

Year 5 2026

Welcome to Rooms 12 and 13!



A bit about your new teachers

I started at Kohia terrace in mid 2018 as part of the Pohutukawa team. I was able to learn a great deal about the school and its philosophies during this time. This is my second year teaching Year 5, and I could not be more excited. I love telling stories and encouraging the children to be the best they can in every area. Their excited faces are what inspire me.

I come from a family of builders and have been in the trade industry myself for a few years prior to teaching. I look for the practical side in learning as it gives the lesson purpose and helps the students understand that practical learning is a skill that can be used outside of school.

One of my philosophies is if the children are having fun then they are going to learn. Understandably not every aspect of school can be fun for all children. However, I accommodate breaks in the class day whenever I can so that we are not sitting down for too long. A quick lap around the playground and a drink generally gets everyone back in the zone.

If you have any further questions please feel free to email me or approach me for a chat. I look forward to meeting you all.

Ben



My 3 Loves



A bit about your new teachers - Ms. McEwen

I was born in Christchurch and then moved to Auckland about 30 years ago, deciding later to switch careers and become a teacher. That was 14 years ago and I have not looked back.

During this time I married, had a son and daughter, and acquired a cat and dog!

I love teaching for many reasons. Above all, I feel that I can truly make a difference in students' lives. Making those connections with students is extremely important - they need to feel safe, understood and listened to. My goal in teaching is to inspire a love of learning. To achieve this, I work hard to empower my students to take responsibility for their own learning. Also, the classroom needs to be a fun place to be! I have really enjoyed getting to know your children (and meeting some of you) at the start of the year and look forward to getting to know you even more throughout the year!





About Year 5

We feel so privileged to be the Year 5 teachers at Kohia Terrace School this year and are excited to start 2026's learning journey with your children.

Our goal in Year 5 is to make sure that all students enjoy success across the curriculum. We believe that learning should be fun and challenges met together. A positive learning environment is what we aim to achieve.

As every student has different learning needs, we know that it is essential to have a flexible and engaging learning programme across Rooms 12 and 13.

Year 5 is also a development year where independence is encouraged. We will challenge and support your children as they take more ownership of their learning this year.



Behaviour

We want your children to feel comfortable and happy at school.

We strongly believe that your children's ideas and opinions should be valued and appreciated, so Rooms 12 and 13 will collaboratively create values in which all members of the class, including us, will come up clear expectations for everyone, which in turn will create a happy and safe environment.

At Kohia Terrace School positive behaviours are encouraged and celebrated.

If there are any concerns with behaviour in the classroom we will work together to find the best strategy to positively support your child.



Home Learning

Home learning will be sent home once a fortnight on an even week. This includes a range of activities and tasks for your child to complete that reflect their class learning as well as explore new areas of learning. A digital copy of this sheet is also uploaded onto our Year 5 Google Classroom for access in case they cannot find their physical copy that is glued in their books.

It is important that your child is reading, working on the code activities and practising their basic facts every night.



Routines

There are hooks outside the classroom where school bags can be hung. Classrooms will be open for children from 8.30am for students to get ready for the school day and return any notices.

The children may choose a quiet activity inside or play outside until the second bell at 8.50am.

Morning tea break runs from 10.30 – 11am and lunch 12.40 – 1.30. School finishes at 3pm after which the children are free to safely make their way home.



ICT

All parents and students are required to sign an Internet Safety agreement concerning the operation and use of the Internet and ICT equipment in the school.

Students have access to Oxford Math and SmartLabs to support their learning. Hero will continue to be used to share evidence of learning and Google Classroom for learning tasks.

Inappropriate use of computers (websites, messaging, Google classroom) at school is taken very seriously and will result in a conversation with our Principal Alison, and potential loss of usage for an appropriate period of time.



Library and PE

Both classes have their library session on Mondays. During this time children are allowed to select two books and have these issued in their name; these are issued for a period of two weeks.

In Year 5, we are recommending students issue two books - one book to read at school during SSR time and one to read at home. The library is also open during lunchtimes.

Our Year 5 PE skills sessions will be timetabled differently for each class. We will run a combined Years 4, 5 and 6 session once a week. We also do a range of fitness activities most days to keep students moving and to work on fine motor skills.

If your child would like to join a sports team this year, you can access all the information from the sports page of the KTS website or via Hero. The sports offered this year are Cricket, Futsal, Basketball, Netball and Flippaball. For more information please email sports@kts.school.nz



Lost Property

There is a school lost property box situated outside Room 8.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are named.



Communication

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Sheryl at sherylm@kts.school.nz or Ben at benn@kts.school.nz between the hours of 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively, an appointment can be made for a time that is convenient to all parties.

Our team leader for Y4-6 Vanessa Sharplin can be contacted at vanessas@kts.school.nz

We are always available for quick chats in the morning but would prefer to set aside a time to talk further at the end of the school day. We are looking forward to a fantastic year, supporting your child in their learning in Year 5!



Class Liaison

If you would like to be the class liaison for either class, that would be greatly appreciated!