

Year 1

Miss Petersen
Room 2

Mrs. Hales
Room 1



Starting School

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

As children start school, the focus is settling them into new routines, making new friends and ensuring they feel happy and comfortable in the classroom and around school. One of the first things we do is try to get the children to become as independent as possible. We encourage them to do things for themselves and support them to make new friends and build strong relationships. Getting to know each child individually is a huge priority for us.

Timing and Daily Routines

The classroom is open from 8:30 am and class starts at 8:50 am.

When the first bell rings in the morning, children are welcomed into the classroom.

They are encouraged to hang their bag on a hook outside the classroom, take their book bag and place it in the 'book bag 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. The school day is structured so that the children know what to expect on a daily basis. 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 skills. This is followed by our handwriting (Casey Caterpillar) and phonemic awareness programme (hearing, segmenting, blending) then phonics (writing sounds) where students work as part of groups to learn fundamental writing skills. We take part in whole class fitness daily and we 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, eat a healthy snack and enjoy outside playtime. They are asked to choose 1-2 things to eat out of their lunchbox. (Hats required in Terms 1 & 4)

11 – 12:40 Literacy learning continues in the middle block with more phonemic awareness (hearing, segmenting, blending sounds), shared reading with BIG books, and practicing reading. We are focused on targeted sound knowledge teaching before your child brings home books to read. They will bring sound activities to practice with you at home in their **reading practice** book. Here is a [link](#) to how to say the animals and sounds we use in class. Reading practice.

12:40 – 1:30 Lunchtime Students sit down in the shade for the first 10 minutes of lunch to eat. Duty teachers check that the children have eaten all of their lunch so please try not to overfill their lunchbox. They are then free to play with their friends. In Terms 1 & 4 students need to wear a hat to play outside. (please put a name on your child's hat) We are a healthy lunch school (no lollies please and minimal treat food). Please let us know if your child is coming home with a full lunch box or drink bottle and we will make special arrangements.

1:30 – 3 pm 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. In the afternoons, your children will take part in art, te reo Māori, digital technology, and inquiry. On alternate Wednesdays, your child also has specialist teachers for sport and music lessons.

The school day currently finishes at 2:45. Before this time the children will work together to tidy the classroom, collect their belongings and say goodbye to each other. Please wait outside the junior gate if your year one does not have an older sibling. Other children's siblings will pick them up and meet you. Children are dismissed with an 'elbow bump' from the teacher and we will not let a child go until we have made eye contact with the parent or caregiver. **If you are running late, please ring the school office so that a message can be relayed to us. (we do not check our emails at this time)**

At 3 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 a 2:45 pm pick up and there is a discount for booking ahead. **For more information contact our lovely Sarah at afterschoolcare@kts.school.nz**

Maths

Our maths programme is based around developing students' numerical awareness as well as how to form numbers. We offer 'number talks' and these discussions develop mathematical awareness, encourage participation, develop vocabulary as well as nurture a confidence towards maths. We have small group guided sessions with the teacher, whole class shared investigations and time for students to practice their learning independently.

Writing

Our handwriting and writing programmes are based around developing students' phonological awareness (what letters look & sound like) and how they are put together to form words and sentences. We are using Casey Caterpillar for handwriting. 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 practice writing independently.

Reading

We are learning to read in year one. We are doing reading practice everyday and we encourage you to practice sounds with your child at home. Reading lessons focus on developing children's sound knowledge and recall. We practice learning all 26 letters and 44 sounds, manipulating (segmenting and blending sounds together). We are building phonemic awareness as well as nurturing a love of books and stories. Students will take home an activity to practice in their book bag **Monday through to Thursday and sometimes Friday** and they will practice their most current in class learning. Reading practice books are to be brought to school everyday.

2 o'clockers

~~For the first two weeks when your child starts school they will be a '2 o'clocker.' This means that they finish school at 2 pm. Children are exhausted when they first start. School is very different from kindergarten and daycares. We do understand your child may have been staying for longer hours at your preschool provider. Children have to follow lots of instructions at school and we want your child to be set up for success. We really appreciate your support with this.~~ **This does not happen in RED light settings. Everyone in year one finishes at 2:45 each day.**

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** in order to be able to get two new books.

Assemblies

Currently, we have ZOOM whole school assemblies fortnightly on a Friday from 9am - 9.45am. Parents cannot currently attend these on site. Here we celebrate learning and present awards to children who are showing the KTS Learner Attributes. We also have Koru team hui (meeting) on Monday morning following our Jump Jam (dance aerobics) sessions. (This cannot happen under RED light settings)

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 by the office. We do our best at school to ensure children look after their own belongings and developing this independence is important. **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.

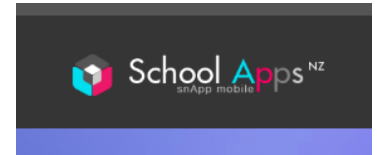
Parent Help & Parent Liaison

Our parent liaison's work closely with us and the school. They aim to organise a family/social event once a term- these can be coffee mornings, afternoon tea gatherings after school, family picnics or evening drinks. They welcome new families as they join our class. They also attend termly meetings at the school with the other parent liaison contacts throughout the year supporting the school with various fundraisers. We are a community orientated school and this role is one we value highly.

Communication & Reporting

We use a platform called HERO. This is where we do our reporting and how we communicate with you. We will be posting weekly parent updates on **HERO** to keep you informed about our learning and activities. **HERO** is where we do all of our learning posts (real-time reporting) and end of year reports. It is absolutely essential.

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 lisa@kts.school.nz

We really do appreciate what a big thing it is when your child starts school. We hope this is a helpful insight into what happens at school. If you have any information about your child that you feel would be valuable please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working alongside you in your child's learning journey, so please always feel welcome to talk to us.

Kerry &

Lisa

