



## Blake Newsletter Term 1 2024

### Kia ora koutou - Welcome to the Blake Team!

Nga mihi mahana te whaanau! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our families in the Blake Team. We hope you have had a refreshing break and have enjoyed the warm sunny Summer! This newsletter includes information about the Blake team, our learning this term, and important information to prepare for the year ahead.

Our team is named after Sir Peter Blake, New Zealand's most celebrated yachtsman and a passionate, relentless champion for the environment. We consist of three classes (rooms 10, 11, and 12) made up of students in Year 1 and Year 2. Blake and Batten will sometimes join together for large events such as sports days.

We have a fabulous team of teachers in Blake:

Room 10 - Karen Jack/Team Leader (Monday to Thursday), and Hannah Perry (Friday)

Room 11 - Hayley Shaw

Room 12 - Taryn Jago-Sutton

### Term 1 Focus

**Kotahitanga:** Our topic focus this term is Kotahitanga - Togetherness. We will be focusing on getting to know and making connections with each other. This will strengthen relationships amongst our tamariki and ensure everyone feels a sense of belonging and togetherness. Students will have opportunities to share places and people that are special to them and explore the roles and contributions they can make to their class.

**Te reo (the language) and Te ao (customs and protocol) Maaori:** This term we will be creating our own pepeha, learning about Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and exploring some of the cultural aspects of the Maaori world through storytelling, daily karakia, waiata, and greetings.

**Swimming:** The class teacher will let you know your child's swimming days. We will require parent help for these sessions. If you can help, please contact your class teacher.

**Thursday Electives:** CPS delivers a fantastic electives programme each Thursday and Friday. These are run by specialist teachers on an 8-week rotation and include STEAM, Te Reo, Music, Outdoor classroom, Garden to Table, and Science. Students can wear their PE gear to and from school on Thursdays.

**Homework:** Details of homework expectations will be outlined in the student's Homework book. Homework books will be set up over the next few weeks as our stationery comes in. The school policy is for each child to complete 20 minutes of homework 4 times per week.

**Key Competencies:** Although this is reinforced throughout the year, we will be learning what our school's Key Competencies are and how we can demonstrate these at school.

**Stationery:** Please ensure the correct stationery has been purchased and sent to school as soon as possible. There is no need to name pens, pencils, or glue sticks as these will be pooled together and used throughout the year. Stationery can be purchased here: [www.myschool.co.nz](http://www.myschool.co.nz)



## Important Information

**Parent Help:** We love to have parent helpers in class or around the school. Please let your class teacher know if you can volunteer time to help in class.

**Book Bags:** Book bags will travel between home and school each day. Homework books will be kept in the book bag. If they do not have their book bag at school they will not be able to take a reader or library book home.

**Uniforms:** Please ensure that ALL of your child's uniform is named clearly. Avoid initials as this tends to cause confusion. PE uniform can be kept in your child's school bag and sent to school daily. It is a requirement and is used at various times throughout our learning week. The CPS school hat is required in Terms 1 and 4.

**Spare clothing:** We encourage your child to have a spare change of clothes, including underwear. Accidents do happen and it makes it easier if we have access to clean clothing. We suggest PE gear is left in your child's bag for this reason.

**Litterless lunch:** We are an enviro school and encourage our community to make wise choices when packing lunch boxes. The healthier the lunch box, the healthier the child and their learning! Re-useable containers and 'nude food' are encouraged. Wrappers will be sent home in your child's lunch box. Please send a water bottle to school daily to help keep your child hydrated.

**School Houses:** Children belong to one of four school houses. The houses are named after four famous Cambridge horses- Sir Tristram (Yellow), Charisma (Black), Young Quinn (Green), and Zabeel (White or Blue). House points are collected in many ways such as demonstrating our CPS Key Competencies and at school sports days. Families are kept in the same house and can dress up in their house colour for school sporting events.

**Classrooms open at 8:30 am:** An 8:30 am bell will ring to indicate children can enter the school grounds. If you are at school before this time, please respect the teacher's time to prepare for the day. Children are not to be on school grounds unsupervised before 8.30 am (unless in Before School Care).

**End of day:** To ease traffic congestion, we will continue with staggered release of children at the end of the day. Times according to surname: A - F; 2:50 pm, G - M; 2:55 pm, N - Z; 3:00 pm.

**Wanted:** A box of tissues is greatly appreciated for each class.

**School Communications:** Please regularly read the school newsletters and the week ahead through HERO. All information is also available on our CPS website.

There will be many opportunities and challenges throughout the year and we are looking forward to an exciting year of learning. If you have any questions please feel free to ask your child's class teacher.

Ngaa mihi

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