



Takahe Newsletter

Welcome to Term 1 of 2017

Dates For the Diary:

Meet the teacher interviews: week beginning the 20th February

Please fill in and return the student questionnaire so your child's class teacher can discuss this with you.

We have a whole school visit to Wainui o mata pool on Friday 17th February

We have a Marae visit on Wednesday 29th March

The Moa syndicate will prepare and cook food at the Marae.

We will join the Moa children and teachers at Tapu Te Rangia Marae for the hangi



It' Here!

The first 2017 Takahe Newsletter.

Welcome to 2017 . We are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to working with all of you. We promise that we will not be too demanding of your time but we do like help both in class and on trips.

If you can spare some time to support in class, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Literacy

Writing;

Writing in Takahe is about nurturing budding writers and having fun with the written word. We do this by playing with language and types of texts.

One of the most important things for a writer is having ideas. So using their imagination, while developing the skills of proof reading, grammar and spelling is a focus throughout the year.

Writing will be integrated into our topic for each term.

Maths

This year we will begin teaching maths in the same class with our focus being geometry and then moving on to place value. The term will end with a focus on problem solving where the children will have the opportunity to work across the Takahe classes.

At the end of year 5 your child should have a good knowledge of + and - basic facts. This should include x and ÷ by the end of year 6.

You can help by encouraging your child to complete their homework program.

Brooklyn School Inquiry

At the beginning of every year we concentrate on getting to know each other and on embedding classroom routines that maximize learning and develop relationships. Here are a few ideas that underpin the importance of learning at Brooklyn School and the focus of our first few weeks in class. As you use more of the brain when interacting with others, relationships are at the centre of learning. This is not only the teacher/student relationship but also the student/student relationship.

Developing a culture of co constructing learning through group work, supports brain development and develops life skills. In Takahe we set team challenges and encourage children to work with different children in the class and across the syndicate.

We use the Brooklyn School Inquiry process which is; **Ignite, Explore, Discover and Create** alongside the depth and complexity icons, to support your child's research and presentation of their knowledge.

Understanding how to create questions for an inquiry topic is essential to help your child create new knowledge. In Takahe we develop these skills through Ice berg or traffic light questioning. This will also be part of our focus this term along with finding *useful* information.

Our topic for this term is social science based. We will explore mindsets, goal setting and analysing each individual's strengths and areas for improvement. This will lead into our first topic of belonging at Brooklyn (past, present, future) as well as being an active learner and citizen.

We always need your help with the following:

Daily fitness

We have a daily fitness routine and sports on Fridays. Suitable footwear is essential. Your child can leave a pair of trainers in their cubby at school.

Keeping Hydrated

We encourage children to drink throughout the day. A drinks bottle on the child's desk ensures minimum disruption to their learning and can be left at school.

School Environment

We are trying to encourage the children to care for the school environment. You can help by sending your child with snacks that are wrapper less (apples etc.) or ones that the wrapper can be placed in the bin before leaving the classroom (snack bars).

Arriving Late

Your child will need to sign in at the office if they arrive late to school.

Taking your child out of school during the day

If you have to pick up your child from school for any reason between 9:00 and 3:00, your child will need to sign out of school using the ipad on the office desk

Consumables

We are always in need of newspaper and will gladly recycle it in our classrooms. As the winter season approaches we find that boxes of tissues are desperately needed and would appreciate your help with this.

Homework

Reading Homework :

Reading Log.

The expected homework for reading is 15 min, five times a week. Please encourage your child to do this. Reading is an essential foundation subject that opens the door to all other subjects.

Your child will need to record their reading homework in their 3B1 book.

In Takahe we encourage your child to become independent in their choice of reading by utilising both the school and Brooklyn Libraries. You can help by sharing and discussing books with your child.

Maths Homework:

Online Homework

The Takahe syndicate will be using the online mathematical program called Mathletics.

This enables your child's maths teacher to set homework based on their needs and access regular reports to monitor progress. Your child will be set activities linked to their learning, by their teacher. Once these have been completed the 'Live mathletics' section is open for further learning at a pace that suits your child.

Spelling Homework:

Your child will have a 3B1 book

This is used to record spelling words that your child needs to practice. Your child will have 5-10 spellings per week.

Getting in Touch

Remember : If you have a burning issue we have an open door policy and will endeavor to talk to you after school.

You can also email on the following;

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