



Adventure School

Kōwhai Newsletter

Term 1, 2023

Kia ora and welcome back to school!

Tania, Nadine and I have had a great start to the Term! We are taking the time now to get to know our new tamariki and for them to get to know us.

The first few weeks are about establishing routines in each classroom, and beginning to establish the routines and expectations of our three-class collaboration. Once established, our collaboration will run from 10.50am-1pm every day of the week. During this time, we will have one teacher in the Play, while the other two teachers are teaching small literacy or mathematics groups in a quiet space. Teaching and learning in this way means that we are able to keep learning groups smaller and be more targeted to individual goals. It also means that we always have kaiako available to tamariki during Learning Through Play sessions to provide social and emotional coaching, grow the Adventure Way traits and build New Zealand Curriculum Knowledge in tamariki.

Note: We were very much looking forward to seeing you at our Meet and Greet evening on Thursday this week, but as Rebecca and Nadine are away with Covid, we will need to reschedule. We will come back to you with an alternative date soon.

Roll Growth

Our Room 8, 9 and 12 classes are filling up quickly, and we are incredibly lucky to have Di Henzell join us again in Term 2 to start a roll growth class made up of Year 0 and 1 children. In the coming weeks, there will be a small number of children starting in Room 8, 9 and 12 who will move through to Di's class at the start of Term 2. This allows us to maintain lower numbers in all our classes.

Some of you may recall that Di started a roll growth class last year in Term 3, and she comes to us with many years experience. Di will be running preschool sessions this term. We are looking forward to having her back in Kowhai Syndicate.

If you know anyone who is intending to send their child to Adventure School this year (April through to December) and they have not enrolled, please encourage them to contact the school immediately. office@adventure.school.nz

Year 0/1 Teachers



Whaea Tania - Room 8 Classroom Teacher

Hello! Some children will know me as Mrs Bailey as this is what I was known as in 2022. This year I have decided that I will be known as Whaea Tania.

I am an experienced teacher and have been teaching for over 13 years. I have taught in seven schools in that time. I have taught predominantly in the junior syndicate in the last 6 years but have taught every year group from Yr 0-1. I have two children that attend Adventure School - Cole (Yr 5) and Fern (Yr 2). This will be my third year teaching here with my children. I am looking forward to a fun and rewarding year with your tamariki.

Nadine Amorangi - Room 9 Classroom Teacher

Kia ora whānau. I've been a teacher for over 20 years. I have taught at all levels of the school but think I've found my niche with Year 0/1 children. I am Mum to Peyton (15) who attends Aotea College and Belle (Year 7) who is at Adventure School. I live locally in Whitby and will no doubt see you out and about. I love living in Whitby as it has such a community vibe! My husband, Travis works in Health and Safety for the NZDF in Trentham. I have two fur babies - Java , our 4 month old 'new addition' puppy and Percy, our grumpy black cat!

Di Henzell - Room 10 Classroom Teacher

I am Primary and Early Childhood teacher trained, starting off my 23 year career in an English primary school. I have spent many years teaching 3-6 year olds in a local Montessori school and more recently as a New Entrant teacher at Adventure School. I particularly enjoy working with the vibrant team of Kowhai Syndicate teachers and building relationships with the lovely children of Adventure School. I look forward to teaching your children from the beginning of term 2.

I have three grown up daughters who all thrived while attending Adventure School and are now making valuable contributions to society. I have two grandchildren, and one on the way!

Rebecca St Clair - Room 12 Classroom Teacher - Year 0/1 Kowhai Syndicate Leader

I have been teaching for 14 years, and have taught from Years 0 to 6. The majority of my teaching experience has been in the junior school and I feel I am at home here! Outside of teaching, my husband Charlie is an IT consultant. I have two boys; Xavier is 9 and Bastien is 5. Xavier is in Rimu Syndicate and Bastien has just started at Adventure School in Mrs Amorangi's class.

