



Papakowhai School

Learning Together



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PAPAKOWHAI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 5 ● Term 1 ● 27 February 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers

HOMEWORK

Homework is a hot topic for parents. Some really value the school setting homework and other parents would prefer to not have school set homework tasks. Currently we have about a third of students who do homework well, a third who do some of it some of the time and a third who do not engage with homework. We know that some children enjoy doing homework and are happy to do it and for some families it is a battle.

Teachers do not want homework to compromise the relationships they are building with students and parents. We do not want to shame children for not doing homework or have punishments for not doing homework. I recognise however that we do need to acknowledge and celebrate when homework is done because we do not want to give the impression that we don't care if homework is done or not. We also know that children who do read regularly at home make progress ahead of their peers who do not. Teachers also see value in children who practice basic facts at home.

The Board of Trustees is reviewing our homework policy and we would like to receive your feedback. **This is the current policy:**

HOMEWORK PROCEDURE

KEY PRINCIPLE

Homework should supplement classroom learning and give teachers an opportunity to establish positive learning links with the home.

GUIDELINES

1. It is expected that all children at Papakowhai School will complete homework each week.
2. Parents should notify the teacher if their child is unable to complete homework.
3. No child should be required to work longer than 30 minutes daily on homework.
4. Teachers will be responsible for setting the homework and for checking that it has been completed. If there is no homework set for a particular week, teachers should notify parents in writing.
5. If children do not complete their homework teachers will communicate this with the parents. There will be no other consequence or requirement to complete homework during break times.
6. Regular reading at home is the main activity for homework.

Students in Years 0 -2 will:

- Read for 10-15 minutes, 4-5 times per week.
- Have the option to do Reading Eggs (Y1) and Mathletics (Y2) or spelling at home.

Students in Years 3 - 6 will:

- Have 20 minutes of homework 4-5 times per week.
- The focus is on reading, spelling, basic facts and Mathletics.

Students in Years 7-8 will:

- Have 30 minutes of daily reading, spelling and Mathletics homework, 4 -5 times per week.
- Sometimes there may be topic work related to the classroom programme.
- Children are encouraged to participate in the book review challenge

Senior staff have discussed making the new expectation the same for all students:

- Read for 10-30 minutes, 4-5 times per week and keep a reading log that is checked by the teacher. This could be reading silently, reading to an adult, or being read to. The reading log will be checked by the teacher at least fortnightly.

- Have optional activities including:
 - Online learning such as Mathletics and Reading Eggs
 - Basic facts
 - Homebased learning tasks

I am keen to receive your feedback on this matter. Please email mark@papakowhai.school.nz by Friday 8th March.

Mark Smith
Principal
mark@papakowhai.school.nz

PAID UNION MEETING – WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH

We have had notification of a teachers paid union meeting which will be held on Wednesday 20 March at 1.30 pm. As there will not be enough adult supervision at school to look after all the students, we would like as many children as possible to finish school at 1 pm on that day. A notice has come home with your eldest child today with full details. There is a permission slip to return to the office **if you would like your child/ren to finish school early** (there is no need to return the form if your child will be staying until 3 pm or going on to After School Care).

HOME AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Triathlon will be taking place on Sunday, 3 March. Even if your child has not entered we would love for you to come along and cheer on their friends and maybe buy a sausage or two! It should be a great morning (from 10.30 am until approx. 12.30 pm).



Papakowhai School hoodies and hats are available; we have hats at the office which can be purchased directly for \$22 each. **The hoodies need to be ordered. Orders for this term close this week.** We have sample sizes and order forms at the office. Hoodies are priced at \$55 each. Please ensure all Papakowhai School hats and hoodies are clearly named as it is impossible to return lost items otherwise.

SAVE THE DATE - The popular Ladies Clothing Grab is back on Friday 5th April at 7.30pm. More information about when to drop off your lightly used clothing and ticket sales to come.

MATAI - READING EGGS

If your child is in Matai syndicate you will have received a notice advising that the subscription to Reading Eggs was omitted from the school charges. The cost of this is \$22 (or if you have already paid the Hapara fee then we only need \$15).

This can be paid into the school bank account 12-3140-0133108-01. Please reference with your name and reading eggs. Thank you.

CAMP PAYMENTS FOR YEAR 7 AND 8'S

A reminder that all camp payments should be completed by the end of this week.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS

The book orders were handed out on Monday. If you asked for your order to be handled as a gift it is at the office for collection.

ATTENTION STUDENTS IN YEARS 5-8

An "Interest Meeting" for Future Problem Solving (FPS) will be held on Friday, 1st March, during lunchtime, in Totara 2. Please bring your lunch to eat while we begin to discuss this year's first topic: Surviving on the Moon, Mars & Beyond!

MARCH IS COMING – LET'S GET MOVIN'!

Make the most of the beautiful weather and encourage your child to Walk or Wheel to and from school. Explore the website www.movinmarch.com, for tips on how to build active travel into your daily routine AND there are great prizes up for grabs!

Why Movin' March?

Not only does walking or wheeling to school reduce congestion and chaos at the school gate, it also provides an

opportunity to slow down and get in some quality time with our tamariki. Walking or wheeling to school, solo or with friends, can be a real confidence boost. And, as one parent put it last year, the fresh air and exercise before school helps 'get the wiggles out!'

How to make it work for your whanau

Establishing active travel routines can be a challenge for some families. The Active Schools' Toolkit

www.movinmarch.com/toolkit is a great way to find some pro tips on how to get around the common barriers:

- **Park & Stride and Walking Pou** schemes create drop-off points (marked by poles – pou) so parents can safely allow their children to walk or scoot the last few metres to school.
- **Super Safe Strider** is a checklist for families to make sure children have the skills they need to walk to school safely. Families can also use the Map My Journey activity to plan a safe route to school.
- **Walking School Buses**
www.education.nzta.govt.nz/teacher-resources/school-community-partnerships/walking-school-bus The walking school bus builds community and teaches children important road safety skills ready for walking independently as they get older.

ST THERESA'S SCHOOL CARNIVAL

St Theresa's school are holding their annual carnival on Saturday 16 March from 10 am – 2 pm.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER FOR THE SCHOOL?

NZSTA (New Zealand School Trustees Association) are holding a Kōrari event on Thursday 7 March, from 6-7.30 pm, at Aotea College Library. This community hui will incorporate information about what is involved in being on a school board and there will be the opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

The 19th annual Photo Competition run by the Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet (GOPI) is now under way.

A free 3-hour photography workshop for anyone under the age of 18 is being offered on Sunday 10th March.

Registration is essential as, for practical reasons, participation numbers will to be limited to 20. You will find the registration form on the website www.gopi.org.nz. All the participants need is a camera they are familiar with, a bottle of water and appropriate clothes (it can be muddy in the reserve). Please meet at Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve cottage at 4.30pm.

SPEECH AND DRAMA LESSONS

All ages; group and individual lessons in drama, public speaking and general speech quality. Trinity College London exam tutoring and competition entry available on request. For more information, please contact Elisabeth Minards-Black at eminardsblack@gmail.com

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH Movin'March runs from 1- 29th March

Sunday 3	Kids Triathlon at school
Monday 11- Friday 15 inc	Year 7 & 8 students on camp
Wednesday 20	Teachers Paid Union meeting – school finishes at 1 pm. Children that cannot be collected early will be supervised until 3pm/ASC
Thursday 21	School picnic at Aotea Lagoon