

Term 4 Newsletter

Year 0/1 2026

Welcome back to Term 4. If you are new to the school, we extend a special welcome to you and your family. We also would like to welcome to our team Helen Macdonald, who will be teaching in Room 3 and Sarah Jo who will be teaching in Room 6 on Thursdays and Fridays.

The Year 0/1 team for 2026 is as follows:

Bonita Mowat (Team Leader)	Room 5	Year 1	bonitam@greenhithe.school.nz
Claire Coulam (Mon-Wed)	Room 6	Year 1	clairec@greenhithe.school.nz
Sarah Jo (Thurs-Fri)	Room 6	Year 1	sarahj@greenhithe.school.nz
Jackie Fitzgerald	Room 2	Year 1	jackief@greenhithe.school.nz
Leah Taylor	Room 1	Year 0	leaht@greenhithe.school.nz
Hope McKenzie-Ellwood	Room 4	Year 0	hopeme@greenhithe.school.nz
Helen McDonald	Room 3	Year 0	helenm@greenhithe.school.nz

Curriculum

Inquiry



In Term 4, our Year 0/1 students are embarking on a Social Science unit focused on Economic Activity and Financial Education. Through hands-on learning, students will be exploring New Zealand's coins and banknotes. They will learn to identify different monetary values and discover the famous New Zealanders and unique native birds featured on our currency, including Sir Edmund Hillary, the Hoiho (Yellow-eyed Penguin), the Kōtuku, and more.

To celebrate all the hard work and growth this term, our students will be ending the term with a fun-filled visit from Conscious Kids for an outdoor Junk Play Day. This special event is all about playing, having fun, and celebrating together through child-led outdoor exploration. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to put our school values into action, showing perseverance, initiative, and diligence as they build and create, while demonstrating respect for each other and striving for excellence in their teamwork.

Key competencies like managing self, relating to others, and thinking creatively will be developed by the students through this hands-on outdoor programme. We can't wait for a fantastic day of active play and celebration to wrap up the term. This will take place on Wednesday, 16 December. More details will follow, as we will require parent helpers on the day. The cost of this is being covered by your child's activity fee. If you haven't paid this, we would appreciate you doing this through Kindo as soon as you can. Thank you.

A reminder that hats are compulsory for all outdoor activities in Term 4. If you have a school hat at home, please bring it back to school.

Maths



For maths we are following a scope and sequence that is aligned with The New Zealand Curriculum, accompanied by the hands-on activities and the Oxford Maths programme. By the end of Year 1, students are expected to be confident in the following areas:

- **Numbers & Counting:** read and say numbers before and after up to 100 and solve simple addition and subtraction problems using physical blocks or counters.
- **Patterns & Rules:** finding, copying, and continuing repeating patterns using shapes, colours, or sounds.
- **Measurement & Time:** comparing lengths and weights directly (e.g., which is heavier or longer?), learning the days of the week, and beginning to tell time to the hour ("o'clock").
- **Shapes & Space:** identifying basic 2D shapes (circles, squares, and triangles) and 3D objects and using position words like under, next to, left, and right.
- **Graphs & Data:** sorting items into groups and answering simple questions using picture or tally charts (such as graphing the students' favourite fruit).

General Housekeeping/Reminders

Communication

For all communication that needs action during school hours, please contact the office, such as if you need to collect your child early or they are going to be late to school. Teachers share classroom reminders on Seesaw, and school reminders are on Facebook. All other notices will be via email, including the fortnightly school newsletter. Sometimes a notice will be sent home as a hard copy (in their book bag).

Home Learning/Help at Home

Supporting home learning doesn't need to feel overwhelming. Simple, everyday activities make a world of difference. You can help build foundational skills by:

- **Reading Together Daily:** Share a book for 10 minutes, talk about the pictures, and practise matching letters to their sounds. Once your child has mastered the first eight sounds in Stage 1 of the Little Learners Love Literacy program, they will begin bringing home books each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They will also have 'heart words' and 'speed words' to practise with you.
- **Everyday Maths:** Count household items, spot numbers on letterboxes, or search for shapes around the home and garden.
- **Chatting & Noticing:** Ask open-ended questions about their day, practise writing shopping lists together, and play games like "I Spy."

To learn more about what Year 0/1 students are learning in reading, writing, and maths, and for extra tips on how to support them at home, check out the [Ministry of Education's Parent Portal Guide](#).

Here are some other links for home learning ideas:

- [Little Learners Love Literacy](#)
- [Ready to read phonics plus](#)

Ngā mihi nui,

The Year 0/1 team - Bonita Mowat, Jackie Fitzgerald, Claire Coulam, Sarah Jo, Leah Taylor, Hope McKenzie-Ellwood and Helen McDonald