

Room 1 Newsletter

Tairua School

Term 1 2012

Welcome back after a lovely long holiday and a warm welcome to those children who started school this term. We start the term with 12 children and expect 2 children more to start school this term. It's great to have a neighbour in Room 2 and I'm sure there will be times where we get together for learning activities.

In Room 1 the focus this term, is on creating an environment where we support, encourage and care about each other. A place where we try, without worrying about failing, because we know we learn from our mistakes, and a place where awe and wonderment is the norm. Lofty ideals I know, but they are an important aspect of becoming independent self managers, and important if children are to learn. Another important thing that we need to remember is that building blocks have to be in place before meaningful learning can take place so that's the other focus this term. You will hear your child talk about PMP, brain walking, brain gym, and describe activities and games we have played in class. These are part of the foundation skills programme which I am happy to explain to you. If you would like an afternoon where a DVD can be viewed and explained, please let me know.

Our theme of Me, my family and my school is the ideal way to become familiar with school and class routines again. The new children are very fortunate to have good role models in the children who started last year. The curriculum puts emphasis on "Thinking Skills" and we will be learning to classify, compare, question, analyse, describe, problem solve to name just a few. During Sea Week we will be discussing how we can ensure the creatures in the sea are safe. We will also go to the beach with the rest of the school for games, a rock pool study and a beach clean up. Please feel free to come and discuss any concerns or queries you may have about what or how your child is learning. Working together we can ensure your child's first year of school is a happy one and they have the foundation skills in place to ensure success.

Literacy and Numeracy

Both literacy and numeracy are the main focus in the curriculum and are the basis for all our learning. Developing a love of books, reading and reading skills as well as the ability to express ourselves well both orally and in written form is done in the context of things that interest us.

Early mathematical ideas and numeracy are also learned in meaningful contexts and part of the foundation skills programme. We are learning about numbers to 20 and



addition and subtraction to 10 and with 10. Measuring and making patterns will also be covered.

Homework

Homework should be stress free, so if your child is tired or there is a family event that means homework isn't done, don't panic.

It is a time to share with your child the events of the day at school and to celebrate with him or her any new learning.

Hints on how to help your child with reading may be found in the reading journal. Please write in the name of the book and the number so I can put the sticker in the journal when the milestones are reached.

The high frequency words the children need to learn are sent home on a ring and are important in both reading and writing so read them each day with your child. Encourage your child to write them too.

Phonics books will come home with your child daily and need to be returned daily so the new sound can be glued in. Encourage your child to show you the actions and say the sound the letter makes. Constant practice helps your child remember the sounds and what they look like, even if they have all the sounds in their books. You will find useful information in their book. The children who have learned all the sounds practise blending 3 or 4 sounds to make words and will be given spelling words to learn. Make it fun!

Bible in schools If you wish to withdraw your child from this programme you need to write a note requesting this and give it to Mrs Elliot in the office. The children who do not attend will continue with normal classroom programmes.

Morning routine.

The children put their own bags on the hook and then after taking their reading book out put the book bag in the blue box. The reading book goes in the box marked "Return books here".

End of day routine.

At the end of the day messages, reading bags etc are given out and it would be helpful if disruptions are kept to a minimum. Children stay in class until we have said "Good afternoon". They are learning to be responsible for their own belongings and are expected to put their belongings in their bag or put them on. If parents are late, children know to stay sitting on the seats outside the classroom until parents collect them. Please remind your children to wait for you there and not walk to the carpark or go to the playground. This will indicate to me your child has not been collected and I can ring you.



Toys.

Toys are best left at home and jewellery is also not to be worn at school. Long hair is best tied up. Don't forget to check for nits.

Swimming.

We swim everyday and it is helpful if children have a bag for their togs and towel. The focus is on confidence in, on and under the water and water safety. Please send a note if child is unable to swim.



Help!

At times there will be a list of things I need help with on the whiteboard e.g. cut out shapes, laminate games, clean tables. If you can spare me some time occasionally it would be much appreciated. I don't want to timetable help as it is quite restricting so if you have a spare few minutes your help would be appreciated. It is a great help to me if someone would help put the reading books away. Let me know if you are able to help and I will arrange for you to be shown what's involved.

Save your boxes, ice-cream containers, and anything that would be good for box modelling.

Please feel free to ask any questions, discuss any concerns you or your child may have because together we can ensure your child's time in Room1 is a happy and enjoyable start to their schooling. After school is the best time. I will pin up any information that you may find helpful just inside the door.



We are a Sun Smart school!

We wear hats outside, use sunblock and cover our shoulders.

Lunches.

We are an Enviro School so we prefer lunches wrapped in paper and encourage healthy lunches. Sweets are treats!

A good breakfast and a good night's sleep helps your child cope with the busy day. If they are at all unwell keep them at home especially during the winter terms.

New technology

In two to three weeks there will be an interactive white board installed in Room 1. I'm looking forward to upskilling and using this exciting technology to enhance your children's learning.

Dates to remember.

Thursday 8 March.....Tairua School Swimming Sports

Monday 5 MarchSea Week and school photos

Thursday 7 MarchBeach Visit

Monday 13 MarchParent Teacher Conferences

Wednesday 28 March..... Bike Safety Day.

Tuesday 27 March.....Library Visit.

Monday 2 April.....Life Education Bus at school.

Thursday 5 April.....End of term.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled term.

Kind regards,

Nel Bracegirdle.

