

Room 4 Class Newsletter

Term 1 2023



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

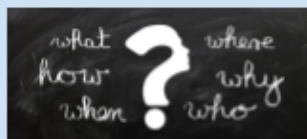
Hi everyone,

Welcome to term 1, and a special welcome to our newest class member Jazz, and his family. Hopefully you have all had an enjoyable and restful holiday break (even though it probably wasn't the summer we were all hoping for) and are as excited about the term ahead as we are. Our start of the year has been quite unusual and challenging, but we will continue over the next couple of weeks settling back into school, revisiting the Mangatawhiri Way, spending time with our big buddies and learning classroom and schoolwide routines. We look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks.

The big idea for our learning this term is "**Culture and Identity**". Identity is who we are, and the things that make us individuals. Culture is the name given to the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a group of people. These are important to help us develop self-esteem, and a sense of self-worth important for well being.

We will be looking at

- The Treaty of Waitangi - what is it and why is it important to all New Zealanders
- Who we are and where we are from
- Our local and national history and geographical features



Our teaching will evolve as we learn what the children already know and what they would like to find out more about.

Physical Education: Our focus for the first half of the term is swimming. It is the school's expectation that children will swim every day. We will make sensible decisions as to whether we will swim or not, so please send your child's togs everyday. The children will be ability grouped and will be taught skills to help them become more confident and competent swimmers.



MATHS:

- We start off this term focussing on statistics - collecting data, and representing what we find in graphs.
- A visit from the ASB Getwise team will be an early highlight as we find out more about making sensible choices about money.
- We will also be learning all about numbers, including place value, addition and subtraction throughout the term.
- Basic facts for home learning will begin around week 4 or 5.



Music and Te Reo

We will be working with Mr Green every Tuesday for our Music programme. Students will have the opportunity to use instruments, learn a little about the history of music, and experience music from many different ages. Whaea Preva will be in school every Monday working with the students to support our Te Reo programme and develop our understanding of the maori world (Te Ao Maori)

LITERACY

READING & WRITING

Our class literacy programme is based on the Structured Literacy philosophy where children learn to read and write using a well defined sequence of sounds and spelling patterns.

Reading and writing are reciprocal processes and as such need to be taught together.

Students learn in groups according to their existing knowledge and need. Daily lessons are structured to incorporate revision of sound knowledge and development of spelling patterns. There will be a class-wide focus as well as a group/individual focus for learning.

If you have older students at school, you will notice that the writing book might look a bit different. Dictation plays an important part of learning to write and we use this to practice the spelling pattern we are concentrating on.



Reading will be done **to, by** and **with** your child and we encourage you to do the same at home on a daily basis. Most days your child will bring home their book bag which includes their daily reading journal and may include reading material from school. Any reading completed at home should be recorded in the journal. Please leave any comments you would like about the story, how they reacted to the text, how well they read etc. These comments help to encourage your child and are helpful to us.

Bookbags must come back to school every day.

We have a library session every Wednesday.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

Gratitude
Empathy
Mindfulness &
Emotional Literacy

As a response to the concern regarding mental health and wellbeing in our country, we have enrolled in a programme called "The Resilience Project" to teach our students positive mental health strategies to help them become happier and more resilient.

The Resilience Project is an evidence-based programme that has been used in Australia for a number of years with outstanding results. The programme involves (and benefits) students, teachers, and also parents. Each week, there is a particular focus for in-class learning and activities as well as at-home practice activities (if applicable). This is an exciting addition to our learning and you will receive more information over the next few weeks in class emails and the school newsletter.

HOME LEARNING

This should not be long or laborious. A quick reading time, some basic facts for maths and spelling words to practice (once we get these up and running) is all that is expected. Try to make the time a positive and enjoyable one for your child and you. And don't forget that talking with your child about what they are doing at school and what you have been up to for the day is wonderful learning for your children too.



We are looking forward to a great term. If you need to contact us for anything, email is often the best option.

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