiences. If your child is tired please listen to their cues. Arrange to pick them up early or even have a day off to catch up on some rest. Let me know what's happening at home as I can let you know what's going on in the week and advise on what day would be least impacted. A snack after school in the car or as soon as you get home is a good idea, and remember a toilet stop too. Some children get nervous starting school and forget the basics even with reminders.

I hope you are as excited as I am for the new adventures ahead and I look forward to getting to know everyone more.

:-) Cheryl McKinstry
cherylm@mangatawhiri.school.nz