



Emerald Block 2019

Nau mau, haere mai, hoki mai ki te tau hou! Welcome to Emerald Block 2019! We are so excited to be working alongside you all this year to provide some fun learning experiences for your tamariki. On Monday 11th Feb we will be having a meet the teacher evening where you can come down and have a listen to what we have planned this term and get to know one another a bit better. But for now, here's a bit about us and any other bits and pieces that we often get asked at the beginning of every year :)



Tēnā koutou katoa, He uri tenei nō Ngāti Porou, nō Ngāti hāmoa hoki. Ko Cherie Toatoa tēnei e mihi atu ana ki a koutou. Kia ora koutou. I am Cherie Toatoa, I am one of the Deputy Principals here at Birchville School. This year I am syndicate leader for Emerald Block and I will also be teaching alongside Clare and Katherine every morning from Mon-Wed. I have been teaching for...ages! Mainly in a bilingual class Years 0-3 so lots of experience with this age group. Very excited to be in the team this year.



Hi everyone! I am Clare Jaurigue (pronounced Hah-ree-geh) also known as Mrs J to the kids. I am from England originally but have called New Zealand my home for 14 years now. I have been teaching since 2010, mostly with Year 3/4s. After my son was born I became a Playcentre Mum and then relieved at a Preschool in Naenae, before coming back into full time teaching at the end of 2017. I love working with the smaller kids and am super excited to get to know your little ones this year.



Hello! I'm Katherine Wyllie. I have recently married my long time partner Kelly. However, I will be remaining a Wyllie at school. We too have only recently called Wellington home, both relocating from Auckland. I have been teaching Years 0 - 2 for all of my teaching career. I joined Birchville School in 2017. Last year I joined Emerald Block and I am excited to continue in this Block. I love the working with littlelies. I am very excited for the year and to help facilitate growth with our Birchville GEMS.



Things to know/FAQ

Here's some bits and pieces :) If you have any concerns or questions please come and touch base with one of us in the mornings if it is something quick otherwise, flick us an email and we can sort out a time to meet.

Timetable

We have attached the skeleton version of our weekly overview. As life changes and evolves so will this timetable adapt to meet the needs of your tamariki. You will see Play Based Learning will be in the morning sessions after Roll, Karakia, Timetable and Waiata. This will be planned each week to cover a range of key competencies and schemas. There is a lot of research to support this style of learning and once we get going you will see teachers will then start to pull groups out for the core areas. We will be spending a good chunk in the first term setting up these systems and routines with your tamariki and all good things take time.

PMP will start hopefully around Week 4, strengthening the perceptual motor skills of our littlies and then we also have the Life Ed Bus visiting in Week 3.

It will be a very busy term! On top of this and underlying all of this is really embedding our school values of Growth, Empathy, Mana and Self Belief. Teaching kindness, our key competencies and all of that good stuff that sits behind the Reading, Writing and Maths.

We are really looking forward to sharing this journey with you all.

Stationery

First 2 weeks are really just settling in and building relationships. We plan to do this through lots of oral language and lots of art. We won't be using books until beginning of Week 3.

Stationery: \$20 per child

This year we are not handing out stationery lists as we are able to get all stationery at a largely reduced rate through bulk buying and agreements we have. (Please note the school does not make any profit from stationery). Please make payment into the BOT account by Friday 1st February 2019. BOT account Number: 12-3478-0038482-00.
Particulars: Stationery Code: Child's Block eg. Sapphire Reference: Child's Name

At the start of the year children will be expected to bring in a box of tissues, 1 can of food per child for emergencies supplies and Emerald children will need to bring a book bag.

Other Dates and Events

Please check the school calendar for all dates and events and ensure you are signed up to our private school facebook site. Here are some up and coming. More info will come out about these.

