

Room 5 Newsletter Term Two 2017

6th May 2017

Dear Families/Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2.

It is going to be a busy 10 weeks. Outlined below is some helpful information about what we have planned in Room 5 this term.

This term we welcome Miss Kourtney Brown to Room 5 from the EIT. Miss B spent some time with us last term and this term she completes her 4 week practicum with us, from week 3 till week 6. Please make her feel welcome in Room 5.

Organisational Information

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**. As part of our focus of taking personal responsibility, the children are responsible for getting home learning organised if they have been absent on Monday and for ensuring their tasks have been signed by an adult and handed in on Fridays. I appreciate your continued support in this area.

Assemblies: School assemblies are every second Monday. Our team Kowhai assemblies are every Friday (12:00 till 12:25).

Tissues: Any donations of tissues for those runny noses are greatly appreciated!

Sun Hats: These are not compulsory during term 2 and 3. I have washed them all and will keep them safe till term 4.

Head lice: We had a few cases of head lice in Room 5 last term. Please check for head lice regularly. Girls with long hair should have their hair tied back for school to reduce the chance of contracting lice from other children. Please check heads regularly and do let me know if they are becoming an issue.

Library: We have changed to a Friday library day. This will allow us to have reading books over the weekend.

Mrs Nikki Palamountain continues with us on Tuesday afternoons.

What are we learning?

- **Inquiry Focus:** We get into our inquiry ‘Do you know who you are?’ where we will investigate our own family histories and different cultural celebrations from around the world – We have a very multicultural class so I am hoping to get involvement from as many families as possible. This will lead us into a whole school celebration of Matariki near the end of term.

As a class we will also be exploring 7 Habits of Happy Kids, which connect to the Key Competencies in the New Zealand Curriculum.

The habits speak to emotions, strengths, friendships, meaning, and accomplishment. There are 7 key positive psychology principles:

1. **Be Proactive** - Manage feelings and stay optimistic.
2. **Begin with the End in Mind** - Anticipate the good, persist, and be resilient.
3. **Put First Things First** - Prioritise positive choices, plans and accomplishments.
4. **Think Win-Win** - Adopt a growth mind set.
5. **Seek to Understand and Be Understood** - Manage feelings and be empathetic.
6. **Synergize** - Focus on strengths.
7. **Sharpen the Saw** - Take care of self and others and find meaning and purpose.

- **Reading:** This term I will be encouraging most students to start having a go at reading chapter books. We love reading in Room 5 and the goal is to build our reading stamina. If your child comes home with a chapter book you suspect they will find challenging please share read it with them (e.g. you read a page or paragraph then they read). Also, after reading a section of text, stop to chat with them about what is going on in the story. The value of these conversations cannot be emphasized enough! Share predictions about what might happen next, or a time you felt like the character in the story, or hunt for some WOW words. Thanks for your continued support with this.

- **Writing:** In term one we focused on ensuring the surface features of our writing were correct. In fact, we came up with 5 sentence rules (I wonder if your child can tell you what these are?!?). Spelling continues to be a challenge for many students so we will really be working on improving our phonological and recall skills this term. We also move on to making our writing much more exciting for the reader by using some more descriptive language and by adding detail. We will explore different genres of writing, from personal writing to narratives, through to more informative genres of writing.

- **Maths:** We have a lot to cover this term! We start with position and orientation, then division and multiplication, algebra patterning and time and temperature. With so much to cover this term, maths homelearning becomes really important. Please make it a priority to complete as much homelearning as possible, and to see Mrs Rufford early in the week if there are any issues.

Important Dates

- 19th May – Book Character Dress up day
- 17th May – 23rd May - Scholastic Book Club in school.
- 30th May – Trip to MTG for Matariki (10:00am till 11:30)
- 5th of June – Queen's Birthday (No school)
- 13th June – Team Kowhai trip to the Waka
- 19th – 23rd June – Whole school celebration of Matariki (more details to follow)
- 27th June – Team Kowhai trip to Otatara Pa (29th Postponement date)
- Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th July - School Interviews. School will close at 2.00pm on these days.

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. I love teaching these amazing kids!!

Kind Regards

Kate Rufford

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