

Welcome to Room 2, Term 1, 2019.

Dear parents and whanau,

Welcome back to a new year. I hope that you have enjoyed the summer break. It's very exciting to be back teaching some previous students I have taught before and I look forward to teaching some new students to my class.

For our inquiry I will be putting a special focus on getting to know the children and building a relationship with them. I will emphasise classroom routines, behaviour expectations and building the foundations we need for a safe, secure and comfortable learning environment. As a school-wide initiative we will be focusing on 'Zones of Regulation', a programme which focuses on self-awareness and self-management. More information will be released regarding this.

We will be participating in swimming which will occur on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from the 7th of February until the 15th of March. Please make sure that your child is sent to school with their named togs, towel, sunscreen and goggles on these days.

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. Additionally, your child will be creating an autobiography. This will help me get to know all of the children and for them to get to know each other.

In maths, we will be learning about number identification, sequences and place value. The programme will include daily basic facts knowledge practice, with opportunities for the children to practice their maths on both our Mathletics and Maths Buddy online programmes, at school and at home. We will be focusing on participating in a statistical inquiry into the similarities and differences between people in Room 2.

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 for additional mileage. Another great strategy to help with your child/children's reading is to read to them to model reading behaviours.

For te reo, we will be integrating te reo into our everyday classroom language. We will begin by focusing on greetings and farewells, commands and objects in the classroom. There is also a South Featherston School pepeha that the children can extend themselves by learning. If any child knows their own personal mihi and feels comfortable, there will be an opportunity for them to present it to the class.

Throughout the term we have many assemblies that you are always welcome to attend and you're welcome to pop into Room 2 to see what we have been learning.

Nga mihi,
Georgina Monigatti.