

Dear parents/caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you all had a great break and enjoyed your time as a family. I enjoyed my time with my family in Auckland. I enjoyed getting to know my first grandson and I now look forward to meeting our second grandchild in May sometime. This term we will be welcoming Bryce Cowie to our class.

I have continued to build play-based learning into our programme as part of our independent activities. In the holiday's I attended with the rest of the staff professional development on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths) which provides ways of exploring concepts through hands on activities and challenges. I will be using this to extend the children during play-based learning. This term I will set-up activities to encourage children to explore ideas around movement.

Remember that it is important to support your child's reading progress by reading with them each night. Demonstrating that you value reading by listening to them, reading to them read and discussing the stories and ideas will encourage them to value it too. They will have in their bag either a new or an already seen book most days. Children don't have a new book each day as it is important to develop fluency and confidence. Early readers will also have sight word cards to practice. Reading basic words quickly and correctly enables children to enjoy the reading. Reading Eggs is part of our programme which engages the children in learning and practise the skills needed for progress. This can also be accessed from home- let me know if you have misplaced your child's login details and I can send them home again.

Our spelling programme is working well with the children making good gains with their spelling knowledge. The children keep their spelling books in their book bags to practice their words each night. On Friday, I test them and put the new words in. They also practice these words at school daily. Encourage your child to read the word and say the letters of the word each time they write it as this helps them to remember both, the word, and the spelling of it. With older children, it is important to ensure they understand what the word means.

Remember to look for your child's learning book each Friday. The children enjoy sharing what they have learnt and your interest adds value to it. Feel free to comment on what they are sharing or add stickers etc.

This term as discussed above, we will be developing ideas around movement. We will also be doing the Firewise programme which is supported by the NZ fire service. Some children can find this a bit scary but it is important that they can keep themselves safe. Our focus is on developing safe practises around fire and having the children knowing what to do in a fire. You may find them asking you to do things like putting matches and lighters up and to turn handles in on the stoves. Your support in developing these safe practises is important. Later we will be developing a safe exit and meeting play for the children at home. They will bring home a book and CD that you can use to support their learning.

Last term we introduced the 'Feel Brave' programme which talks about how we deal with our feelings through a range of different stories. It talks about how we can control our responses and make positive choices. We will continue this once the Firewise programme is completed.

For maths we are working on Numeracy, developing the students' knowledge of the number system to 20 then 100 and beyond. The focus for this term will be to build basic facts knowledge, and strategies to progress beyond the counting on and back strategies. We will also look at geometry- identifying shapes and developing the language to talk about them. Another aspect of geometry is positional language to enable people to give and follow directions.

Term 2 means cross-country and we aim to build up our level of fitness before our local cluster schools cross-country day later in the term. We are also going to have some sessions on skills for games such as Basketball, Football and Ripper Rugby.

In Te Reo I will be asking someone's name and saying your name. I will be introducing some classroom objects and colours. We will also be continuing to explore how we can use the Rakau.

I look forward to working in partnership with you through the term. Remember you are always welcome.

Susan