

Year 3-4 Newsletter

Term 1 2022



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 weeks, with lots of time spent getting to know each other and time spent setting up our classrooms together. We have enjoyed the opportunity to catch whanau at the gate after school and we're looking forward to meeting all whanau face to face at our whanau hui this week.

We have 2 classes that make up the year 3-4 team this year; Pohutukawa and Kowhai.



Stephanie Bosch (Team Leader)

Pohutukawa

Room 1

stephanie@houghton.school.nz

Kia ora koutou. Ko Stephanie tōku ingoa. I'm teaching in Pohutukawa 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 School is an amazing community to be part of and I look forward to building connections with whanau this year to support the learning of the tamariki in Pohutukawa this year. When I'm not teaching I enjoy relaxing with a good book and cup of tea or taking a walk with my sister. Tracy Gunderson will teach in Pohutukawa on alternate Fridays this term (even weeks) to provide release for my team leader duties.



Fiona Crossett

Kowhai

Room 2

fiona@houghton.school.nz

Kia ora koutou. Ko Fiona Crossett ahau. Here is a little bit about myself, for the whanau and students of Houghton Valley School. I have been teaching here at Houghton Valley since 2019, teaching year 5 and 6. Before coming to Houghton Valley School I taught year 5 and 6 at a school in Nelson. I am looking forward to a change into the year 3/4 team and look forward to teaching all your wonderful tamariki. When I'm not teaching, I can be found at the gym or reading a good book. My New Year's resolution was to read a book a month. I have a very independent cat named Juniper who provides many entertaining moments for myself and my flatmates.

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, via zoom, a phone call or in person after school.

What's Happening This Term?

This term, we have two topics of focus, *Ko Wai Au, Who am I?*, and *Health Minds, Healthy Bodies*. These will be explored through Inquiry, literacy, mathematics, and woven throughout a range of other learning areas.

Outdoor Learning & Spare Clothes

This term we are utilising our place as much as possible by taking lots of our learning throughout the day outside. We would love to make use of the outdoors in both the sunny and slightly cooler Wellington weather including being able to make use of our field, even when it is a little bit muddy down there! Could all children please bring a spare pair of clothes and socks in their bag, so they have something to change into for the rest of the day if their clothes end up getting a bit muddy. A warm jumper in school bags, regardless of the weather, is also a good idea.

Homelearning

Options for home learning this year will be discussed with whanau at our hui meetings this week. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about what will be best for your child at home.

Digital agreements

Students will be receiving new digital agreements for this year. Students are not able to use devices until they have returned their signed copy. We will unpack the digital agreement further with the children and refer back to it often during the term and year. All students have a google account which is closely monitored by teachers through our management system called hapara. We have clear expectations for how the students use their accounts. Please get in touch with Stephanie if you have any questions about how we use our google accounts in the classroom.

Swimming

Swimming is every **Thursday** this term. Students need to bring their togs, towel, and goggles in a separate swimming bag. Please ensure that swimming bags are big enough to fit students shoes in them as this helps to prevent lost items as well as naming all clothing brought to school on swimming days. Children with long hair need to have their hair tied back. An extra snack in lunchboxes is also useful on swimming days when children seem to be extra hungry by lunchtime!

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.
- 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 any toys to school, including pokemon cards and rubik cubes. They can bring pencil cases from home to keep at school.

We look forward to a great year together.

Ngā mihi,

Stephanie and Fiona

stephanie@houghton.school.nz