

Year 1

Mrs. Gilbert
Room 1

Miss Petersen
Room 2



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

As children start school, the focus is supporting them as they settle into new routines, make new friends and ensure 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 & Daily Routines

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

When the first bell rings at 8:30am 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 or play outside until the bell rings at 8:50. 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.

We find that children settle much better when they have time to get themselves ready for the day by unpacking their school bags, having a play or a chat with their peers and teacher. Ideally, please aim to arrive by 8:40am to give your child time to do this.



Below outlines what we generally get up to Monday through to Thursday

8:50 – 10:30

Our morning block begins with the roll, sharing news and fitness. These activities focus around sharing our thoughts, practicing our thinking & questioning skills, as well as developing oral language and listening skills.

We then move into our Structured Literacy programme where we start with phonics and then writing.

10:30 – 11 (Morning tea)

During morning tea, children are encouraged to go to the toilet, have a drink, eat a healthy snack and enjoy outside playtime with friends. They are asked to choose 1-2 things to eat out of their lunchbox. (Hats are required Terms 1 & 4)

11 – 12:40

Structured literacy learning continues in the middle block with more phonemic awareness, shared reading with BIG books, and reading practice in small groups.

12:40 – 1:30 (Lunchtime)

Students are required to 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.

We are a healthy lunch school (**no lollies please and minimal treat food, including flavoured milk and juices**). 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 – 2:55

In the afternoons, we enjoy our fun and engaging numeracy programme. Children will also take part in art, te reo Māori, digital technology, PE and inquiry.

The school day finishes at 2:55.

Before this time the children will work together to tidy the classroom, collect their belongings into their bags and say goodbye to each other. Please wait outside in the junior courtyard rather than outside the classroom door. Children are dismissed with a 'high five' from the teacher. Children can not leave the deck area outside room 1 until we have made eye contact with a parent, caregiver or older sibling. **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)**

Kohia Kidzone is our after school care programme. This is a great programme to join if it's tricky for you to make a 2:55pm pick up. There is also a breakfast club for mornings. For more information contact our lovely Sarah at afterschoolcare@kts.school.nz

2 O'clockers

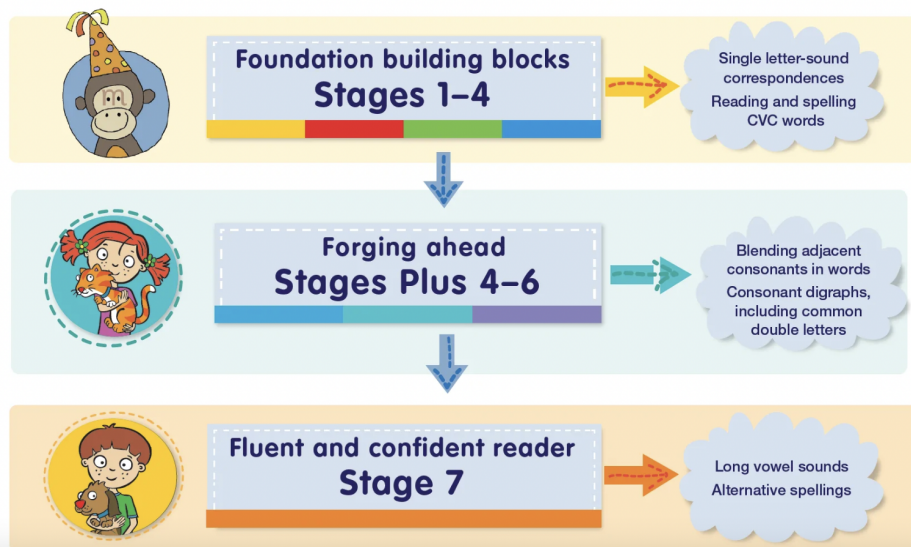
For the first two weeks when your child starts school they will finish school at 2pm. We do understand your child may have been staying for longer hours at a preschool provider. However, school requires a lot more concentration with instructions to follow and more time spent in the classroom with structured activities to complete. Children are exhausted and we find that finishing just that little bit earlier is a great step to starting school. Our goal is to be set up for success. We really appreciate your support with this.

