

**February 2019  
Falcon  
Term I Newsletter**

Tena koutou katoa  
Hello Everyone

The Team Falcon teachers would like to welcome back everyone for another exciting and busy school year. A special and warm welcome to Windy Ridge School, for our new families.

**Beginning of the year**

We are looking forward to getting to know your child better. Most likely, your child is eager to reunite with and make new friends. We will be using your child's previous learning/testing to help place them into different learning groups. Over the first couple of weeks we will be observing children in these groups; if your child has moved throughout the summer break, we will endeavor to place your child in the most appropriate group as soon as possible.

**Arrival in the Morning**

The school grounds are open to children from 8:30am. At this point, they are welcome to come into class and get ready for the day, and catch up with their friends. We also welcome and encourage parents to come in and have a chat with us or have a look at your child's current learning. If you have any questions or concerns that might take more than a few moments, please ensure you email your teacher to make an appointment outside of school time. Our school day officially starts at 8:55am. At this time, we do the roll and expect all children to be in their classrooms ready to learn. If your child arrives later than 8:55am, they must first report to the school office and collect a late slip before coming into the classroom.

**Friday Morning**

Please note that on Friday mornings, all Windy Ridge teachers are in a meeting. These can run past 8:30am, so please be mindful when planning your drop off routine for your child on that day as teachers may not be in class from 8:30am.

**End of the Day**

At the end of the day there are often important messages and many things to organise. Please help your child to focus by waiting for them away from the doors and windows of the classroom. If for any reason you will be late collecting your child please phone the office.

**School Assemblies**

Windy Ridge runs school wide assemblies each fortnight on a Friday. These include opportunities for the children to share their learning and celebrate their successes. All whanau are welcome to attend these assemblies which begin at 9:45am in the school hall.

**Hats and Sunscreen**

Children must have a brimmed sun hat at school in Terms 1 and 4. Hats must be worn at Morning Tea and Lunchtimes. Children without hats will be asked to stay in the shade, so will miss out on playing in the grounds.

Please apply sunscreen to your child before school. We also ask that you have a spare change of clothes in your child's bag as they often play with paint, water and other messy material. Also please try to name all clothes and shoes especially items often taken off throughout the school day.



**Lunchboxes and Drink bottles**

While the school does have drinking taps, we highly encourage children to bring their own **named** water bottle to school each day, so they do not have to leave the class every time they are thirsty. Our school is an enviro school, and so we encourage you as much as possible to send a litterless lunch. This can be done by having reusable containers for your child's snacks and sandwiches. Any rubbish will be sent back with your child in their lunch box.

**Communication**

**SeeSaw**

Seesaw is one way that we share your child's learning with you. It is a digital portfolio of some examples of your child's work. More information on this will be available in the coming weeks.

Please feel free to contact us if there is a question or situation you would like to discuss. Open lines of communication between the parent, learner and teachers are vital to us and help us in promoting a positive learning experience for everyone. If the matter requires more time we recommend making an appointment. **The Whanau teacher will always be the first port of call.**

**Loose Parts and other donations**

Our children love to create, so any donations of cardboard, milk bottle tops, dress ups, playdough toys, old kitchen utensils, screwdrivers and other tinkering tools etc would be greatly appreciated, as well as any other toys or craft items that you may have and no longer require.

Another way you can help is if you have spare time in the week and would like to join us in our learning hub please speak to one of the teachers. We would appreciate your time and support. We are looking forward to working with you and your child.

## Learning in Team Falcon

### Values and NZ Key Competencies

#### The Vision of the New Zealand Curriculum:

Young people who will be confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners.

Windy Ridge School promotes Positive Behaviour for Learning. We use these values to guide the behaviour of our students throughout the day. We also include our National Curriculum Key Competencies throughout our daily programme.

Our Values are	NZ Key Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect</li> <li>• Kindness</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking</li> <li>• Using language symbols and text</li> <li>• Managing self</li> <li>• Relating to others</li> <li>• Participating and contribution</li> </ul>

### Play Based Learning

**PBL** - Play-Based, Passion-Based, and Project-Based are some of the different ways we can name our style of teaching. We believe children must be entrusted and empowered to lead their own learning journey while the teacher works alongside to help deepen, extend and support the child.

We know that each child comes to school with a unique set of interests, strengths and learning needs. This is why we do not expect to create one set plan for all children to follow in our school programme.

Your child will be involved in small teacher-led literacy and numeracy workshops each week which are specifically targeted to your child's next learning steps. They will also have opportunities to explore and inquire a variety of other subjects which sit inside of our New Zealand Curriculum.

*"Do not keep children to their studies by compulsion but by play."* -Plato

*"Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn."* - O. Fred Donaldson

*"Those who play rarely become brittle in the face of stress or lose the healing capacity for humor."* -Stuart Brown, MD



### Term Events:

Meet the Team night will take place on February 20th from 6-7 pm with a formal presentation at 6:30 pm. This will be an opportunity to introduce yourself to your child's teacher and find out more about your child's year ahead.

We will have swimming lessons for those year 3 children who missed out in 2018 due to the Glenfield Leisure Centre renovations.

### Home Learning

This year we will be implementing a home learning programme which you can adapt to suit the needs and schedule of your child and family. We have identified a number of tasks and activities which your child can undertake independently throughout the week. Each of these tasks is worth a point. When your child has completed 5 points, your child will receive 1 Dojo point. We use Dojo points at Windy Ridge School to acknowledge when children work towards and demonstrate our School Values and our Learning Profile qualities. Some of the activities in our Home Learning Programme include:

- Time on Athletics or Reading Eggs
- Time reading at home
- Service to the family or community ( laundry, set the table, helping neighbours etc)
- After school activities ( sports or arts lessons/practice etc)
- Independent inquiry at home

Your Falcon Teachers,

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