

Room 2, Term 2, 2018

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to Room 2 for the second term of 2018! I hope that your children are well rested after a break and are ready for a pretty busy term! Like last term – blink and you miss it!

Below is what we will cover this term

It is Cross Country Term! We are going to be getting straight into training. Please make sure that your children have some sensible footwear for the training. I always say to the students that while we do train at school I recommend doing some extra training outside of school hours if you are wanting to place well in the Cross Country. The Cross Country is happening in Week 5. More information will come home about this in the next couple of weeks. We also have other sporting opportunities this term – Rippa Rugby sessions and basketball sessions. These are great opportunities for the students to learn and improve their ball skills.

Our main focus for Mathematics throughout the first part of Term 2 will be addition and subtraction. This includes basic facts recall, particularly looking at improving our accuracy and speed. We will be focusing on developing our knowledge and strategies in this area of math. Again, we will be doing several Problem Solving Sessions for the students to develop their skills and knowledge in this area. We will also be doing some Math Inquiry lessons. Math Inquiry allows the students to challenge math concepts. It encourages them to change some rules and explore possibilities while having fun. The other focus for Mathematics is statistics and will happen later in the term. We can have a lot of fun with statistics and the students can plan their own mini inquiries during this unit.

There will be one main focus for writing this term - narrative writing. Narrative writing allows the students to create their own stories and characters. We will look at some great examples of narrative writing and find out what it takes to create a narrative that 'hooks' the reader in. We focus on quality writing rather than quantity as a good piece of writing does not need to be long. We will also spend some time recapping on recount writing from last term. This term we also have a great opportunity to create some writing that will be displayed around Featherston during the Book Town event. The students are SO excited about this and I am sure the final products will look amazing!

Guided reading will continue to take place on a regular basis each week. The students are grouped and will occasionally have activities to complete. These will include activities to improve language, grammar, comprehension, spelling and vocabulary. I meet with each group on a regular basis to discuss the story or article with them. The students enjoy these sessions and it is a great way for us to discuss the topics that the students are reading about.

Our Inquiry topic this term is called 'Our Resourceful World'. This inquiry looks at Earth's resources, how we use them and how we can better look after them. This is a great topic as it has an Environmental element to it. This term we will also continue working with the Feel Brave programme. This programme is designed to help 4 to 7 year-olds explore emotional intelligence, positive psychology and some of the challenging feelings which they might experience in everyday life in an engaging, creative and non-threatening way. Early this term we will also be involved with the Firewise programme. This programme is designed to allow students to learn or extend their learning about fire safety, and where possible, practise fire safety behaviours.

For art this term we will continue to look at drawing. We will look closely at some techniques and will do many sketches throughout the term. The students love opportunities to draw and by the end of the term we will hopefully have a range of art on the walls. We will also look at a fantastic Ted Talks presentation about drawing and how anyone can do it.

Finally, please remember that throughout the term we have many assemblies that you are always welcome to attend. These assemblies are great opportunities for the teachers to celebrate the successes the students have and for the students to share their work with their peers.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hull