

Welcome to the Kea Team

(Home Groups 12, 13 & 14)



Tuesday 9th February 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We would like to welcome you and your child to the Kea Team. A warm welcome to our new families joining us, Elijah, Emma, Zoe, Fritz and welcome back, Mia.

We begin the year with the schoolwide theme of *CO-OPERATION* - Ngatahi, (this is one part of our school motto). In the Kea Team we will be developing this theme through being curious, creative, contributing and critical thinkers. The next few weeks will be a time of settling in as we get to know each other, and the children adjust to their new learning spaces and settle into routines. We will do this through various learning experiences to help our tamariki (children) learn what is expected of them.

As the teachers of the Kea Team, we intend to provide the very best learning environment and opportunities for the children. To achieve this we aim to create a happy, caring, warm, and supportive team atmosphere.

The teachers in the Kea Team are:

Home Group 12 (Ohanga): Miss Annette Woodhead / Mrs Susanna Atkinson - Year 2 annettew@sj.school.nz
Home Group 13 (Nest): Mrs Jean Linehan - Year 2 jeanl@sj.school.nz
Home Group 14 (Nest): Mrs Inge Pienaar - Year 2 ingep@sj.school.nz

We will be assisted by Mrs Lisa O'Grady as our Learning Support Assistant, and Mrs Susanna Atkinson will be taking Home Group 12 when Miss Woodhead is released to fulfill her role as Director of Religious Studies.

The Kea Team works collaboratively, this means that your child will get to know, and be taught by all Kea teachers. We will be working in the two spaces The Nest (formally known as the bubble) and Ohanga (formally the library). For the core subjects (reading, writing and maths) we will be using various grouping combinations to cater for your child's learning needs. This means they could be in any of the two learning spaces at any given time.

Morning and Afternoon Routines

- Be at school before the bell goes at **8.50am** for your child to hang up their bags and bring their book bag and drink bottle into the class. Please encourage your child to be independent and let them do these tasks on their own.
 - Hang up bags or put on shelves (HG12). These need to be zipped up at all times
 - Book bags to come in and be put Home Group labelled containers
 - Hats to stay in bags - we recommend the front pocket of bag
 - Notices to teacher - to be given to HG teacher at this stage
 - Water bottles inside for HG 12
- A handbell will ring at 8.45 am, which is a signal for the children to go into the learning spaces, ready to start Prayers at 8.50 am - HG12 will meet in Ohanga and then go down to The Nest to start the day. It is our hope in the future that we will all just gather on the handbell in The Nest.
- On Friday, all of Kea need to be lined up in The Nest when they hear the handbell, for prayers in the hall. If you arrive late on a Friday, please use the hall backdoor and sit at the back behind the other students.
- Learning spaces are not opened before 8.15 am daily. On Tuesday, the spaces will be opened at approximately 8.30 am as the staff are at prayers.
- Lateness can be unsettling for your child, the other children and the teachers.
- Please keep an eye on the Kea Team notices which will be displayed on Learning Space windows.

- We will be ending our day with reflection and prayers together as the Kea Team in the Ohanga.
- As the end of the day can be a little hectic and the children are tired and easily distracted, we ask all parents to wait outside the learning space, away from doors and windows, so that the children can complete their duties and take part in class prayers / reflection without being distracted. *We suggest that the Mary Thomas Learning Centre is a great place to gather.*
- All children will finish school at 2.50 pm after being dismissed from the Ohanga.

Parent Help

Parent/Grandparent help is greatly appreciated, and much needed. Please see your Home Group teacher in regards to this.

- * Sharpening pencils before or after school (Adults only)
- * Putting reading books away (Adults only)
- * Cleaning the tables
- * Typing up writing to be published
- * Listening to children read

Drink bottles

Drink bottles **MUST** be named and contain only water. See note above

Home Learning and Kea Communication

Your child will have a Home Learning Book. In this book you will find your child's reading log for the week and relevant updates and communication from the Kea teachers. Please ensure you read these notices.

Each night your child will bring home a reading book. Beginning readers will need you to sit with them and listen to them read. The children who are independent readers will need questioning work to help them develop a deeper understanding of what they are reading. Remind your child to make their reading sound interesting. Once they have enjoyed the story, ask them to tell you the story in their own words. Most importantly we are developing the child's attitude, '**Reading is fun**'. Please remember to sign the reading log (in your child's Home Learning book) and return the book to school the following day. On a Friday your child will bring home a poem in their Home Learning book that you can read with them. We encourage you to also use 'StepsWeb' (an online spelling support programme) weekly, passwords will be glued inside the front cover of their 'Home Learning' book after we have done a placement assessment - this will be later in term one.

All children will have their password for Mathletics glued inside the front cover of their 'Home Learning' book. This is the same as last year. Please work with your child initially and encourage them to go to the Statistics content as that is what we are covering in school at present. Also try - something easier or something harder. Find the sound button so that they can listen to the problems. Rainforest Maths also has a Statistics section.

