

# HONGOEKA SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 1, 2019

5th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Hongoeka 2019. I hope you and your child had a great break and are looking forward to the new school year. The purpose of this newsletter is let you know about what will be happening in Hongoeka this term.

## **Hongoeka Teachers**

Room 19 - Whaea Rebecca [rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz)  
Room 20 - Miss Cuttance [lisac@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:lisac@plimmerton.school.nz)  
Room 21 - Whaea Dianne [diannek@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:diannek@plimmerton.school.nz)  
Room 22 - Ms B [melissab@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:melissab@plimmerton.school.nz)  
Room 23 - Whaea Carole [caroles@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:caroles@plimmerton.school.nz)

## **Hongoeka Learning:**

Hongoeka syndicate encourage students to manage themselves and be responsible for aspects of their learning. Students will be introduced or continue to develop their understanding of inquiry learning, where students pose questions, investigate and interpret information about a topic.

Our Inquiry focus for this term is ***Ko Au - Me and My World***. Students will finding out what makes them special, about their whanau, and where they have come from. They will also learn about the lives and journeys of others.

Our Writing, Reading, Oral Language and Maths will be integrated through the above topic. Here are the key learning areas:

- ❖ **Reading:** Summarising, Skimming & scanning
- ❖ **Writing:** Information report writing, presenting information
- ❖ **Oral Language:** Interviewing, being interviewed
- ❖ **Maths:** Place Value; Addition & Subtraction; Fractions, Decimals & Percentages, Statistics & Probability

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.

## **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 these basic facts, especially 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.

These websites may be of help: [www.timestables.co.nz](http://www.timestables.co.nz) [www.teachingtables.co.uk](http://www.teachingtables.co.uk)

There are also plenty of helpful YouTube videos, such as [Mr DeMaio raps the times tables](#).

## **Swimming:**

Hongoeka will be swimming on the following weeks:

Weeks 4 & 5 - 25th February - 8th March

Week 8 & 9 - 25th March - 8th April

You will receive further information about individual class times and days closer to the time.

Hongoeka swimming sports will take place on Thursday 11th April at Cannons Creek Pool. You will receive further information closer to the date.

## **Stationery:**

You will have received the stationery requirements information by now. Students' glue sticks, refills and sharpies will be collected by the classroom teacher and dispersed on a needs basis. This way the supply should last all year. Please name all other stationery items (including pencils and pens) to help with returning lost items.

**Digital Devices:**

Hongoeka students are allowed to bring to school a Chromebook that can be used to complete work online. Classes will have some Chromebooks for students who do not have their own.

It is important for students to know and remember that devices are there to support learning and not for games or other non-educational use. Any student found using their Chromebook for non-educational purposes may be asked to complete work without a device.

Students who bring their own Chromebook are expected to charge it at home and bring it in charged and ready to use. Students should not need to charge their devices in class.

**Homework:**

Students may have class reading, writing and math tasks which they are given class time to complete. If they do not complete during this time they may need to complete at home or will catch up on Friday.

**Seesaw:**

Please make sure you sign up to Seesaw when your child's teacher sends an email with the instructions to sign up to your child's Seesaw account. If you have problems signing up, please let your child's teacher know.

It means a great deal to us and to your child when you use Seesaw to keep up to date with your child's learning - and it's great for starting conversations with them about what they have been doing in school! We also want you to be kept well informed about what is happening in your child's class and the whole syndicate, and Seesaw is great for that, too.

**Camp:**

Camp will be take place in Week 2 of Term 2 (week beginning 6th May). This year's camp will take place at Brookfield Scout Camp, Wainuiomata, and the theme of the camp is "Survivor". You will receive further information in the next couple of weeks. Please note that the school requires parents who attend overnight trips to be police vetted.

**Brain Break:**

During block 1, students have an opportunity to eat a small 'brain break' snack. We would like to remind parents that food during this time should be healthy and could include fruit, vegetables or nuts. Other snacks should be kept for interval and lunch times.

**Cell Phone Use:**

If pupils need to bring a cell phone to school these must be put away during school hours. Students may check their phones soon after school finishes in order to organise meeting up with whanau or caregivers.

If phones are seen or heard during school hours then they will be sent to the office where they will need to be collected by the student at the end of the day. If incidents involving phones are repeated more than three times we will communicate with parents and it may mean that the student involved cannot bring a phone to school for the rest of the year.

We are unable to accept responsibility in case of damage or loss of any personal valuables.

**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, in person or email/Seesaw/a call to the main school office. Mrs Brown, the Hongoeka syndicate leader, is also available to be contacted should you need to. Once again, if you have any issues or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us - communication is key.

Regards,  
Hongoeka Teachers