

Room 2, Term 3, 2018

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back! I hope that your children are well rested after a break and that they are ready for a great term. This term we welcome three students into our class – Alethea, Lily and Tiari. I know that they will have a great time in Room 2 and they are already settling in.

Below is what we will cover this term

Our main focus for Mathematics throughout the first part of Term 3 will be multiplication and division. We have started this unit already by looking creatively at making arrays with building blocks. This gives the students a visual way to look at multiplication and forms an understanding of what it actually means. We will also continue to focus on 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 will be money. Money comes under the umbrella of measurement. We will be looking at a range of problems around money such as - giving change, total amounts and decimal numbers.

Our main focus for writing this term will be writing and following instructions. We will look at a range of examples of instructions and think about what examples look easy to follow and what examples look difficult to follow. We will create a range of things by following instructions and then rate the instructions based on how easy they were to follow. This helps the students to think critically about their own instructions and what they might add to make their instructions easier to follow. We will continue to work on writing recounts and this is the writing we often do on a Monday. We will also continue to do a bit of work with writing narratives.

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 will continue on from last term. It 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.

For art this term we will be looking at creating a range of collage. We will look at examples of collage and look at the way in which the artists have created their work. We will create collage with a range of materials and I also hope to get some inspiration from a book called 'The Red Tree' by Shaun Tan. We will also continue to focus on drawing as the students just LOVE to draw.

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