

Te Kākano Hub Newsletter

Term 2 ~ Week 12 ~ 2020

We made it through!

This has been a trying season for us as teachers and, we're sure, you as parents too. This has been the longest term that we've had in a long, long time. That mixed with the constant changes surrounding covid-19, the holidays will be a welcome rest for all. All we can do during these times is our best and we thank those who have journeyed positively alongside us as we transitioned down through the levels. We pray that your children are able to fully rest over the holidays and be ready for a 'normal' term next term.



Play-based Learning

Over the next few newsletters we are going to be looking at schemas and the role they play in your child's play. Schemas are the avenues children explore to make sense of the world. Schemas in children's play are such an important concept when it comes to the development of children that it's worth taking the time to understand them so you can facilitate them when you see them at home and we can support them at school.

This week's schema is: Orientation

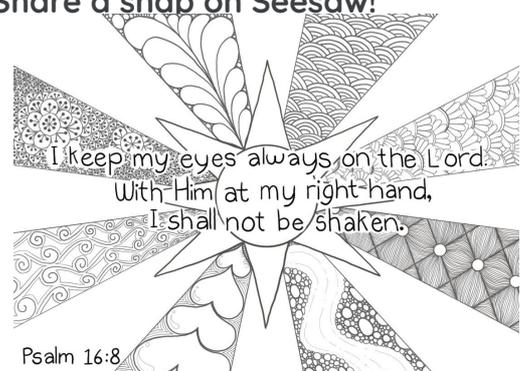
The urge to hang upside down, get the view from under the table or on top of the dresser and other actions that are part of the **Orientation** schema. In order to 'know' what it is like to hang upside down or see things from a different point of view you must take yourself into those positions. Although you and I might not hang upside down very often these days, we still 'know' what it feels like to hang upside down - because we have the experience - we learned what it was to hang upside down when we too had our **Orientation** urge kick in. At school, we see children climbing up on the cable dums and flexible playground, hanging upside down on the monkey bars, climbing trees going under the table, and laying back on a chair. To support orientation schema play, try walking along walls, rolling down hills, climbing up steps and any kind of movement that requires them to find different heights or positions. Gymnastics, games like Twister, soft play, or a simple trip to the park, are also great for exploring different points of views. And of course, there is always climbing trees.

What do you notice your child do at home as they develop in their orientation schema? Share a snap on Seesaw!

Living Christianly

This week, we are looking at Finding and Taking Opportunities and how the apostle John did this.

Next term, we will focussing on Hope - Citizenship. So our topics will be focussed around developing a **Genuine interest in human and environmental sustainability**, having **A Global Perspective** and **Understanding different values and worldviews**.



So what has my child's education journey been so far in 2020?

Covid-19, lockdown and health regulations have significantly altered Te Kākano's usual learning programme. We felt it was important to give you an overview of what has happened this year so you can better understand your child's learning journey. We encourage you to hold this in one hand and your child's report in the other. Next term, we will be having learning conferences in Week 2 which will be centred around your child's academic progress and their next learning steps going forward. Reading, Writing & Maths groups are taught on Monday-Thursday.