Religious Education work will come home at regular intervals with work that needs to be done with family support. Please see that your child completes all work with the reverence it deserves. It is important that this work is returned the next day. Work must be completed using HB pencils for written work and coloured pencils **only** for illustrations (**no felt pens or crayons**). Information on the strands and comment ideas can be found on the Family/whanau site <http://www.faithalive.org.nz/families/>

Library

This year we will be visiting the library once a week to choose a new book. Our library day is yet to be confirmed. Once it is confirmed we will let you know via our Home Learning Sheet.

Uniforms

Please ensure that sandals, shoes, sun hats, school vests, lunch boxes and drink bottles are all **clearly named**. Lost property increases daily and if items are not named they cannot be returned to the rightful owners. There will be a Lost Property box inside the Kea Nest door.

During Terms 1 & 4, we require all students to be wearing a **school sunhat** (No hat, No play), and strongly suggest all students have a roll on sunblock in their bags, as well as on their skin.

Packing **spare underwear and shorts/ pants/ skirt** in a plastic bag that can be kept in their school bag in case of an accident, is advised. Even if your child is not prone to toileting accidents, settling into school can give rise to the odd accident.

Girls' hair needs to be tied up if it is past their shoulders with either a red, blue or black simple hair tie.

Miscellaneous

It would be appreciated if each child could bring a **box of tissues** to school for use in the learning space during the year.

Book Club Orders: Scholastic book club information is sent home throughout the year. Parents can order from these if you wish. Send the money and order to **Mrs Linehan HG 13** in a named envelope or order online please.

Birthdays: We value the children's birthdays but ask that you do not send in cakes or other goody bags as we have children in our team who have severe allergies to particular food items. We also ask that children hand out party invitations either before or after school as children feel left out when they are not invited.

Lunch orders are available on certain days of the week. See school website for ordering lunches.

Communication:

Important dates and events are on the school calendar on the school website, www.sj.school.nz. All newsletter alerts, notices, teacher and team emails are sent to the parent email address on the school records. If you have any questions or concerns during the year please communicate them with the home group teacher as we will be able to help answer your questions and clarify any confusions immediately. The best way to address any concerns is to arrange an appointment with the teacher either through the office or with the teacher directly. Mornings are usually busy, so arranging a time ensures that you have our undivided attention.

Welcome back to a new term of learning in Kea using the theme of:

Co-Operation - Ngatahi

Here is some of the learning we will be encountering in the first few weeks of Term 1...

<p>Religious Education: <u>Strands:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer • Jesus <p><u>Liturgical Year:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week • Easter <p>Reminder all whanau are invited to Monday team prayers and celebration of learning in The Nest and school prayers in the hall on Fridays.</p>	<p>Maths: Topics to be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number knowledge including addition and subtraction • Statistics <p>Please help your child to complete the Mathletics activities for these topics as this will support their school learning. Passwords will be in the front of their home learning book.</p>
<p>Writing Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal recounts with a focus on writing sentences correctly - capital letters and punctuation • Phonics - alphabet sounds, consonants and vowels, blends 	<p>Reading Focus: Reading strategies we are going to be working this term include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading routine - read to self, read to buddy - building reading mileage, book manners • activating prior knowledge and making connections • predicting • self monitoring <p>Reading takes many different forms and over the term we will be exploring some of these, e.g reading a picture, reading signs, songs, poems</p>
<p>Inquiry: Co-Operation</p> <p>Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaty of Waitangi - re-enacting the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, raising the New Zealand flag and learning how it incorporates the Union Jack 	

<p>and the Southern Cross. Making a Team Korowai and signing a Team Treaty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a co-operative community - team building, routines <p>Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology - How and where animals live. How they live in a co-operative community. 	
<p>Physical Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate and contribute in a range of co-operative team building games • Health - with a focus on Growth Mindset (taking a risk and giving something a go) 	<p>Key Competencies:</p> <p>During prayer and our programmes we have an emphasis on developing the School Values and our School Motto.</p> <p>What will these look like and sound like for the Kea children?</p>

Some dates to put in your diary:

<p>Week 1 - February Waitangi Day Valentines Day - 14th February Football Promo</p>	<p>Week 2 - February Shrove Tuesday - 16th February Ash Wednesday - 17th February School picnic - 19th February</p>
<p>Week 3 - February NZ Opera Visit</p>	<p>Week 5 - March</p>
<p>Week 8 - March Kea Sharing the Learning Date TBC Holy Week Liturgy Good Friday - 2nd of April</p>	<p>Week 9 - March Easter Monday - 5th April and Tuesday - 6th April Shore to Shore</p>

* Look at for further dates on the school calendar and weekly Home Learning sheet.

Beach ED Kea Team TBC date and place

As always you are welcome to be part of our class programmes and prayer.
Ngā mihi,

Yours sincerely,
Kea Team Teachers
Annette, Jean, Inge and Susanna