



Year 6 Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Greenhithe School for 2024! An especially warm welcome to all of our new Greenhithe parents, caregivers and children. We are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning together, where our children can learn and grow to become capable, confident and balanced learners who embrace new experiences and opportunities.

The Year 6 Team for 2024 is as follows:

Natasha Alexander	Room 22 (Year 6 Team Leader)
Claudia Sheppard	Room 23
Nicola Lupton	Room 24

*Links to teachers' email addresses can be found on our school website.

Curriculum

Inquiry

Our inquiry concept of 'Where we are in Place and Time' is underpinned by considering ourselves from others perspectives, where we have high expectations of who we are and how we express ourselves, discovering our beliefs and values, feelings and ideas. This year we are going to explore the journeys of our ancestors and how our whānau, past and present, impact who we are and how we got here. Throughout the term, we will also be taking a closer look at our Greenhithe community and how it has changed over time.

Writing

We begin the year writing about ourselves, our family and our community integrated with our inquiry concept of 'Where we are in Place and Time'. Over the year, students will produce a variety of texts types based on what they are learning about throughout the curriculum. We will take the time to analyse mentor texts and together identify key features of each text type in order for students to understand what they need to do to succeed. Our literacy learning goals will help guide students to set themselves goals and work towards them.

Reading

In year 6 students will be building on their reading comprehension skills; for example inferencing, locating information and critical thinking. Reading will be integrated through other areas of the curriculum, in particular inquiry with the idea that the vast majority of our learners are now 'reading to learn' rather than 'learning to read'. The students will attend differentiated sessions based on their individual needs. We strongly encourage students to read each night at home, self selecting reading material that interests and challenges them.

Maths

In the senior school, the focus is on applying mathematics knowledge and strategies to solve problems across a range of contexts and mathematical areas. Students will attend differentiated sessions based on their individual needs. We will be focusing on problem-solving where students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively. Having instant recall of basic facts helps students to solve number problems more efficiently. We encourage students to practise these basic facts at home, in particular their times table facts and related division facts. Students can also practise their maths skills at home using the online 'Mathletics' programme. They may have set activities from their classroom teacher to complete or they can use the 'Live Mathletics' option to practise their basic facts.

Fitness and P.E.

Everyday, students will take part in a 10 minutes fitness session. P.E. sessions this term will focus on swimming. All of Year 6 will be swimming on *Wednesdays* and *Fridays* in Term 1. Please ensure that your child has a towel, togs, and goggles, if they wish, in a named swim bag on the days that they have swimming lessons. Our swimming sports day is coming up in Week 5, further information will be sent out regarding this in the coming weeks.

Year 6 Camp

The highlight of the year for many! Our Year 6 camp will be held in Term 4 - November 11, 12 and 13 at Camp Adair. For now, save the date and we will start sending out further information later in the term.

General Housekeeping

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Our senior school students are being invited to bring in their own device for classroom learning. We would like the students to use their own device to deepen learning and to make learning more personalised and student-centered. This opportunity is an invitation, not an expectation, and we are not insisting that students purchase or bring a device. We are giving you the choice. Students will continue to complete regular book work alongside digital platforms.

If mobile phones (or any other device that is used for texting or calling) are brought to school they will be collected and sent to the office before school. They will be returned to students just before 3pm.

Uniform

Please ensure that all pieces of clothing are clearly named, including sweatshirts and raincoats. School hats are a required part of the school uniform in Term 1 and Term 4. Please make sure your child has their school hat each day, and that it is clearly named. We do have sunblock at school for your children to reapply throughout the day but recommend that they come to school already wearing it in the summer months.

Communication

For all communication that needs action during school hours please contact the office, for example if you need to collect your child early. Reminders may be sent out on Seesaw but all other notices will be via email or you will be sent a hard copy.

Please ensure the office are up to date with your current contact details to ensure that you do not miss any important information. Any medications that your children need during the school day should be returned to the office on the first day of school. If your child is taking any new medications, please let their class teacher or the office know.

Important Dates:

Thursday 1 February: *First day of Term 1*

Tuesday 6 February: *Waitangi Day (school closed)*

Thursday 8 February: *Road Patrol Training*

Friday 16 February: *Whānau Day*

Tuesday 27 February: *Y4-6 Swimming Sports Day*

Friday 29 March - Tuesday 2 April: *Easter (school closed)*

Friday 12 April: *Last day of Term 1*

Ngā mihi nui,

The Year 6 team - Natasha Alexander, Claudia Sheppard and Nicola Lupton.