

Te Mahuri Hub Newsletter Term 3, #1 2019

Welcome to Term 3! I hope your children had a lovely break and you enjoyed some quality time with your children and families. The aim of this newsletter is to communicate with you about what is happening in our hub with events and learning and to remind you of hub and school expectations and celebrations.

Maths Learning

I have noticed students are lacking fluency and speed in the area of multiplication Basic Facts. We will be incorporating in a 'Basic facts speed test' element into the Maths sessions. This will take place in the first 5 minutes of the lesson. This speed test allows your child to race against themselves to see if they improve each time. Once they have completed the table, they write down their time and when they do the same number again next time they are able to compare speed to see if they have improved their basic facts knowledge. I have seen this repetitive nature of learning timetables to work really well and the children find it extremely intrinsically motivating to try and beat their time. On a general maths note, we will be diving into a interactive unit on geometry for the first half of the term, before focussing back on multiplication and division strategies in the second half.

L.I.G.H.T.S

Currently we are finishing off the "I" stage where we are investigating solutions to an issue your child has shown interest in. This leads into the "G" stage which will be the focus of the term. This stage is designed for the children to "go for it!" and implement their projects they have come up with in their expert groups. Some groups will be going on field trips in the initial stages to get "expert" knowledge- teachers responsible for such trips will be in touch.



Reading

Your children are becoming better readers in many ways, including summarising, questioning, clarifying and predicting. I expect that they read at home every night for 20 minutes. To ensure this I will be implementing reading logs that will be checked at the end of the week. This is to encourage students to build up their reading mileage and stamina, which is the best way to increase reading skills! Please encourage them with this by borrowing library books and by talking about what they are reading. I have set up a borrowing box in the class with a selection of books I have personally collected- this is to ensure that during our daily silent reading time, no child is sitting empty handed, and they have access to reading material if they forget their book. This term we will be starting novel studies in reading groups- more on come on this!

Spelling

Every Monday children will bring home new spelling words. They should then spend until the following Monday learning those words. I expect that the students manage themselves in this area, but encouragement and support from parents never goes amiss. When starting out a new writing unit, it is important that we boost our ability to spell difficult words- something that only comes with repeated practise!

Reminders

Cell Phones/social media

This is a distraction at school so please leave them at home if possible. Otherwise these need to stay in school bags until after the final bell rings at the end of the day. Please also take the time to chat to your child about the safe use of technology and social media.

Learning Times

Learning time begins at 8:55am. You will need to notify the office if your child arrives later than 8:55 am. To ensure a smooth, calm start to the day, teachers are not available for conversations after 8:50am. I am in class at 8:30 and available for casual conversations, and also available at 3pm. If you would like an extended chat, please book a time with me via email.

Uniform

Polar fleeces are recommended each day- ensure these are named. Shoes should be taken off as children enter their Kōhanga door and placed in their cubbies with their bags.

Up-and-Coming Events

Week 1	Fri 26 July	Whole school assembly- 2pm-3pm, all parents welcome.
Week 3	Tue 6 August	Yr 7/8 Girls Netball Tournament- information will be emailed to those who are involved. Learning Conferences 1pm-8pm- Times for these will be arranged and TBC
Week 5/6	Daily	Whole school swimming lessons. Te Mahuri will have an afternoon slot starting at 2pm until the end of the day. This will run for two weeks.

Handing in our finished reports. How professional!



Mindfulness session with mental health Nurse, Beth.

