

Welcome to Room 2, Term 1, 2017

Dear parents/caregivers,

Welcome back to a new year. I hope that you have enjoyed the summer break. It's very exciting to be back teaching in Room 2 after having been on maternity leave looking after my almost eight month old daughter Mia. This term I will be teaching on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday while Jenny McKenzie will be in Room 2 on Monday and Tuesday.

Room 2 welcomes Samuel DeRitter who has moved to New Zealand from the UK recently. We also welcome Kurt, Araminta, Kara, Addison and Angus who have joined us from Room 1 this term.

In the first few weeks of the term we will be putting a special focus on getting to know the children and building a relationship with them. Along with this, we will work on classroom routines and building the foundations we need for a safe, secure and comfortable learning environment so that all children can reach their potentials as lifelong learners.

An important feature of this term will be swimming, which will occur on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday up until the 10th of March. Please ensure that your child is sent to school with their togs, towel and goggles on these days. Please make sure that these items are named. Sunscreen can be either applied in the morning before arriving at school or, if you put a bottle in their bag, we can help them to apply it before they swim.

We will begin the term by writing recounts, where the children will write about a memorable moment in their school holidays after which we will move onto descriptive writing.

In maths, we will be learning about number identification, sequences and place value. The programme will include daily basic fact knowledge practice and opportunities for the children to practice their maths on maths buddy online programme. Jenny will start our maths strand with geometry and move on to measurement and time later in the term.

From Week 2, I will send a reading book home with the children for them to read with somebody at home. Please take the time to read with your child and discuss the ideas, features and words used in the book with them. Daily reading at home promotes a love of reading and is great practice on top of what we do at school. It is really important that the children bring their book bag to school each day with their reading book and spelling book in it. There will also be a reading diary coming home to be signed by you then brought back in their book bag each day too.

Our inquiry this term focuses on lessons encouraging students to fill the buckets of others. It is based on the book 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today' by Carol McCloud. The children will value themselves as individuals and value friendship. We will discuss how kindness, compassion, and respect are so important in our classroom, school, and world. The children will understand that the positive things they do for others show respect and will no doubt come back to them. They will also understand that when they are unkind to others they hurt themselves as well.

This term in home learning we will be putting a big focus on the main curriculum areas of math, reading and writing. There will be no homework sheet. In place of this the children will have daily reading, spelling and basic fact practice to do. Spelling and reading will be brought home in Week 2 and basic fact practice in Week 3 once we have finished the school wide basic fact testing in Week 2.

Our doors are open so please come into Room 2 and see what we are learning any time.

Yours sincerely

Emma-Jayne Tadamasa and Jenny McKenzie