



February 2021

Kia ora Kowhai Pod Whanau

Welcome to a brand new year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed and excited to be back. We are really looking forward to catching up with everyone and excited to be sharing 2021 with you.

Kowhai Pod teaching staff and contact details for 2021:

Liz Martindale, homeroom - Ruma Wha (Rm4), Pod leader lmartindale@cdps.school.nz

Jodi Mistry, homeroom - Ruma Wha (Rm4), jmistry@cdps.school.nz

Erin Davies, homeroom - Ruma Rima (RM5), edavies@cdps.school.nz

Sarah Young, homeroom - Ruma Ono (Rm6), syoung@cdps.school.nz

Schiehallion Mckelvie, homeroom - Ruma Whetu (Rm7), smckelvie@cdps.school.nz

We welcome Sarah, Schiehallion and Jodi to our Junior Pod teaching staff this year. Jodi returns part-time to release Liz on Thursdays and Fridays so she can work in our Kahui Ako (across schools in the Northern Zone). Sarah has moved from the middle pod to work with our Y2 learners. Schiehallion comes to us from Karori Normal and will also be teaching some of our Y2s. Together with Erin and Liz, who will work with our Y1s, we have a wealth of experience and a variety of interests that will create a rich tapestry to support and encourage student enthusiasm for learning this year.



Looking at the term ahead

Parent meet the teacher night: Our parents evening next week, **Wednesday 10th February** is an opportunity to hear about our programme, ask questions and look around the learning spaces. We will be meeting in Ruma Wha, 6pm - 6:25pm. You are also welcome to go to the hall to meet with our principal, Justin Potter who will be running a session from 6:00 - 6:30pm and then a repeat session 6:30 - 7:00pm.

Swimming Week 2 - Week 5: All of Kowhai Pod will be going to Karori Pool for swimming lessons Monday and Wednesday. This trip will be combined with visiting the Karori Library and PE sessions at Ben Burn Park.

Sunsmart - term one we all need sunscreen and sun hats.

Powhiri to welcome for new families - this will be in week 6: Friday 12th March, 9-10am.

Classroom programmes in Term 1

We use a collaborative teaching and learning style across CDPS. In Kowhai Pod we have four homegroups to start our day. We work in our homegroups but also do parts of our learning working in

mixed groups across the Pod. Some of these groups will be student selected and some will be teacher directed.

Our day is broken into three main learning blocks: discovery space (play-based learning), literacy, numeracy. Our overall timetable will look like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:00	Arrive: morning routine - hanging up bags, greeting friends & playing outdoors or within homerooms				
9:00 - 9:15	Homegroup spaces for registration, greetings / karakia				
9:15 - 10:35	Kowhai Pod Discovery Space - working in student selected, social groups across the Pod				
10:35 - 11:15	Morning Break				
11:15 - 12:55	Literacy: small group instruction with related activities to consolidate learning. Work in this block includes: links with inquiry, visits to the library, developing oral language, P4C, reading and writing.				
12:50 - 1:30	Lunch Break				
1:30 - 3:00	Maths - small group instruction with related activities to consolidate learning. PE / Art / Jump Jam / whole school activities / assemblies				

This term we have four separate learning spaces to work in. Your child will work in one or more of these spaces during the week. Students will have a consistent person for each learning area i.e. the same teacher for literacy workshops and maths workshops. We work in small group workshops to target specific learning needs and keep teaching groups as small as possible.

Inquiry Theme: This year our inquiry work stems from the concept of Tūrangawaewae: understanding where I 'stand' - where we feel confident, where we feel we belong and feel respected / valued. For the first few weeks we are looking at getting to know each other better by sharing about ourselves and our families.

Maths: This term our learning is around the use of whole numbers, addition & subtraction, problem-solving, statistics, and measurement. You can support your child by talking about months of the year / birthday dates, playing board games, dominoes, card games, counting songs including patterns of counting in 2's 5's 10's, talking about 'personal' measurements eg how tall they are / how much they weigh. We will also be working hard at building quick recall of number pairs for 5, 10, 20 (eg 3 & 2, 1 & 4, 5 & 0 etc).

Literacy: Some of our lessons this term will be integrated with our inquiry theme. They will continue to build skills to write effectively for a variety of contexts and purposes in order to create meaning for themselves or others. This may involve creating things like: diagrams with labels, posters with captions, simple statements sharing an opinion or a fact they have discovered. It may be a recount of a personal experience. Guided reading will continue to support students to increase their knowledge of strategies to decode text effectively but also explore texts to gain a deeper understanding of what is being read. We will be looking at ways to find and use information sources to answer questions.

