

HONGOEKA SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 2, 2019



15th May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you and your child/children had a great camp and are looking forward to the rest of Term 2. Below is an outline of what we will be focusing on this term.

Ngaru Motu Island is a project-based unit where students work together as a group to complete tasks and solve weekly challenges and puzzles. Each week, they will present their ideas to the class and will be awarded points for their presentation. The unit encourages children to work collaboratively and to think critically in order to solve problems. Technology is also integrated into this unit, and students will be creating in their group a 3D model of the island. If you have any newspaper, cardboard, corflute or foam at home, please send it along to school.

Our Writing, Reading and Maths will be integrated with the Ngaru Motu Island unit. These are the key learning in these areas:

- ❖ **Writing:** Poetry and Poetic Devices. Students will investigate different poetic devices such as similes, metaphors and personification. They will be creating poems which use these devices.
- ❖ **Reading:** This will support our poetry unit and students will read a range of different poems to look at different poetic devices and the structure of these.
- ❖ **Maths:** measurement, multiplicative thinking and geometry.

If you would like any further information about the learning this term or feel that you might be able to offer assistance in these areas, please let your child's classroom teacher know.

Sexuality Education

By now you should have received an email informing you that this will be taking place as part of our learning programme. The six key areas we will be looking at are as follows:

Setting the Scene - Looking at providing a safe and secure environment and promoting a sense of value and self worth.

- Changing Bodies and Feelings.
- Relationships.
- Communication and Decision Making.
- Reproduction.
- Where Can I Go?

If you wish to view the lessons that we will be following, please click on the following [link](#). These lessons will begin in Week 5 and will run through to Week 2 of Term 3.

If you have any questions about this unit, please talk to your child's classroom teacher.

Cross Country:

Cross Country practice is on **Tuesday** mornings and **Thursday** afternoons. Students should have appropriate clothing - shorts, track pants, t-shirts, and sports shoes. Keeping fit and healthy is important to both their physical fitness and their wellbeing. If for whatever reason your child is not able to run, could you please send a note along.

Stationery:

It is important students have the correct tools for learning, and we have noticed that some students do not have what they need. Please check with your child that they have a blue or black pen, a red pen, a ruler and a pencil. These items need to be named as we often find them lying around and it helps get them back to the right person.

Multiplication and Division Facts:

In Hongoeka, we have noticed that some students need to learn their multiplication and division facts. Students need a good knowledge of their multiplication tables in order to access other mathematical areas and feel confident when solving problems. As a syndicate, we will be focusing on strategies and activities that can help students to feel confident with their multiplication tables. We would ask that you also support your child at home and spend some time with them learning their multiplication and division facts. Below is a list of useful websites which you could use to support them with their learning.

Suggested Multiplication and Division Fact websites:

www.timestables.co.nz

www.teachingtables.co.uk

There are also plenty of YouTube videos that have songs to help them learn their multiplication and division facts, for example [Mr DeMaio raps the times tables](#)

Toys at school:

Last term, we noticed that some children were bringing toys to school. We ask that students do not bring toys to school as it can cause problems with other students. If your child has a puzzle or game which they would like to play, this is fine, but is to be used during break times only and at their own risk.

Cell Phone Use:

Please be aware that if your child has a cellphone that they need to bring to school it should stay in their bag. Cellphones are not to be used during class time.

Communicating with Parents:

We want you to be kept well informed about what is happening in your child's class and the syndicate. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher at any stage. Mrs Brown, the Hongoeka syndicate leader, is also available to be contacted should you need to. Our emails are below:

melissab@plimmerton.school.nz

rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz

lisac@plimmerton.school.nz

caroles@plimmerton.school.nz

diannek@plimmerton.school.nz

Once again, if you have any issues or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,
Hongoeka Teachers