

Rata Team



Dear Parents and Caregivers

We hope that all students and their families have had a restful break and managed to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors. This is a ten week term, finishing on 6th July. If you are planning your next family get-away there is a four day weekend at the end of week 5, for Queen's Birthday; the school is closed on Friday 1st (teacher only day) and reopens on Tuesday 5th June.

Our Rata, year 3-4 team, continues as in term 1 with Mrs Joy Henderson in room 10, Mrs Sue Savage room 11, Miss Talia Davies room 12 and Mrs Pip Honore room 7. Mrs Robyn Grover is the Deputy Principal who oversees the Pohutukawa and Rata teams.

The purpose of this termly newsletter is to keep you abreast of the learning overview, to provide reminders of upcoming events and to inform you about the activity fees for the term. Weekly reminders will also come home via the classroom homework sheet.

Curriculum

A major learning focus this term involves the Arts Curriculum. Each Rata teacher will take an area of study and all classes will rotate to enjoy learning a different artistic discipline. Mrs Honore will teach basic recorder skills. Mrs Henderson will focus on singing, in particular preparing the songs for the Artsplash Concert in September. Mrs Savage will be teaching dance and Ms Davies will focus on song and rakau (Maori stick games). If you haven't already organised a recorder for your child, I'm reliably informed they can be purchased from The Rock Shop in Cuba St for \$7.

The visual arts will be taught separately in class. Weekly kapa haka lessons will continue with Hemi Prime.

Literacy

Group instructional reading will continue to be the major focus of the reading programme. Reading by the teacher of a class novel will be ongoing and the students will be responding to the book by discussing the characters, plot, settings and language. There will be time set aside every day for students to read books of interest that they have independently chosen.

Writing this term will continue to focus on applying the basic rules of punctuation, grammar and spelling as the children write about events in their own lives and develop vocabulary to accurately describe a scene or a character. The students will also have explicit instruction in spelling patterns, grammar rules, formation of letters and how to layout a page for visual effect. Students will write in all areas of the curriculum and they will write every day.

Maths

Basic maths facts will continue to be practised every day as the students speed up their automatic responses. Strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems will initially continue, to be followed by multiplication and division learning. Later in the term we will be working with money.

Physical Education

This term Rata classes will enjoy four Rippa Rugby coaching lessons from weeks 2-5, to be followed by four trips to the ASB Stadium for coaching in



Practising the pukana!

Heads Up

- School classrooms are open from 8.30
- Book Week (wk 4) 21-25 May
- Four day weekend from 1-4 June
- Mid year reports go home in week 9
- Parent teacher conversations will be in weeks 9 and 10.

Activity Fees Term 2

Year 3

bus trip to Marsden	7.00
School on 13-3-18	<u>12.00</u>
ASB coaching	\$19.00

Year 4

ASB coaching	<u>12.00</u>
	\$12.00



Rata students working with harakeke at Te Wharewaka.

gymnastics and futsal. The buses are not charged for these trips though there is a small fee for the lessons themselves. Teachers will continue to take their classes for daily fitness activities (as we work towards the cross country), and games. The Rata emphasis will always be on fitness and fun, rather than winning.

Unfortunately our trip to Worsler Bay for surf education was postponed last term due to a cyclone and it has been rescheduled for the last week of November. The payment that parents made last term for this trip will be held over until that time.

Oral Language

A separate letter will be coming home regarding the oral presentations that are a feature of the Rata team and the foundation of the speeches that students write and present further on through the school. The aim of this individual presentation is to build confidence in a supportive and caring environment. It will take at least two terms for every child to have the chance to present.

Homework

Homework will continue as per the classroom routine and in accordance with the school policy.

Social

Last term the students were re-introduced to the school values and much emphasis was placed on resilience. This will continue and can be supported from home with questions such as "have you discussed this with the teacher?" or "what is a good strategy to deal with this?" The students in Rata are being rewarded in class for a whole range of values (including resilience, initiative and commitment) and at each Rata assembly one student takes ownership of our 'Wise Owl' for the week.

Of course not every situation or problem can be addressed by the students themselves and we are always here to support students when the going gets too tough.

Winter Uniform

Hard to believe it will ever be really chilly again but I'm sure those days are fast approaching. It is important that the children have a warm layer to put on when they go outside and so jackets, hats and gloves won't be worn in the classrooms. Heaters will be on as well as fresh air coming in. If your child finds the room chilly could you please add some layers underneath. Socks/tights need to be blue, black or white and beanies should either be the uniform beanie or a plain dark blue one.

This term the children will be training for the school cross country most mornings of the week. The pathways are steep and likely to be damp, so shoes with a good grip are essential.

Regards

Pip Honore, Talia Davies, Sue Savage and Joy Henderson

**Learning the value
of paddling the
waka in unison.**

