

HONGOEKA SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 3, 2019

Thursday 25th July 2019

Kia ora e te whānau,



Welcome back to Term 3. We hope you and your family had a great holiday break, and are looking forward to Term 3! Below is an outline of what we will be focusing on this term.

“Quakes, Plates, and Shakes”



This term, the children will be Investigating the composition of planet Earth and will gain an understanding of the processes which shape it. They will explore the geology and history of planet Earth and understand that our planet has a long past and has undergone many changes. We will be looking at the formation of volcanoes, as well as the activity of earthquakes and tsunamis caused by the movement of the tectonic plates.

From weeks 6 -10, the students will be using their new knowledge about the formation of planet Earth to develop their own inquiry around a particular aspect of their learning, where they will do further investigation, and present their findings through an interesting medium.

The learning around earthquakes will be science-focused, but If your child has experienced any trauma or anxiety relating to earthquakes, please email their teacher so that they are aware.

Our Writing, Reading, and Maths will be integrated within ‘Quakes, Plates, and Shakes’.

The focus of these key learning in these areas will be:

- ❖ **Writing:** Explanation writing - writing scientific explanations about new learning that has taken place. We will also be completing sentence workshops involving simple, compound and complex sentences.
- ❖ **Reading:** Reading a range of different science-focused texts. Students will be focusing on finding, selecting and retrieving information from various sources, summarising information, inferring from the text, and building knowledge of scientific vocabulary.
- ❖ **Maths:** Algebra patterns and relationships, fractional thinking, place value of whole number and decimal numbers, algebraic expressions, and mapping

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:

We are continuing to focus on developing your child’s knowledge 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. 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](#).

Mana Island:

We are in the process of organising a trip to Mana Island. A date is yet to be confirmed, but we are hoping to have this late in Term 3. More information will be shared with you shortly

Athletics:

In the second half of the term, we will be completing athletics rotations on the field. This is in preparation for our Athletics Day and Parumoana Athletics in Term 4.

Stationery:

It is important for students to 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.

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 it is to be used during break times only and at their own risk.

Cell Phone Use:

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 if you have questions. 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