Term 1 Week 1 (Wed-Fri)	This was, as with all new years, an important settling time for our children, particularly with two new classes and staff members. Teachers used this time to get to know your children.
Week 2 Mon-Fri	In order for our programme to work well, we spent this time training the children how to come to their new groups, play and to be organised for learning. We took 'mini' lessons to introduce the children to their new teachers and get them ready for learning.
Weeks 3/4/5/6/7	Our instructional learning groups commenced. Children will have had 3 lessons per week in reading/writing/maths, for 20 mins or more with a teacher in a quiet space. As a hub we had one day out at Willowbank/Tuatara visit during week 6. Teachers began testing in Week 7 to prepare for report writing. The children spend an additional hour and a half with their teacher and kōhanga group learning things such as Living Christianly, Handwriting, Big Book Reading, PE and the Arts.
Week 8	Children had their usual reading/writing/maths lesson on the Monday and then school was closed and families were able to start working with the physical learning packs given out.
Weeks 1&2 of holidays	Children were at home while teachers came to terms with learning online.
Term 2 Week 1 (Wed-Fri)	Online learning commenced
Weeks 2/3/4/5	Online learning opportunities were provided as well as learning packs that included a targeted maths book, literacy activities, spelling words, sight words, and Living Christianly. There was varied uptake on these due to family circumstances.
Week 6	All the research and advice from NZ experts, including the Ministry of Education advised us that children's wellbeing was top priority when transitioning back to school. Lots of our kids came back anxious and we needed to re-establish relationships with them. Anxious children struggle with cognitive learning. Teachers spent time playing with children, particularly those we hadn't heard from or seen online for 7 weeks. We were also legally required to be meeting the health standards, which took some of our learning time.
Week 7	Whole Hub (65 children) assessment commenced to establish new learning groups and to see what impact lockdown had had on academic learning. Writing was completed and running records for reading was started. Some children took longer than others and had multiple running records done to establish their new reading level. Children were engaged in play activities, supervised by a teacher and our teacher aides. We were also legally required to be meeting the health standards, which took some of our learning time.
Week 8	Whole hub assessment continued with reading and maths being completed. Children were engaged in play activities, supervised by a teacher and our teacher aides.
Week 9/10/11/12	Our instructional learning groups commenced. Children have had 3 lessons per week in reading/writing/maths, for 20 mins or more with a teacher in a quiet space. We are seeing positive progress already. Other aspects of the programme have continued as well.

Covid-19 and Lockdown were extraordinary events that have impacted children in different ways. As teachers, we needed to have a clear understanding of where children were at post-lockdown in order to uphold our philosophy of teaching to where the children are actually at. We are really proud of the work the children have been doing over the term and we are beginning to see some academic progress which is a great indicator that they are feeling happy and secure in their routines/relationships at school.

Writing Home Learning

Next term, we will be introducing you and your child to their new 'Home Writing Journal'. This journal is going to be one of your child's spare writing books and will have spelling words, spelling word activity sheets and we will be encouraging your child to write a weekly 'journal' entry in there too. This will be shown to you at the Learning Conferences.



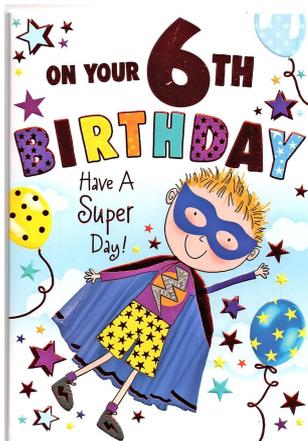
Reminders

- Children need warm layers on as the season gets colder. Black thermals are permitted to be worn under the school uniform.
- Children are only to wear black shoes to school expect Fridays where gumboots or sneakers are great.
- Teachers are available for quick 'transition' chats before school, please save longer chats for after school or make an appointment
- We are noticing some 'Polly Pockets' are being brought to school. Please check your child's school bag for toys before dropping them off.

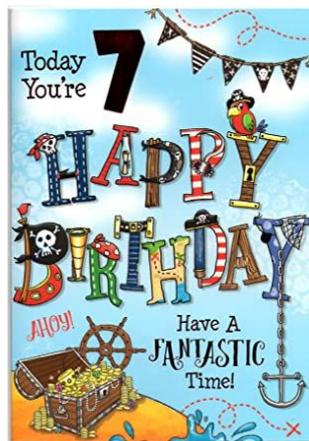
Up-and-Coming Events

Week 12	Mon 29 June	Miss Liggett Leadership release (weekly): Mr Marshall will be taking Koru.
	Tues 30 June	New Entrant Visits: We have seven new entrants visiting in Koru.
	Thurs 2 July	New Entrant Visits: We have seven new entrants visiting in Koru.
	Fri 3 July	RCS Cross Country: Come down and support our wonderful runners!
Weekly	Monday & Tuesday	Meetings: Please be aware TK teachers have meetings after school on these days, so please pick your children up promptly so we can get ready for these.

Week 12 and School Holiday Birthday Celebrations



Carter & Corey



Jonty



Avril



Miss Liggett

We need all reading & spelling resources back that we gave out at lockdown please :)



Blessings, Miss Emily Langridge (Mānuka), Mr Mark Smith (Kōwhai), Mrs Gabby Nuthall (Rarahu) & Miss Kendra Liggett (Koru)