

# Meet the Teacher

**Room 4- Ms. Jones (Years 1/2)**

**Room 5- Mr. Knighton (Year 2)**



## A little about us...

Tara

I began teaching in Wellington where I taught Year 1 and 2 classes before deciding to move to London to teach and travel. I taught within the junior school in London and it was great learning experience. I moved back to New Zealand at the beginning of 2019 and it's been lovely to be back home. I have been teaching at Kohia Terrace School since and have absolutely loved teaching the wonderful children we have at school.

Nygel

I have been teaching for about 7 years, in and outside of New Zealand. I'm from America (Washington D.C.). I have lived in New Zealand for 2 years and plan to be here for many more years. I enjoy working with Year 2 students because they are creative, expressive, and have HEAPS of energy. This is my third-year teaching at KTS and I love this school and I'm so lucky to be here.



## 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 Room 4/5, take their guided reading book out of their book bag and put it into their allocated group box. They then put their book bag in the grey box. We encourage drink bottles to be brought into the classroom and put in the box next to the door. After this they may then choose to play on the playground, or 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 oral language which focuses around sharing our thoughts, practicing our thinking & questioning, as well as developing listening skills. We take part in fitness daily and we also include many ‘brain breaks’ where students are encouraged to move and be active. In addition to fitness, we have Jump Jam every Monday from 10:00-10:30. After oral language and fitness we teach maths in small guided groups and children learn independent mathematical skills through a variety of engaging activities

**10.30 – 11.00** – Morning tea. The children have a drink, healthy snack and play. In Terms 1 and 4 students need to wear a hat to play outside, if they forget their hat they must sit in the shaded areas or the stage, which is located in the middle of the playground. We always encourage students to use the toilets and have a drink at morning tea time.

**11.00 – 12.40** – During our middle block of class we have writing. In our writing lessons students work as part of small groups to learn fundamental writing skills. We take part in fitness daily and we also include many ‘brain breaks’ where students are encouraged to move and be active.

**12.40 – 1.30** – Lunchtime. Students sit down for the first 10 minutes of lunch in the shade to eat their lunch. They must show the duty teacher their lunchbox to ensure they have eaten enough. They then are free to play with their friends (Year 2 students are allowed into the senior top court area as well as the junior playground).

**1.30 – 3.00pm** – Literacy learning continues in the middle block with guided reading groups, handwriting and our phonics programme. We like to incorporate lots of drama into literacy learning to make the world of books an engaging and magical adventure for the children!

At the end of the day we work together to tidy the class, sing some songs and collect all of our belongings. When the bell rings at 3pm, children are dismissed with a 'high five' 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.

**Fridays** – Our “Fun Fridays” are structured differently to the rest of the week. We start the day with a whole school assembly or Year 2 hui (alternate weeks), and then we explore inquiry learning, visual art, physical education/sports, technology and music. We end our week with a big tidy and some fun games to ensure the children go home for the weekend with the biggest smiles on their faces!

## Writing

Our writing programme is based around developing students ideas, understanding of audience/purpose and phonological awareness (what letters sound like and how they are put together to form words and sentences). We have structured group guided writing sessions with the teacher, whole class shared writing sessions, and time for students to write independently.

Handwriting and Phonics is also included in the writing programme. This encourages children to learn how to correctly form the letters of the alphabet, and identify the sounds they make, as well as making and breaking words into chunks of sounds. We also learn spelling rules, how to add details to our writing and how to edit effectively.

# Reading

We read at school every day, and encourage your child to read with someone each evening in some form at home. Students take home a book in their book bag Monday through to Thursday which they will enjoy reading with you at home. Students complete independent activities that give them opportunities to delve deeper and respond to texts in a variety of ways. Reading lessons focus on developing children's reading and comprehension strategies, as well as nurturing a love of books and stories.

# Maths

Similarly to reading and writing, we teach maths in a combination of whole class, independent and guided group teaching. Throughout the week we focus on either Maths knowledge (Number sequences, identification, patterns) or strategies (how to understand and manipulate numbers to solve problems). One session a week focuses on a particular strand of maths, for instance geometry, measurement, or statistics. There are many opportunities to incorporate maths in daily classroom life and this also happens regularly, with lots of hands-on activities. Children are also encouraged to participate in our daily 'maths challenge' where they use problem-solving skills, as well as completing daily basic facts practice.

## Library

Room 5 has library every Monday from 9-9:45. Room 4 has library every Friday from 2:15-3pm. 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 the next library session they can do this during lunchtime or before school starts. All library books are to be returned before their due date.

## Assemblies

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

## Lost Property

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 I have a uniform box in class that items are kept safe if they have been misplaced.

## 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

This year we are rolling out a new program, HERO, for students to share their learning. In addition to this we also send out weekly parent emails to keep you informed about activities and events. Please also read the weekly KTS newsletter and check our school website regularly as events will be added to the calendar. We are always open to questions and enjoy communicating with parents. The best way to contact us is via email at [tara@kts.school.nz](mailto:tara@kts.school.nz) (Room 4) & [nygel@kts.school.nz](mailto:nygel@kts.school.nz) (Room 5). We look forward to working alongside you in your child's learning journey, please always feel welcome to talk to us.