



We would like to welcome you all back to school. We hope you all enjoyed the summer break and managed to enjoy the beautiful weather. We've had a great first couple of days back, with lots of time spent getting to know each other and time spent setting up our classrooms together. We have 3 classes that make up the year 3/4 team this year, Pohutukawa, Kowhai and Nikau.



**Stephanie Bosch (Team Leader)**

**Nikau**

**Room 3**

[stephanie@houghton.school.nz](mailto:stephanie@houghton.school.nz)

Kia ora koutou. My name is Stephanie and I'm teaching in Nikau this year. I've been teaching at Houghton Valley since 2016 and I am the team leader for the Year 3/4 team. Houghton Valley is a great community to be part of. We're lucky to have such a great green space for the children to use in their learning and play. When I'm not teaching I enjoy relaxing with a good book and cup of tea, cooking, baking and spending time with my friends and family - including my new little kitten Spike! Rekha will teach in Nikau on alternate Tuesdays (odd weeks) to provide release for my team leader duties.



**Lucy Bould**

**Kowhai**

**Room 2**

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Tēnā koutou katoa! Ko Lucy Bould taku ingoa, nō Ngāti Raukawa ahau. I am so excited to be joining the Year 3/4 team in Kowhai (Room 2) at Te Kura o Haewai in such a rich and valuable environment. I am looking forward to learning alongside my colleagues and leaders as well as the tamariki in my class as I pursue my first year of teaching. In my spare time I workout at a CrossFit gym with my whānau and friends, and often go out for coffee with them after a workout. I also love cooking and baking and listening to a wide genre of music. It is going to be a fantastic year of learning and development and I can't wait to build positive relationships at HVS and celebrate our many successes. Ngā mihi nui.



**Lauren Peatfield**

**Pohutukawa Room 1**

[lauren@houghton.school.nz](mailto:lauren@houghton.school.nz)

Kia ora koutou, ko Lauren tōku ingoa. I am an only child and was born and bred just outside of Birmingham, UK. I started my career with two years teaching in Year 4 in the UK. After that, I moved to an international school in Prague, Czech Republic and worked in Year 2 for 5 years. I made the move to New Zealand last year where I taught year 1 and now am really looking forward to continuing my career in the wonderful setting and community of Houghton Valley. New Zealand is what I consider as my new kainga and I am excited to build my life here.

I have a passion for culture, languages and using inquiry style learning to find out about the world around us. I love seeing children light up when these 'a-ha' moments click and inspire.

In my spare time, I can be found either at the gym, in the bush or on the beach trying to surf. I love the outdoors and walking our Huntaway x German Wirehaired Pointer. Team sports are important to me and I enjoy a spot of netball and touch rugby, as well as skiing in winter time. I have previously played saxophone and other woodwind instruments in the Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra, which taught me not only musicianship but the importance of commitment, dedication and teamwork. I love to encourage these values in those I teach. If you see me around, please do say hello.



**Jill Holmstead**

**Nikau**

**Room 2 - Fridays**

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It's great to be back after a relaxing holiday. I was very lucky to have a South Island road trip and camping holiday and enjoyed seeing plenty of magnificent views in the mountains, lakes and forests. It was wonderful to get up close to our wildlife amongst the trees as we walked through several tracks. A real highlight was the Royal Albatross Centre and the art gallery in Dunedin, as well as many memorable moments with my family.

I will be teaching individual students for Reading Recovery lessons from Monday-Thursday 9-11am. The remainder of the day will be in other classes throughout the school teaching Sustainability lessons. On Fridays I'll be teaching Year 3 & 4 in Kowhai.

Please get in touch with your classroom teacher if you have any questions, concerns or comments about your child, their friendships or their learning. We are always happy to organise a time to meet with you. Pop in before or after school for a quick chat, teachers are in their classrooms from 8:30. If you'd like more time, please get in touch to organise a meeting.

Our overarching theme for this year is **Ō tātou tangata, Ō tātou wahi - Our people our place**. We'll be spending the first part of this term exploring and finding out more about the people we will be sharing our class with.

- Jill teaches in our classes every couple of weeks and focuses on sustainability learning.
- Our literacy programmes will be tied into our big topics wherever possible.
- Our maths programme in term one will cover statistics and probability as well as problem solving strategies.
- Our P.E programme consists of daily fitness, bike riding sessions as well as structured lessons. This term our focus for P.E lessons will be on co-operative games. Please ensure your child has appropriate shoes to run in each day.

### **Homelearning**

More information about home learning will come home in the next week or so. We encourage you to read at home every night. Classes visit the library weekly and students are encouraged to get out a book (or two!) they can read at home over the week as well as one to enjoy in the classroom.

### **Reminders:**

**Please remember** to send children to school with a drink bottle, a piece of fruit or vegetables for fruit break and a brimmed hat. If they do not have a brimmed hat they will have to sit in the shade during physical activities and during break times.

We ask that students arrive at school between 8:30am and 8:50am. This gives time for the children to catch up with friends and settle in before the day begins at 9:00am. Teachers are preparing for the day and in meetings before 8:30am.

Please remind your children that they are not to bring toys to school, including pokemon cards or stat attack cards. If they are bringing something in to share for news or for after school, it must stay in their bags during the school day.

We look forward to a great year together.  
Kind regards,

Stephanie, Lucy, Lauren and Jill