

25 July 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back everyone. We hope you have all had a refreshing July break and are all set for Term 3. Term 2 was busy with, among other things, three-way conferences and our Matariki evening. We are looking forward to an equally exciting and busy programme in Term 3.

Conference Goals

Thank you for the valuable three-way conferences held at the end of last term. We will be supporting the children to achieve their goals that were set during the conferences, and know that you will also support your child with these at home. These goals have been added to the end of the conference agendas that we shared on Hero, for your reference.

Term 3 Learning Plan (this is attached to this week's Steeple Rock).

Integrated Studies:

Our major focus in the term will be on an integrated Social Science, Technology and Health unit called "Communication is Key". We will be considering the question "How have we grown communication and manaakitanga in our world through technology, and how can we grow this more in our school?".

Maths

This term we will focus initially on Statistics-Analysing Data. We will also continue to develop our numeracy skills through building number knowledge and strategies, and to build mathematical understanding through a range of problem-solving tasks.

Literacy:

In reading and writing we will focus on transactional (non-fiction) texts- in particular instructions (procedures) and reports.

For oral language, we are asking children to complete a book review, to share with the class. This could be a review of a fiction or a non-fiction book. Children have been given a rostered day, to allow them to be well-prepared to present to the class (they will bring this home today with their Home Learning). We would appreciate it if you could support them to prepare and practise their oral presentation so they are ready to present this on their allocated day.

We also continue our focus on building skills in phonics, through our twice-weekly phonics rotations.

Physical Education:

Our PE lessons this term will focus on gymnastics skills. These lessons will happen on Wednesdays. Can you please ensure that your children wear clothes suitable for gymnastics? Tracksuit pants, shorts, or leggings would be best. Dresses and skirts are not suitable.

Art:

In the first few weeks, children will be completing calendar art (this is a major fundraiser for our school). Look out for their art displayed outside the classroom (and available to order) from Friday 23rd August. Later this term, we will be working with our buddy classes to produce art which represents our new school values. You will be able to see this work displayed around the school at the end of the term.

Home Learning and Steeple Rock Challenges

Each week, when the children bring home their Home Learning Books, there is a list of reminders (for parents AND children) on the bottom of the Home Learning sheet. We are attempting to make the children more independent with this, but please help your child with a routine to ensure that they practise Basic Facts and Spelling, fill in the Reading Log daily, and bring their Home Learning book to school each Thursday. Please also read the reminders on the bottom of the sheet, with your child, about things that are coming up at school, or things they need to remember on a regular basis.

Thank you for encouraging your children to undertake new and exciting opportunities, through the Steeple Rock Challenges. It has been great to see such a variety of quality challenges shared with classmates so far. We all enjoy being able to see and hear about what the children have been doing at home and it is fantastic to see the confidence that learners demonstrate when presenting. All challenges need to be completed by the end of Term 3, ready to share in the first couple of weeks of Term 4.

Required Items for school

Clothing: We try to get the children outside whenever we can, even in cold weather, so please ensure that your child has a warm top and a waterproof jacket each day.

Lunches: A reminder that we encourage the children to bring litterless lunches, to reduce the amount of litter in our environment.

Drink bottles: Please ensure your child has a named drink bottle each day.

Stationery: A number of students are missing stationery items. This makes teaching and learning difficult. Please check with your child if they are missing anything.

Dates for your diary:

This term, we have some special events happening:

- Tuesday 30th July- Year 3-8 Swimming Sports (check Hero Posts for more details in the next couple of days)
- Wednesday 14th August- Year 4 students attending Books Alive event, featuring a selection of the finalists in the 2024 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults (more details to follow)
- Friday 23rd August- Year 3/4 Hui
- Wednesday 25th September- Book Character Day
- Thursday 26th September- Talent Quest

We are looking forward to a wonderful term and thank you, in advance, for your support.

Ngā mihi,

Catherine Miller, Gill Billingsley, Jayne Carey, Marion Hair, Louise Noble, Kate Satherley.