

# Room 5 Newsletter Term Four 2016

14<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Families and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope you enjoyed your holiday time with your children and you are settled back into the routine of school. It is going to be a very busy few weeks! Outlined below is some helpful information about what we have planned in Room 5 this term.

## Organisational Information:

**Room 5 helpers:** We are very lucky in Room 5 to have a class Nana. Mrs. Kathie Furlong joins us during literacy times on Tuesday to assist children with reading, spelling and writing.

**Home Learning Books:** Home learning remains the same this term. The compulsory components are reading, spelling and mathematics. Home Learning books must be at school on **Monday** and **Friday**. The children are responsible for getting their home learning organised. I appreciate your continued support in this area. By supporting your child with learning at home you are role modelling learning and showing them you value school and their learning.

**Education outside the classroom (EOTC):** This term we will be having a day out learning outside the classroom. The date for this will be the 6th December. All of team Kowhai will be going to the Clive pools. Details to follow... But we will need parent help to make this trip possible.

**Water bottles:** As the weather is getting warmer children can have a water bottle on their desk in class. A small drink bottle with a 'leak proof' lid is ideal. We will also start wearing out sunhats whenever we are outside at school.

## What are we learning?

- As a team, we will be having a **P.E. Skills** every Monday afternoon and Friday morning. We will have an athletics focus in the lead up to our school athletics competition. Please ensure children come to school prepared for sports on those days.
- **Inquiry Focus:** We have the Life Education Trust truck visiting us this term. We will be making the most of this and will incorporate it into an inquiry called "Staying healthy and happy". We will be encouraging the kids to take greater ownership of their own learning during this inquiry.

- **Literacy:** Our reading program will be structured around reading comprehension strategies identified as needing targeting, according to recent running records. Reading is no longer about just reading the words, we need to move into making more of a connection to the texts we are reading to identify the author's purpose and making inferences (looking for clues in the story). As you read with your child stop regularly to check their understanding of the text. The texts we are reading in class may come home more than once. Research shows there is so much value in re-reading a piece of writing to help build fluency and understanding. Our writing program will focus around meeting report goals and keeping up all the good writing habits we have been working on all year. We have some very talented writers in Room 5!
- **Oral language:** This term we will be starting 'teach the teacher'. Each child will be expected to come to school ready to teach the whole class how to do or make something, using a clear voice and with expression. Everyone is an expert at something! Start having a talk about what your child might like to teach; what they are an expert in. More details to come...
- **Mathematics:** Our main strand foci this term are Measurement, Money and Statistics. Maintenance of all our basic fact knowledge will continue through homework and in class. Math homework becomes very important in helping maintaining the math knowledge we just have to know. Please take the time each night or morning to spend some time looking at math homework with your child. The value of this time cannot be emphasized enough!

**Dates to remember:**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Anniversary day  
 Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Labour Day  
 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November – Testing Week  
 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November – School Athletics day  
 Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Interschool Athletics  
 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – EOTC trip to Clive Pools  
 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Reports home  
 Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term

I am looking forward to a brilliant term and if you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to come and see me. It is always best to make an appointment if you think that more than a quick word is required, as I tend to get fairly busy in the mornings. You are welcome to e-mail me at school too. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,  
 Kate Rufford

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