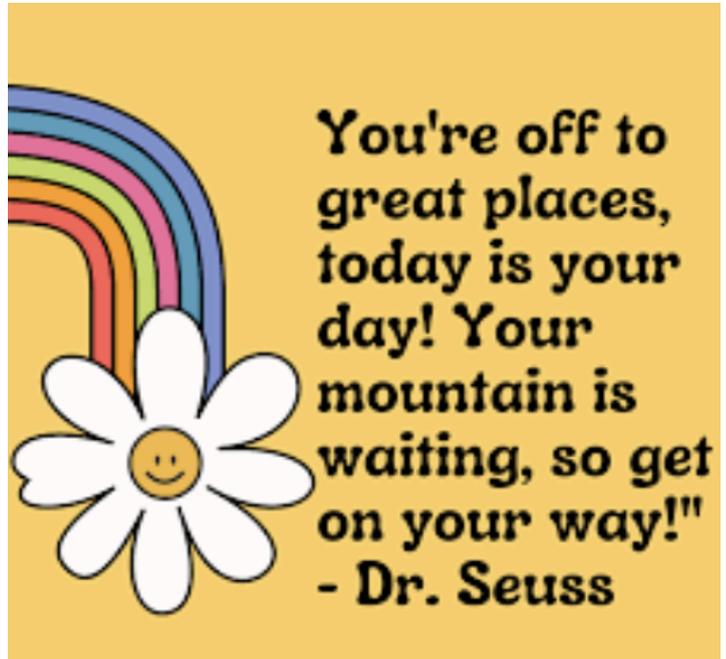


# Year 1

**Miss Petersen (Room 2)**



## Starting School

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

As children start school, the focus is supporting them as they settle into new routines, make new friends and to ensure that 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.**

Please note, if your child arrives at school **before** the 8:30am bell, they will need to wait outside. Thank you for your understanding.

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 8:50am when the bell rings to start school. 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. I find that the children settle much better when they have time to get themselves ready for learning. For example: Unpacking their school bags, having a play or a chat with their peers and allowing time to make that first connection with the teacher. Ideally, please aim to arrive by 8:40am to give your child time to do this.

### **8:50 – 10:30am**

Our morning block begins with the roll, singing and jump jam. These activities focus around starting our day together, as well as developing oral language and listening skills. This is followed by writing (being able to say a sentence out loud and write it), handwriting (being able to have correct formation of letters) and a phonemic awareness programme (blending, segmenting, rhyming etc).

### **10:30 – 11:00am *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).

### **11:00 – 12:40pm**

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

### **12:40 – 1:30pm *Lunchtime***

Students are required to sit down in the shade for the first 10 minutes of lunch to eat. Children must eat their 'big' food item first e.g. sandwiches, yoghurt, rice etc. Duty teachers check that the children have eaten enough 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 – 2:55pm

Every afternoon, we work on our structured maths programme called Structured Maths Approach. There is a warm up or daily practice to start with. Then we move into the main part of our whole class focus for learning. Sometimes there will be small groups and independent tasks.

**The school day finishes at 2:55.** Before this time the children will work together to tidy the classroom, collect their belongings and say goodbye to each other. Please wait outside in the junior courtyard rather than outside the classroom door. Children are dismissed by the teacher and we will not let a child go until we have made eye contact with the 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 2:55 pm pick up. There is also a breakfast club for mornings. **For more information contact our lovely Sarah at [afterschoolcare@kts.school.nz](mailto:afterschoolcare@kts.school.nz)**

## Specialist subjects

We have specialist teachers at Kohia Terrace School for different subjects. For example, this year we have a music teacher and a drama teacher.

## Maths

Our maths programme is based around developing students' numerical awareness as well as how to form numbers. We use **The Structured Maths Approach** and offer 'number talks'. 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.

We often start maths sessions with 'Number Talks'. Number Talks are short (10ish minutes), daily exercises aimed at building number sense. Number sense is the ability to play with numbers meaning students can visualise problem solving, perform calculations quickly, and are flexible in their mathematical strategies. Students who have strong number sense solve problems in more than one way and check that their answers make sense. As a part of this routine, students are thinking, asking their peers questions, and explaining their own thinking all while the teacher records the thinking. From here we may 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 (auditory) as well as phonics (attaching those sounds to letters). Explicit teaching is required to learn how these 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 telling a story. We use a **structured literacy** approach and children are explicitly taught letters in a systematic way. We spend a lot of time making words and sentences and practicing our learning with spelling and dictation. Later, the children are able to write stories. Children enjoy guided writing sessions, whole class shared writing, and time to practice writing independently.

# Reading

We are learning to read in new entrants and year one. We practise reading everyday and we encourage you to practise letter sounds with your child at home. Reading lessons focus on developing children's sound knowledge and recall. We practise learning all 26 letters and their 44 sounds through manipulating tasks (segmenting and blending sounds together). We are building phonemic awareness as well as nurturing a love of books and stories.

## Home learning

Children will have a **RED** home learning book. Please read the detailed information in the front of the book. This outlines home learning expectations and how to use the activities best. This book will include the reading and spelling activities related to their reading, heart words and other additional activities. Children will have math rings. Math rings will have mathematical concepts for your children to practice. They may also have a maths worksheet to complete over the week. The **RED** home learning book must be returned to school each day.

## 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 2pm. Children are exhausted when they first start school. We do understand your child may have been staying for longer hours at a preschool provider. However, school requires a lot more concentration with many instructions to follow and more time spent in the classroom with activities to complete. Our goal is to be set up for success. We really appreciate your support with this.

## Library

Our library session is on a **Friday**. Children can choose two new books every Friday 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 would like to change their book before Friday, they can do this during lunchtime or before school starts.

## Assemblies

We have assemblies fortnightly on a Friday from 9am - 9.30am. Here we celebrate learning and present awards to children who are showing the KTS Learner competencies. We also have Koru team hui (meeting) every second Friday where we sing, focus on learner competencies and do fitness.

# 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 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

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 and check our school website regularly as events will be added to the calendar. [KTS website](#)

**The App you need to download is shown here. →**

We are always open to questions and enjoy communicating with parents. The best way to contact us is via email at [lisap@kts.school.nz](mailto:lisap@kts.school.nz), or for a quick chat before or after school.



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.

*Lisa*