- ❑ Meet the teacher Evening - Mon 11th Feb - Emerald 6-6.20, Moonstone 6.20-6.40, Sapphire 6.40-7.
- ❑ Whānau Hui for all whānau of Māori Students Tuesday 19th Feb- 6pm in Emerald Block
- ❑ School assemblies every even week starting Week 2 - Fri 15th Feb, all welcome to come starts 9.10am in school hall.

Sunhats, Brainfood, Water, Helmets, Shoes

- ❑ Term One and Term Four are our sunsmart terms. All children must wear a named sunhat. If they do not have one on that day they will need to play only in the shaded area outside Sapphire block.
- ❑ Brainfood is fresh fruit or veges. Nothing in a wrapper. If your child does not eat brainfood we will encourage them to drink some water.
- ❑ Named water bottle, your child will have access to this all day as needed.
- ❑ Helmets - Our children are encouraged to ride their wheels at school during break times. All wheels must have a helmet. Bikes are only allowed on the bike track and scooters and other wheels on the asphalt outside the hall.
- ❑ We have a flexible learning environment. Our kids will be working on the floors doing puzzles and creating things with equipment for all learning areas. During the winter and wet seasons, children will take their shoes off in class. Please help your child by sending them with no laces until they are confident with laces.

Home Learning, Book Bags, Home Readers and News

We will send out more information about these in Week 3.



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Developing Independence

As much as we love to help our kids, sometimes by doing this we are not enabling them to be independent. Please encourage your children to practise this independence from day one. They can pack their own bags, carry their bags, bring in and empty their book bags, and put away their shoes. They can also practise dressing themselves at home. We understand that each child is different and has different needs, but for most these are some tasks that we can work on to build confidence and independence.

Pick ups and drop offs

It is of utmost importance that we ensure the safe pick up of your children after school. Could we please ask that all parents wait under the sails to pick up your children rather than coming into class or onto the deck. We will bring the children out to the deck for you to then come and collect them. It is really difficult for us to see 42 little heads mixed in with all the parents. This is especially important if we are returning to class and or where we are transitioning from sports or other classes at the end of the day. If your child has an older sibling or other family member picking them up please let them know. If your child is not collected by 3.10pm we will take them to the school office to be collected.

Class Dojo

Our class dojo system is an online portal to support learning and behaviour. We have attached in invite if you are not yet connected and sent out an email. Please sign up! This will enable you to see when they have been showing our school GEMS. It will also enable you to have discussions with them if you see that they are not showing their GEMS. The students will choose what rewards they would like to work towards and at different benchmarks will receive these. They love it and so do we. We might trial the online portfolio as a way of sharing learning and play with you as well. This will be work in progress as the teachers learn how to navigate it and teach your child to do this also, we will endeavour to keep you updated about that part of it!

Collaborative Teaching and Learning

We are really excited this year to be working collaboratively in a new team. All the planning and teaching will be done as a team. We have spreadsheets set up to track everything including any communication from home or conversations you may have with one of us so that we are all on the same page. If you have any concerns please flick both Clare and Katherine an email and they will set up a time for us all to meet. Alternatively if we have any concerns we will also do the same.

Inquiry Learning, Kapa Haka, Swimming

Our school wide Inquiry focus for this term is Make a Difference. To Make a Difference for others we first need to know ourselves. A lot of this first term will be built around this kaupapa. Who am I?

Kapa Haka - Matua Whaitiri will be focusing this year on the Mau Rākau Leadership Programme. Each syndicate will be in charge of teaching and learning their own waiata and Te reo Māori programmes. Whāea Cherie will be incorporating this into our morning sessions in Emerald Block and then she will be taking a Kapa Haka extension group for the Middle and Senior Syndicates only this year. This group only will be hosting and performing at the Kapa Haka Festival end of Term 3.

Swimming - Swimming is on the back burner at the moment as Māoribank fix their pool.

Contact Details

Please contact Clare and Katherine as your first point of call for any concerns:

clare@birchville.school.nz
katherine@birchville.school.nz