

Year 1

Mrs. Hales
Room 1

Ms Ash
Room 2



Starting School

Welcome to the Koru Team. We are so happy you're here!

When children start school we initially focus on ensuring they feel comfortable and happy within the classroom, playground and around the school. Learning begins from day one and students understand that they come to school to learn. We encourage them to be independent, and support them to make new friends and build strong relationships. Getting to know each child individually is a huge priority for us.

Daily Routines and Learning Experiences



8:30 – When the first bell rings in the morning, children are welcomed into the classroom. They are encouraged to hang their bag on a peg outside the classroom, take their guided reading book out of their book bag and put it into the return book box. After this, they may then choose to work on a quiet activity inside the classroom until 8.50am when the bell rings for school to start. A visual timetable is displayed on the whiteboard so students and parents can see what is in store for the day ahead.

8:50 – 10:30 – Our morning block begins with the roll and often sharing news and learning wellbeing practices. These activities focus around sharing our thoughts, practicing our thinking & questioning skills, as well as developing oral language and listening. This is followed by our handwriting programme and lessons where students work as part of small groups to learn fundamental writing skills. We take part in whole class fitness daily and we also include many 'brain breaks' where students are encouraged to move and be active.

10:30 – 11 – Morning tea: The children go to the toilet, wash their hands (or use hand sanitiser) and then have a drink, healthy snack and outside playtime.

11 – 12:40 – Literacy learning continues in the middle block with phonics, shared reading with BIG books, guided reading groups, and play based learning.

12:40 – 1:30 – Lunchtime: Students sit down in the shade for the first 10 minutes of lunch to eat. They must raise their hand and show the duty teacher their lunchbox to ensure they have eaten enough of their delicious lunch. They are then free to play with their friends. In Terms 1 & 4 students need to wear a hat to play outside.

1:30 – 3pm – During the afternoon, we enjoy learning Maths in small groups and children are encouraged to develop their fine motor skills through a variety of engaging activities. The bell rings at 3pm and children are dismissed with an ‘elbow bump’ from the teacher once we have made eye contact with the caregiver picking them up. Please phone or email the school office to let them know if you are running late. At 3:15, children will be taken to the Kohia Kidzone after school care programme. This is a great programme to join if it’s tricky for you to make 3pm pick up and there is a discount for booking ahead. **For more information contact our lovely Sarah at afterschoolcare@kts.school.nz**

In the afternoons, your children also enjoy P.E. and sport’s skills. They will also take part in art, te reo, digital technology, inquiry learning and music lessons during the week.

Writing

Our handwriting and writing programmes are based around developing students phonological awareness (what letters sound like) and how they are put together to form words and sentences. Initially, we encourage children to express and develop their own ideas through drawing a picture and thinking of a sentence. Next, we help them to hear and record the sounds they can hear in the words including chunks and blends. We have small group guided writing sessions with the teacher, whole class shared writing sessions, and time for students to write independently.

Reading

We read at school every day, and encourage your child to read with someone each evening at home. Reading lessons focus on developing children’s reading and comprehension strategies, as well as nurturing a love of books and stories. Students take home a book in their book bag **Monday through to Thursday** which they will enjoy reading with you at home. On **Friday**, we have a poem that we learn in class. The poem will come home with your child in their poetry book for you to read with them. Poetry books are to be brought back **each Monday morning**.

Library

Our library session is on a **Friday**. Two books are to be taken home and can be kept at home for the week to read with your child. If children would like to change their book before Friday they can do this during lunchtime or before school starts. All library books are to be returned each **Friday**.

Assemblies

We have whole school assemblies fortnightly on a Friday from 9am - 9.45am. Parents are welcome to attend these. Here we celebrate learning and present awards to children who are showing the KTS competencies. We also have Koru team hui (assembly) on Monday morning following our Jump Jam (dance aerobics) sessions.

Lost Property & Change of Uniform

Please ensure all belongings are **clearly name labeled**. Any lost property will be placed in the box in the corridor between rooms 1, 2 & 3. We do our best at school to ensure children look after their own belongings and we have a box in class that items are kept safe if they have been misplaced.

Please send a change of clothes in a plastic bag that remains in your child's school bag. This is extremely helpful to the teachers as your child may have an accident or get clothes dirty during playtime.

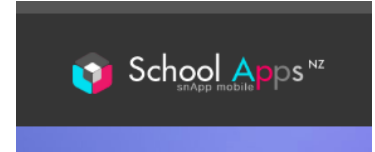
Behaviour

We work on praising positive behaviour and good choices on a daily basis. If any behaviours are causing concern or affecting a child's learning, we will contact you to arrange a time to meet. Please let us know if you are concerned or worried about any change in behaviour. Please refer to the KTS Behaviour Policy for further information on the guidelines.

Communication & Reporting

We are using a platform called HERO by LINC-ED. We will be posting weekly parent updates on **HERO** to keep you informed about our learning and activities. **HERO** is also where we do all of our learning posts (real-time reporting) and end of year reports.

Please also read the weekly KTS newsletter each Tuesday and check our school website regularly as events will be added to the calendar.



The Apps you need to download are shown here. →



We are always open to questions and enjoy communicating with parents. The best way to contact us is via email at kerryh@kts.school.nz alice@kts.school.nz We look forward to working alongside you in your child's learning journey, please always feel welcome to talk to us.

Kerry & Alice