As the Year 0/1 Syndicate Leader, I am released some weeks on a Thursday so that I can concentrate on syndicate tasks. We are very lucky to have Ms Georgia teaching in Room 12 on these days.

Georgia Vaughan - Room 12 Release Teacher

I've been a teacher for 24 years. I started out as an art teacher at secondary school (which I loved). I retrained as a primary teacher when my son, Seb, was a toddler (so I could work part-time while he was growing up - he's 18 now!). Adventure School was the first primary school I worked at. I've been teaching Year 1 and 2 for the last 7 years (they're wonderful).

I've recently moved from Karori to Paekakariki - along with David (my husband), Seb and 2 dogs (Moussa and Scout). I'm a mad keen gardener and writer (one of these days I'll finish the novel I'm working on). My nephew Alex is a Year 7 at Adventure. I love being back at Adventure. The Kowhai team are a super fun and friendly bunch and have made me feel very welcome.



Vanessa Clark - Kowhai Release Teacher

Hi my name is Vanessa Clark and I love being a teacher! I've taught at Adventure School for over 15 years, where the kids are awesome! My favourite subject to teach is Art, but I also love to bake - usually with my two older daughters! I love singing and I'm currently learning the ukelele. Come and say hello to me; can't wait to meet you!!



Things To Know...

Reporting to Parents

If your child is a New Entrant and has started school this year, they will be having a School Entry Interview after approximately 7 weeks of school. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you in the coming weeks to set a date and time for these. For children who started in 2022, we will be holding Learning Conversations in Term 2.

Parent Helpers:

We are on the lookout for parents to help with a number of things in Kowhai. This may involve learning support, or odd tasks. Please contact Rebecca if you think you may be able to help. rstclair@adventure.school.nz

Shared Consumables:

Items such as pencils, student whiteboard pens, craft items and glue sticks are part of your child's shared consumable donation. This donation is \$10 per term and allows us to remain fully stocked with items children use everyday. The office will send out information as to how you can make your donation.

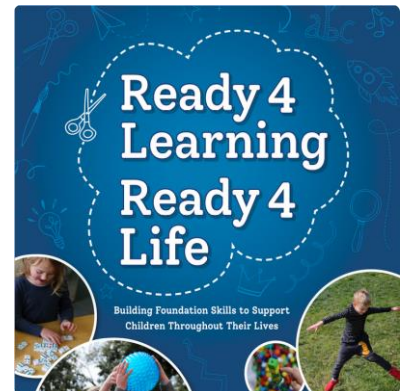


We are excited to announce that we have purchased Reading Eggs subscriptions for our Year 1 students for 2023. We were able to do this with the whānau ICT donations.

We have a small number of headphones at school that children can use, however if you would like your child to use their own headphones, please send a named pair into school.

Foundation Skills - Movement

Quite often both preschool teachers and primary teachers are asked: what can I do to help my child be "ready for school". Of course, we take every child from wherever they are when they start school. Recently the Kowhai team read the book; Ready 4 Learning - Ready 4 Life by Vince Ford, Andrea Ford and Carolynne Masson, who are New Zealand authors. According to these authors, there are 5 areas of foundation skills; movement, seeing, speaking, hearing and print concepts, though they are often called different things in different books/research.



Though Learning Through Play supports the growth of children's movement skills, it is important for children to have these skills prior to attending school.

We wanted to take this opportunity to share a small snippet from this book as we thought it could be helpful to support building the movement foundation skill.

"Encourage physical movement and risk-taking, get children making huts, climbing trees and rocks, and swinging and hanging on the monkey bars. Challenge them on walking beams and practice marching, skipping and running. The only motor skill you'll encounter in front of a screen is swiping".

If you would like to learn or find out more about how you can support your child with their movement foundation skills, please get in touch with Nadine, Tania or I.

The above-mentioned book is available online at the [Ready 4 Learning](https://www.ready4learning.co.nz/) website.

Thank you for your support,

Tania Bailey, Nadine Amorangi, Di Henzell and Rebecca St. Clair