It will really help your child if together you read / talk about the group readers, poems and library books from school, visit the public library and enjoy books you have at home. Helpful writing opportunities such as notes, lists, creating comic scripts, letters / cards /notes, composing and sending email will support progress in recording ideas.



School library

Visits to the school library will take place with your child's literacy teacher and happen weekly:

Thursday: Room 6 & 7

Friday: Room 4 & 5

Children may borrow a maximum of two books per week. Books can be borrowed for two weeks. Please notify your child's literacy teacher or the library, if a book becomes lost or damaged so that your child can continue to use the library resources.

Te Ao Māori: Te Ao Māori will continue to be an integrated part of our classroom programme with language learning incorporated throughout the week. We also have specific Te Reo sessions with Fiona Maddever and Junior Kapa Haka with Hemi Prime on a weekly basis.

KiVa: CDPS is a KiVa school. KiVa is an anti bullying programme developed in Finland. It offers a wide range of concrete tools and materials for schools to tackle bullying. We have a very caring learning environment at CDPS. KiVa is an effective tool to help maintain and nurture our inclusive culture. You can find out more about the programme here: <https://www.kivaprogram.net>

Wheel Wednesdays: Students may bring their scooter, skateboard or roller skates / blades to ride on the back court during lunchtime. Safety gear is required to be worn in order to participate.

Clothing:

- Sunhats are needed daily this term - children with no hat will be asked to play under the balcony cover.
- During learning sessions we do water play, mud play and use the sandpit. All students need a spare change of clothing in their bag in case it is needed. If your child has had a recent growth spurt and you have spare items of clothing - donating them to the office would be really appreciated.
- At times, we will be outdoors in light showers - your child needs to have a raincoat to wear.



Food:

- **Drink bottles** are essential as our water fountains are not in use. These need to be taken home and washed regularly.
- **Allergies** - as a school we do not currently have rules banning particular food types however please be aware that we do have several children who have very severe nut allergies including walnuts and peanuts. Please remind your child that because of this, it is kinder **not** to share food with friends.
- **Sausage sizzle and sushi** – Please check the school website for these dates. Order sheets will be in your child's homeroom. Orders need to be filled out before 8:55am when they are sent to the office. We don't currently cater for specific dietary needs such as vegan or gluten free options but if you would like your child to participate, one approach that has worked in the past, is taking a wrapped, named item to the office (eg GF bun) which is then served for your child at lunch time.

Birthdays - If you have party invitations to hand out during the year, please consider the feelings of young students who are learning to manage disappointment: we suggest your child does this quietly before or after school.

Discovery SPACE /inquiry /art: donations of the following, given to your homeroom teacher, would be appreciated:

- Clean cereal or similar sized boxes, cardboard tubes or cardboard sheets of various sizes
- Collage bits such as cellophane, wool, fabric scraps, ribbon, buttons...
- Paper – 'G.O.O.S' paper "good on one side" is just as great as blank on both sides
- Wallpaper off-cuts or old sample books

Parent help: Please email or speak with your child's homeroom teacher, or Liz, if you are interested and available to assist in our classroom programmes. Currently we particularly need some extra helpers with swimming for February. If you have suggestions of ways that you would like to be involved, please let us know and we will see if your idea can fit into our programme.

Permissions for trips: From time to time we have trips and need parent permission. This year we are using a [2021 Trip Permission Form](#) to cover most of our Wellington trips. An example is the Yr 6 students visit Raroa twice during the year and also the Orange Day Parade at the end of the year. With trips needing more details, eg: swimming, permissions will be sent out as a separate form. In order to support this, we need you to complete this form. We will inform you of any costs incurred and when trips are occurring, but we felt it might save us having to chase you up each time! **Please click on the link above to complete the form by Friday 12 February.**

Stationery and Emergency Supplies

School supplies, including a box of tissues and emergency food should already be in school on the first day of term, but if not, please make sure this comes in as soon as possible. If your child finishes an exercise book during the year, we will send them to the office for another one and the cost will be added to your school account.

Ngā mihi,

Liz, Jodi, Erin, Sarah, Schiehallion
Kowhai Pod teaching staff.