

Welcome to Room1

2017

Welcome back to a new school year☺. While the weather has been not wonderful I hope you all have had a lot of fun family time. I have been away the first two weeks organising my eldest daughter's wedding. Thankfully the weather was great on the day and we have a magical day. Thanks to Patsy Wooles for filling in for me. This year we welcome to the class Jack and Haylee, who had some visits at the end of last year and are quickly fitting into our class.

The first couple of weeks of the term will be spent setting up routines and getting to know each other again. While we endeavour to get straight in to programmes it is important to ensure that children understand the expectations and can do the independent tasks. Once these routines are running smoothly your child will bring home an already seen book. As it is important to develop fluency we aim to do two books each week. At times they may also bring home a book that they would like you to read to them. Your help at home with reading is invaluable in helping your child learn to read and helping to foster a life-long love of reading. For younger students it is important that you support their development of sight words by going over the cards they bring home with their early readers.

Your child will have spelling words set each week to learn at home. They will also practice these words each day during the reading contract. The focus is on mastery of the correct spelling but it is also another way to develop sight words. Encourage your child to read the words and say the letters aloud as they write each word. Each Friday I will test the words and give new words for those they have mastered. It is important that you make sure the spelling book comes back on Fridays.

Last year I introduced 'My learning book', on Friday children wrote about their learning and then took it home. I feel that this engages students in their learning and gives them an opportunity to share the learning with you. We will continue to do this, this year. Please look for the book on Fridays and feel free to add comments and/or stickers. The students value your input into their learning.

We begin the year in maths by thinking about all the different ways we use numbers in our lives. It is important that students understand that the learning we are doing is linked to their life. We will think about what would happen if all the numbers disappeared, where we see and use numbers in our environment, and what our favourite numbers are. You could help by making these links when for example -measuring, time, and using money. We will move towards focusing on numeracy- developing the strategies we know for working out problems and developing our knowledge of numbers to 10, 20 and then 100 and beyond.

While the weather has been a challenge this year we are doing swimming at the Featherston Pools on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 2.00 and 3.00pm. Please ensure that you name the children's clothes clearly as they often don't recognise their own clothes.

In Te Reo this term we will focus on greetings and farewells, as well as introducing ourselves and others.

For inquiry we will begin with a unit on communication and working together.

Big idea: - Taking responsibility for being a successful communicator can influence how effectively we work and learn in our classroom.

We will be inquiring into what communication is and how we can use it to work and learn together better.

I look forward to working in partnership with you this year; you are always welcome in our class.

Regards, Susan