Structured Literacy

Phonics, Reading, Writing, Spelling and Handwriting

We follow the 'Little Learners Love Literacy Programme,' structured literacy programme. It is structured in seven stages. Each stage is sequentially taught so that children can learn, practise and apply new skills whilst continuously consolidating their developing skills – working towards mastery.

3 steps to reading, writing and spelling



Monday through Thursday we start in the morning by focusing on phonemic awareness (hearing, segmenting, blending) then phonics (attaching sounds to letters) where students learn fundamental writing skills which we then put into practice. Within this we cover handwriting skills as well.

For example - we may start off hearing (phonemic awareness) the individual sounds that /c/, /a/ and /t/ make. Once we have learnt these sounds (not all, but some depending on their stage), we can then segment them together to hear a word, then a step further we can begin to blend these sounds together to hear 'cat'. Along with this, we will teach how sounds are represented by letters.

After morning tea we move into the reading side of structured literacy. Children have small group sessions with a teacher focusing on their next steps whether that may be learning sounds, connecting sounds to letters, reading, spelling or learning a spelling rule.

As we focus on targeted sound knowledge teaching, your child will not bring home reading books until they have learnt the sounds they need to know for each stage. They may bring sound activities, heart words and/or flash cards to practice at home in their book bags. Here is a [link](#) to how to say the animal names and sounds we use in class.

Numeracy

Our numeracy programme is based around developing students' numerical awareness as well as knowledge and strategy around numbers. We begin our math sessions with a whole class 'Number talk.' Number Talks are discussions that develop mathematical awareness, encourage participation, develop vocabulary as well as nurture a confidence towards math. It focuses largely on how answers are reached, rather than the answer themselves where all strategies and thinking is celebrated.

From here we have small group guided sessions aimed at children's individual next steps with the teacher and time for students to practice their learning independently.

What else?

Tuesdays We are lucky enough to have two specialised teachers in our school Mrs. McEwen teaching P.E. and Whaea Micaela taking music lessons. On alternate Tuesday mornings, room 1 and 2 will have a 45 minute session with each teacher.

Waiata On Thursdays we have a Koru team hui (meeting) where we share notices and sing/waiata.

Assemblies We have assemblies fortnightly on a Friday from 9am - 9.45am. Here we celebrate learning and present awards to children who are showing the KTS Learner competencies.

Mitey Mitey targets NZ children from Years 1-8 to help them build the necessary and age appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding they need to nurture their own emotional wellbeing and those of others. The Mitey programme is embedded into our every day interactions and teaching with students and on a Friday we have a dedicated time where we look more deeply into this. The Mitey targets come directly from the NZ curriculum.

Library Our library session is on **Friday**. We are extremely lucky to have Jane, our librarian who shares a love of books and enjoys helping kids find the perfect book. Children can choose two new books to take home in their book bags. These books can be kept for a week, then returned to school the following Friday for two new books. If children want to reissue we can also do this on Friday. If children would like to change their book before Friday they can do this during lunchtime or before school starts.

Lost Property & Change of Uniform

Please ensure **all** belongings are **clearly named**. Any lost property will be placed in a box in the corridor by the school 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. 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

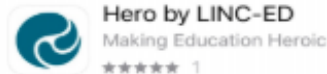
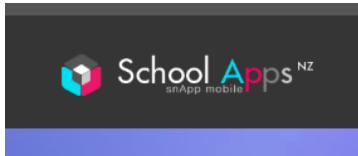
Every classroom requires a Parent Liaison. Our parent liaison works closely with teachers, the PTA and the school. They aim to organise a family/social event once a term - these can be coffee mornings, afternoon tea gatherings after school, family picnics or evening drinks. They welcome new families as they join our class. They also attend termly meetings at the school with the other parent liaison contacts and support the school with various fundraisers throughout the year. We are a community orientated school and this role is one we value highly, please let your classroom teacher know if you are interested in being the class's parent liaison.

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.

Please also read the weekly KTS newsletter each Tuesday which is emailed out and check our school website regularly as events will be added to the calendar. [KTS website](#)

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 katie@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.

Katie & Lisa

