

Welcome back to Term 2. If you are new to the school, we extend a special welcome to you and your family. We also would like to welcome Leah Taylor, teaching in Room 1, to our team.

The Year 1 team for 2026 is as follows:

Bonita Mowat (Team Leader)	Room 5	Year 1	bonitam@greenhithe.school.nz
Claire Coulam	Room 6	Year 1	clairec@greenhithe.school.nz
Jackie Fitzgerald	Room 2	Year 1	jackief@greenhithe.school.nz
Leah Taylor	Room 1	Year 0	leaht@greenhithe.school.nz

Inquiry



Curriculum

We have started the Firewise programme with our students this term. Over the next four weeks, we will be helping the children learn how to keep themselves safe and confident in the event of a fire. Using lots of fun activities, we will talk about how to stay safe around things like heaters and stoves, why we never touch matches or lighters, and what to do if they hear a loud "beep, beep, beep" of a smoke alarm. We will practise how to get out of a building quickly by staying low to avoid smoke. The children will also learn when and how to call 111 in an emergency. In week 4 we will be hosting a visit from our local firefighters, where the children will get to climb inside a fire engine and learn about the important job our local firefighters do.

Another focus this term will be on Performing and Visual Arts. Footsteps drama programme will work with our classes, giving our students an opportunity to explore their creativity and to grow in confidence. The cost of this is covered by your Activity Fee payment. Through a series of fun, high-energy sessions, the children will use their voices, movement, and imagination to step into different characters and bring stories to life. This programme is all about building social skills in a safe, supportive environment, where students will learn to listen, work as a team, and express themselves freely through dramatic play and games. It is a fantastic way for our tamariki to build their self-esteem, improve their coordination, and discover the joy of performance.

In week 10 Greenhithe School will host our biennial Art Exhibition. This special event will see our school hall transformed into a gallery to showcase the incredible creativity of our students. Please keep an eye out for further details through the fortnightly school newsletter.

Structured Literacy

We continue with structured literacy this term, an evidence-based approach to teaching reading and writing. It focuses on systematically teaching the relationship between sounds, letters, and words, helping children build strong decoding and spelling skills. Lessons are explicit, sequential, and tailored to each child's needs, ensuring all learners can progress confidently. It covers phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension to support the overall literacy development.

Maths



For maths we are using the Oxford Maths programme as our main resource. Phase 1 focuses on developing a strong sense of what numbers actually represent through hands-on learning. Children use physical objects like beads, blocks, and counters to explore how numbers can be put together and taken apart. This approach helps them understand that a number like five is made up of smaller parts, such as three and two, which builds a vital foundation for addition and subtraction later on. There is an emphasis on mathematical talk, where children are encouraged to explain their reasoning.

Fitness and P.E

Next week the students will be starting cross-country training, focusing on building stamina, resilience, and confidence. It is a wonderful way for our students to get active, enjoy the outdoors, and challenge themselves. We are busy preparing for a special event later this term, where the students will have the opportunity to share their progress and running skills. Please ensure your child brings comfortable running shoes daily. More details on the event will follow later in the term.

General Housekeeping/Reminders

Uniform/Change of Clothes

Uniform items can be purchased from NZ Uniforms in Albany and through their website. Hats must be worn in Terms 1 & 4 during break times and outdoor activities. However, we will still be encouraging students to wear them during sunny days in Terms 2 and 3. We also ask that you keep a change of clothes in your child's bag, in case of toilet accidents. Please make sure all items are clearly named.

Communication

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

Home Learning

Once your child has mastered the first eight sounds in Stage 1 of the Little Learners Love Literacy programme, they will begin bringing home two books every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They will also have 'heart words' and 'speed words' to practice with you. You'll find additional details and guidance inside their home learning book when this is sent home.

Settling/Parent Bell

We want to ensure every student has a calm, confident start to their morning. You can help your child settle in by arriving between 8:30am and 8:45am. At 8:45am the 'parent bell' will ring. This is the signal for parents to leave so your child can have 10 minutes to settle before the school day begins. If you arrive between 8:45am and 8:55am, we ask that you say your goodbyes at the school gates. If you arrive after the 8:55am bell, please head to the office to sign your child in. To help build confidence, your child will then walk to their classroom independently. We encourage all students to take charge of their morning by unpacking their own bags and looking after their belongings.

More details will follow regarding learner-led meetings in week 6.

Ngā mihi nui,

The Year 0/1 team - Bonita Mowat, Jackie Fitzgerald, Claire Coulam, Leah Taylor.