

Team Tui Newsletter

Term 1
2019



Welcome

Tena Koutou families. We are delighted to be back on board, feeling energised and refreshed after a wonderful summer break. Likewise, we hope you also had a lovely summer spending time together with family and friends. We would like to welcome you all to Team Tui and look forward to meeting and working with our families during the year.

Beginning of the Year

We have had a great first week of school with the students excited to be back with their friends, and meeting their teachers and peers. At the beginning of the year, it is important that we take the time to get to know each other, develop relationships and also spend time learning about expectations. Therefore, before we get started with our regular learning programme, we will spend a couple of weeks with our home class preparing and getting ready for a great year.

Stationery and Belongings

We appreciate and thank you in advance for the time you have taken to prepare your child for school by ensuring they have their stationery and necessary belongings. If you have yet to purchase stationery, a list is available from the school office, or online at Eeny Meeny (www.schoolpacks.co.nz). Can you please ensure that clothing and belongings are named.

Sun Safety

Hats are compulsory in Term 1 and we also encourage students to apply sunscreen either at home or when they arrive at school. Sunscreen is available in the classrooms. Students without hats will be asked to play in shady areas of the school. We ask that students bring a named water bottle to stay hydrated during the day.

Leadership & Monitors

There are many opportunities for leadership in Team Tui as Prefects, House Captains, Enviro, Travelwise, Gardening, Reporters and School Monitors. Students have put forward their preferred choices for monitors and selections will be completed before the end of week 2.

Dates to Remember

- 7 - 14 Feb - Life Education
- 20 Feb - Meet the Team Evening
- 15 Feb - Team Tui sharing at our School Assembly 9.45am start
- 8 Feb, 20 Feb, 15 March, 22 March - Families in the Parks
- 13 & 14 Mar EOTC Tiritiri Matangi
- 19 & 20 Mar EOTC Long Bay
- 12 April - End of Term

Communication

Open communication and partnership in learning is important to us. We welcome you to be involved and active in communicating with us about your child's learning and well-being. Contacting your child's homeclass teacher in the first instance is encouraged either by email or personal contact.

Seesaw

Seesaw is currently being updated for the new teams. Once the roll-over is complete, you will be able to access your child's journal by Smartphone or computer and keep up to date with what is happening at school.

Curriculum

Collaboration

In Team Tui we will be working collaboratively together in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry. As well as these key curriculum areas, we work as a team for fitness, sport, and singing. There are many benefits and advantages to working with a variety of peers and teachers, sharing strengths and engaging in learning in a variety of contexts.



Student Agency

We have a strong vision for our learners to become increasingly independent and responsible for their own learning. We want them to have the skills and attitudes to make good choices that support them to learn and achieve goals. Our goal is for students to work well independently and with others. Student agency will look different from student to student and encompasses the growing ability to self manage, self assess and set goals

Literacy

Reading, Writing and Spelling are part of our daily programme. Students are grouped by reading age and along with regular teacher time, they will have independent learning activities which include comprehension, spelling and literacy development.

Numeracy

Our goal is to promote positive attitudes in Mathematics and we aim for all students to become confident and successful in learners. We want students to see this learning area as meaningful, relevant and integrated into their everyday lives. For teaching, students will be grouped according to their strategy stage for Numeracy. They will attend teaching workshops specific to their learning needs as well as completing follow up learning and independent tasks.

Inquiry

Learning through Inquiry is a big part of our programme in Team Tui. Using our STEPs Inquiry process, students learn to ask BIG questions to explore and deepen their understanding of the world. This is one of the students favourite learning areas in which they get to work collaboratively with high levels of student agency.

Other Curriculum Areas

Physical Education, Science & Technology, and The Arts are hugely important and will be a regular part of our programme. These areas are often integrated and we also encourage students to look for ways to make them part of their learning. This year, we are very lucky to have Mrs Lewis teaching Music in our team, sharing her wonderful talents and expertise with the students.

Home Learning

The best thing that you can do to support your child's learning at home is to promote it in a fun and meaningful way. We encourage the following

- Regular reading (let your child choose) a book/comic/magazine etc OR or use technology; Books online, Kindle, Reading Eggs (as long as it's fun!)
- Practise of basic facts including learning the time tables (get the whole family involved and support each other)
- Writing for meaning, e.g. diary entries, a journal, narratives, entering competitions etc

There are many things that you can do with your child to promote learning and have fun at the same time e.g: baking, playing games & sports, books online, doing quizzes, visiting the library, going for walks, exploring new places, Talk and spend time together.

Our School Values

- Respect
- Kindness
- Integrity
- Resilience

NZ Curriculum Key Competencies

- Thinking
- Using language symbols and text
- Managing self
- Relating to others
- Participating and contributing

The Windy Ridge Active Learner Profile

We are:

- Active Learners
- Collaborative
- Creative & Critical
- Digitally Fluent
- Engaged Citizens



Team Tui Teachers

Jane Brown (Team Leader) Room 14

jbrown@windyridge.school.nz

Amanda Hurley Room 15

ahurley@windyridge.school.nz

Heidi Fegan Room 13

hfeagan@windyridge.school.nz

An additional message from Miss Hurley about Family Science Workshops

We will be taking a break from Family Science Workshops during Terms 1 and 2 this year. Ashleigh Fox and her team, along with Sue Ogden and myself, will be using this time to develop a series of Robotics workshops which we plan to pilot at our school in Term 3. The Robotics workshops will consist of five evening sessions and cater for 8 students. So while we will miss having these science workshops at our school in the first two terms we are really looking forward to being able to introduce something new later in the year. Our long term plan will be to alternate the original science workshops with the robotics workshops on a term-by-term basis.

