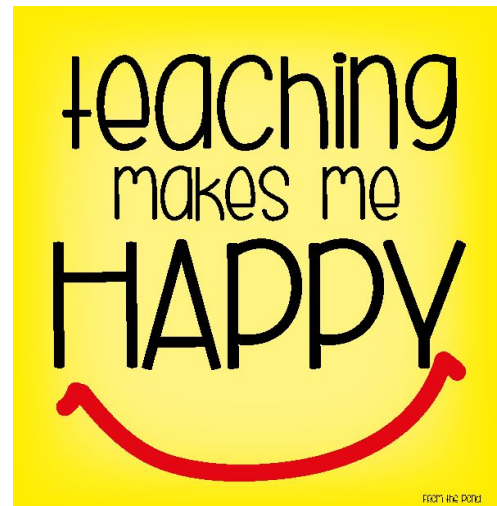


Welcome to Room 4

Mrs Turner
NE/ Year 1 teacher



A little about me...

Originally from the small island of Jersey in the UK, I moved to NZ in 2009 with my mum and brother, where we made our new home in beautiful Mangawhai. I moved down to Auckland the following year to study teaching at Auckland University, and graduated in 2010.

I joined the Kohia Terrace School family in July 2016 as a New Entrant teacher. This is my 8th year of teaching and I couldn't imagine a more rewarding career. I am especially passionate about working with our youngest learners who are just beginning their adventures at school.

I feel privileged to be part of such a supportive school community and I am looking forward to working alongside families to ensure the best learning outcomes for your children.

Starting School

When children start school we initially focus on ensuring they feel comfortable and happy within the classroom, playground and around the school. Learning begins from day one and students understand that they come to school to learn. We encourage them to be independent, and support them to make new friends. Building strong relationships and getting to know each child individually is a huge priority for me.

Daily Routines and Learning Experiences

8.30 – When the first bell rings in the morning, children are welcomed into the classroom. They are encouraged to hang their bag on a peg outside Room 4, take their guided reading book out of their book bag and put it into their allocated group box. They then put their book bag in the pink box. After this they may then choose to work on a quiet activity inside the classroom until 8.50am when the bell rings for school to start. A visual timetable is displayed on the whiteboard so students and parents can see what is in store for the day ahead. I also have learning focuses written on the whiteboard for parents to see what we are learning that week.

8.50 – 10.30 – Our morning block begins with ‘Circle Time’ which focuses around sharing our thoughts, practicing our thinking & questioning skills, as well as developing oral language and listening. This is followed by writing lessons where students work as part of small groups to learn fundamental writing skills. We take part in whole class fitness daily and I also include many ‘brain breaks’ where students are encouraged to move and be active.

10.30 – 11.00 – Morning tea. The children have a drink, healthy snack and play.

11.00 – 12.40 – Literacy learning continues in the middle block with guided reading groups, handwriting and our phonics programme. We have music lessons on Tuesdays with our specialist music teacher and on Wednesdays and Fridays children enjoy PE and sports skills. Children also take part in Art lessons on Fridays.

12.40 – 1.30 – Lunchtime. Students sit down for the first 10 minutes of lunch in the shade to eat their lunch. They must show the duty teacher their lunchbox to ensure they have eaten enough of their delicious lunch. They then are free to play with their friends. In Terms 1 and 4 students need to wear a hat to play outside.

1.30 – 3.00pm – During the afternoon, we enjoy learning Maths in small groups and children are encouraged to develop their fine motor skills through a variety of engaging activities. The bell rings at 3pm and children are dismissed with a 'high five' from the teacher once we have made eye contact with the caregiver picking them up. Please phone or email the school office to let them know if you are running late.

Writing

Our writing programme is based around developing students phonological awareness (what letters sound like) and how they are put together to form words and sentences. Initially we encourage children to express and develop their own ideas through drawing a picture and thinking of a sentence. Next we help them to hear and record the sounds they can hear in the words. We have structured group guided writing sessions with the teacher, whole class shared writing sessions, and time for students to write independently.

Handwriting and Phonics is also included in the writing programme. This encourages children to learn how to correctly form the letters of the alphabet, and identify the sounds they make, as well as making and breaking words into chunks of sounds.

Reading

We read at school every day, and encourage your child to read with someone each evening in some form at home. Students take home a book in their book bag Monday through to Thursday which they will enjoy reading with you at home. On Friday we read a poem of the week, and the poem that we learn in class will come home with your child. Reading lessons focus on developing children's reading and comprehension strategies, as well as nurturing a love of books and stories.



Maths

Similarly to reading and writing, we teach maths in a combination of whole class, independent and guided group teaching. Throughout the week we focus on either Maths knowledge (Number sequences, identification, patterns) or strategies (how to understand and manipulate numbers to solve problems). One session a week focuses on a particular strand of maths, for instance geometry, measurement, or statistics. There are many opportunities to incorporate maths in daily classroom life and this also happens regularly, with lots of hands-on activities.

Library

Our library session is on a Monday. Books are to be taken home and can be kept at home for the week to read with your child. If children would like to change their book before Friday they can do this during lunchtime or before school starts. All library books are to be returned each Friday.

Assemblies

We have whole school assembly fortnightly on a Friday from 9am - 9.45am. Here we celebrate learning and present awards to children who are showing the KTS values. Parents are welcome to attend these. We also have Koru team hui (assembly) on Monday morning following our Jump Jam (dance aerobics) session, where we acknowledge students who are following the KTS code.

Lost Property

Please ensure all belongings are clearly name labeled. Any lost property will be placed in the box in the corridor between rooms 1,2&3. We do our best at school to ensure children look after their own belongings and I have a box in class that items are kept safe if they have been misplaced..

Behaviour

We work on praising positive behaviour and good choices on a daily basis. If any behaviours are causing concern or affecting a child's learning, I will contact you to arrange a time to meet. Please let me know if you are concerned or worried about any change in behaviour. Please refer to the KTS Behaviour Policy for further information on the guidelines.



Communication

I send out weekly parent emails to keep you informed about our learning and activities. Please also read the weekly KTS newsletter and check our school website regularly as events will be added to the calendar. I am always open to questions and enjoy communicating with parents. The best way to contact me is via email at amy@kts.school.nz. I look forward to working alongside you in your child's learning journey, please always feel welcome to talk to me.

