



TAUPŌ SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 1, 2021

February 2021

We welcome students and families to Taupō Syndicate in 2021!

Organisation:

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Term 1 Leadership Focus:

Each class will take part in an inquiry on how they can be an effective leader within the school and wider community.

We will be looking at:

What makes a good leader?

How do I influence people? (By being a leader)

What are the traits of a good leader?

What do I want to be remembered for?

Taupo Bike Camp:

Taupo Bike Camp -to be held at Kaitoke Regional Park on:

Dates for camp:

Week 4 **Camp 1: Room 14, 17 & 18** **22nd - 24th February 2021**

Week 4 **Camp 2: Room 15 & 16** **24th - 26th February 2021**

Postponement Dates:

Week 5 **Camp 1: Room 14, 17 & 18** **1st - 3rd March 2021**

Week 5 **Camp 2: Room 15 & 16** **3rd - 6th March 2021**

Parent Helpers:

There is still more room for any parents who want to attend as a parent helper.

Permission Forms:

If you haven't yet filled out the form to give your child permission yet then please click on this [link](#) and complete it.

Taupo Bike Camp Meeting For Camp Parents (Tuesday 9th February @ 7pm in Staffroom)

We ask that all parents who have put their name down to help at camp, please attend this meeting. We will be going over expectations and organisation for the camps. If you are not able to make it please let your child's classroom teacher know.

Gear list/meals:

A gear list and information about camp will be sent home in the first couple of weeks of term. Students will inform families of their meal plans/ingredients that they have to organise by the end of week 2 of school.

Languages:

This year students will be introduced to two different languages. In Term 1, starting in Week 5 on Wednesdays, students will learn Sign Language from a Deaf Tutor. These lessons will finish half way through Term 2.

Hoodies

This year we would like as many children as possible to purchase a Taupo Hoodie. These are a great way of letting people know that we are the seniors at Plimmerton School and are also somewhere to sew on all the badges they will be earning.

Taupō Hoodies will be available for the price of \$40 and an order form will go home in week 5. Hoodies are ordered in lots of 20 to keep costs down.

Sample hoodies are available at the office to try on for sizing only.



Credits/ badges.

In 2019 Taupo Syndicate introduced **credits/badges**. We will be continuing on with this in 2021 and will be encouraging students to sew them on their sweatshirts and wear them with pride. Throughout the year students have opportunities to earn Academic, Cultural, Sporting and Service credits. When they have earned 10 credits they are awarded an achievement badge and 15 credits earns them an excellence badge. Last year we also added badges for 20 and 30+ credits as we had so many children excelling in each of the 4 areas.

At the end of the year the top Year 8 student from each area is presented with a trophy at the leavers assembly.

Swimming

Swimming is an important part of the school programme and all pupils are expected to swim. Notes/emails are required from those unable to participate and we ask parents to be diligent with this as we don't want to have to deal with students opting out of school activities.

We will be swimming in Weeks 2, 3, 6 and 7 and our Swimming Sports are on Wednesday 14th April @ Cannons Creek Pool.

Homework

Homework is on a two week cycle and students need to upload evidence of maths, spelling and reading to the Homework Google Classroom site. All students in Taupo will receive the same homework so that it is consistent across the syndicate. Students who do not complete their homework will complete it at school and may miss out on fun opportunities provided by teachers (sport, art, technology etc) on Friday mornings.

Students are expected to complete 4 Mathletics tasks, practice their spelling words and read regularly at home.

If your child is unable to complete homework over the two weeks please contact the teacher.

Students need to upload the following to their Homework Google Classroom site:

- 4 Mathletics task (Students can do more if they want to)
- Evidence of practising 20 spelling words (Photo/Screenshot of spelling written words/Quizlet)
- Evidence of reading a book 8+ times over the fortnight (Photo/Screenshot of text)

Homework Cycle in Term 1

Week 5 - 6 (Fri week 6 for first hand in)

Week 7 - 8 (Fri week 8 for hand in)

Week 9 - 10 (Fri week 10 for hand in)

Homework will begin in Week 5, Term 1 (After Camp)

Sport

Our syndicate sports programme happens on Thursday and Friday mornings. On these days students are encouraged to wear clothing suitable for physical activities.

Students will also participate in a 20 minute sport time two or three times a week in the mornings. This involves a highly engaging active game. We have found Year 7/8 students work more effectively back in class after participating in a competitive game.

All students are expected to fully participate in the sports programme that Taupo Syndicate provides. If your student is not able to take part please email their teacher and let them know. We will contact parents if students repeatedly choose to opt out of sport time.

Brain Break:

During the day students may have an opportunity to have a short snack and water break. We would like to remind parents that food during this time must be healthy and could include - fruit, vegetables or nuts. Other snacks should be kept for interval and lunch times.

Arts Rotations

This year classes are going to be taking part in an art rotation each week. Each teacher will be teaching an area they are interested in and classes will rotate every 6 weeks. Some of the possible areas may include visual arts, drama, dance and music. This will start in Week 5.

Chromebooks:

Students need to ensure that their chromebook is fully recharged prior to coming to school as they are unable to recharge them during school time. Chromebooks will be issued early in the term to students who do not have their own.

Phones:

Students are expected to turn phones off and put them away in their bags as soon as they

arrive at school in the morning. This includes smart watches. They can get them out at 3pm to organise meeting up with parents or other family members.

If you need to contact your child during school hours please ring the school office.

They will put you through to the classroom.

If phones/smart watches are seen or heard during school hours they will be sent to the office where they can be collected by the student at the end of the day.

If incidents involving phones occur three or more times we will be contacting parents and it may mean that the child involved will be unable to bring a phone to school for the rest of the year.

Communicating with Parents/ Seesaw :

It means a great deal to us and your child when you sign up to Seesaw as this is a good way for you to see your child's learning and what's going on in class and syndicate wide. Please make sure you sign up when your child's teacher sends an email with the instructions. 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.

Nga mihi,
Taupō Team