

# Kōwhai

## 2022

Ms Richards & Mrs Gibson



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### Welcome to Kōwhai 2022

Nau Mai, Haere Mai and welcome to Kōwhai class and our amazing new learning space. I hope everyone has thoroughly enjoyed their holidays and are ready for another year of learning at Broomfield School. I'm really looking forward to having the opportunity to teach your wonderful children in 2022.

### A Bit About Myself

Originally from Ashburton, I spent my teenage years living in Blenheim, then went to the University of Otago and completed my Bachelor of

Arts in social work. After working in the mines in Western Australia for 10 years, Brent and I bought some land in Waipara and returned to settle in Amberley and start our family.

In 2011 I decided to retrain and graduated with a Postgraduate diploma in Teaching and Learning, only months before our third child arrived. I have been teaching in North Canterbury for the past eight years across all age levels and love the variety of the different ages. I completed my teaching registration teaching Year 0 - 4 so I'm really looking forward to teaching juniors again.

I live in an all male household and have three gorgeous boys (aged 15, 13 and 7 years). I've lived in North Canterbury for 15 years and live on a vineyard in Waipara with my partner Brent. I love all sports, cooking, travelling and most of all spending time with my family.

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### School Times

Our learning starts at 8:55am and finishes at 2:50pm so children can get on the bus in time.

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### Expectations

Kōwhai children are expected to be the best person they can be and manage their behaviour. As a result we have created class expectations for our Kōwhai Whare (our house), caring and showing kindness for our peers, looking after our belongings and managing our behaviour features highly and also reflect our school values of Achievement, Belonging, Creativity and Self Belief. I focus on positive behaviour for learning and will support children to use their WITS when dealing with any problems. Kōwhai children will also learn about the Zones of Regulation and different strategies they can use to help them when they are not coping in certain situations, such as anxiety, anger or sadness. I can discuss this more at our Meet the Teacher evening.

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## Learning in Kōwhai

Kōwhai follows a common timetable. Monday to Thursday our morning learning is centered around Literacy and Numeracy, then other areas of the curriculum are in the afternoon. On Fridays, children will explore Science, Technology, the Arts and PE. Play based learning has also been incorporated into Kōwhai, which encourages children to problem solve, communicate, explore and be creative.

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## Teaching Staff

Emma Gibson and myself will share the teaching of Kōwhai Class this year. I will be in class Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, whilst Emma will teach on Thursdays. Emma and I shared teaching responsibilities last year and found the experience positive and our teaching styles very similar. Emma will follow our weekly timetable on Thursday to ensure consistency and will explore Strand Maths - statistics, measurement, geometry - over the coming terms. Emma will cover any release days I have (two per term).

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## Literacy

Our daily morning literacy programme consists of phonics, writing, letter formation and reading using the Structured Literacy approach and oral language. Children will work in literacy groups with text and tasks suited to their ability.

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## Numeracy

Numeracy involves daily group work, independent activities, maths games and problem solving with materials.

Mathletics is available for home use and passwords will be sent home. If you would like more support with your child's maths or ideas to make it fun in everyday life please let me know.

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## Home Learning

I am aware how busy we all are and do not want to put added pressure on families, however I believe that additional support at home is highly beneficial, as it reinforces and helps children practice their learning from school.

Each day children will bring home a book from their browsing box, this will be a level below but may be unseen text so they might need support. Please read with your child daily for 15 mins (to them, they read or share the reading) and record in their reading journal. Children will also bring home a basic facts sheet at the start of the week to practice in their home learning book and be tested at the end of the week.

Children will be given an optional home learning activity sheet in Week 3 to complete if they wish. Children can share this learning at school on Friday.

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## Library

Our library day is Tuesday, please support your child to remember their library books. A library box is in class for returned books.

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## Swimming and Triathlon

Tī Kōuka children are to bring their bathers/togs to school everyday for swimming. The school pool reopens on Tuesday 8th February.

Bikes can now be brought to school so children can practice for the school triathlon, scheduled to run on Friday 18th February. Bikes will be locked away each night in our class leading up to the triathlon.

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## Education Outside the Classroom

Dates have yet to be determined due to the traffic light system but I intend to take Kōwhai on two class trips and will advise as soon as possible.

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## TERM 1 Learning Overview

**Numeracy** - statistics, developing our knowledge of numbers and strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems and basic facts.

**Literacy** - structured literacy approach focussing on learning sounds (phonemes) and writing words and letters correctly (encoding). Independent and shared writing, recounts, poetry and descriptions.

**Topic** - Our school wide topic this year is Making Connections. Kōwhai will connect with each other, people in our school, our community and environment (such as waterways and releasing our growing tadpoles). Our school value for the term is Belonging, focussing on building relationships and creating a positive and supportive environment in our whare (house) .

**The Arts** - Portraits, water colours, collage, collaborative art and painting.

**PE** - Swimming, Triathlon and team building games.

**Te Reo Maori** - daily commands, karakia, waiata, digital school wide pepeha and integrated across all learning areas.

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## Dates to Note

Tuesday 8th Feb - Meet the Teacher

Tuesday 15th Feb - Full school triathlon practice

Friday 18th Feb - Broomfield Triathlon

Monday 21st Feb - PP Broomfield Triathlon

Friday 14th April - Term 1 finishes.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact myself at [jo@broomfield.school.nz](mailto:jo@broomfield.school.nz) or Emma at [emma@broomfield.school.nz](mailto:emma@broomfield.school.nz).