

## HONGOEKA SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 2, 2021

12th May 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope you and your family had a great holiday break, and are looking forward to the term. Below is an outline of what we will be focusing on this term.

Ngā Motu (The Islands) is a Technology/Te Reo Maori project-based unit using Minecraft Education where students work together as a group to complete tasks and solve weekly challenges and puzzles. They will present their ideas to the class and will be awarded points for their presentation and their thinking skills. The unit encourages children to use computational thinking skills and the technology design process to solve group challenges in the virtual representation of pre-european Aoteroa.

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

- ❖ **Writing:** Explanation and descriptive writing. Students will be using their computational thinking skills to explain how and why events happen. Later this term, children will be exploring descriptive language and the senses to describe the natural environments of Ngā Motu.
- ❖ **Reading:** This will support our learning of computational thinking. Children will be learning to extract important details from texts to retell stories in a logical sequence. Later this term, we will be using clues from the text to develop inference skills.
- ❖ **Maths:** Geometry - 3D shapes and nets. This will help with creating objects in the minecraft world. Algebraic patterns and relationships and measurement conversions using multiplicative thinking are also areas that we are exploring both through maths and also through our technology unit.
- ❖ **Physical Education** - Fitness focus and winter sport skills - Netball, Basketball, Football, Unihoc and touch rugby.

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.

### **Fitness Practice**

**Fitness** practice is on **Monday and Tuesday** mornings and **Thursday** afternoon. 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. Children are able to choose a fitness activity that interests them.

### **Te Mana o Kupe/Mana Island:**

You should have received by now information about Mana Island. Mana Island trips will be taking place in Week 4. If you have not already filled out the form, please do so by [clicking here](#). The cost for this trip is \$35. If you are interested in being a parent helper, please ensure that the form has been completed by Sunday 16th May. The dates are as follows:

- ❖ **Tuesday 25th May - rooms 19 and 23**
- ❖ **Wednesday 26th May - Room 21 and Room 20**
- ❖ **Thursday 27th May - Room 22**

Postponement dates for Mana Island are Friday 28th May and Monday 31st May.

### **Swimming Sports**

Hongoeka swimming sports was postponed last term and will now take place in Week 6 on Thursday 10th June. It will be held at Cannons Creek Pool from 9:30am- 12pm. The cost for this trip will be \$10 and we will be travelling by bus to and from Cannons Creek pool. If you gave permission last term, we will not be seeking permission again. If your child was not originally attending, we will be in touch for permission. In a couple of weeks, we will be seeking parent helpers.

### **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.

### **Multiplication and Division Facts:**

It is very important that students in Hongoeka syndicate develop 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](http://www.timestables.co.nz)

[Hit the button](#)

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 school 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](mailto:melissab@plimmerton.school.nz)

[rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz)

[larissac@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:larissac@plimmerton.school.nz)

[diannek@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:diannek@plimmerton.school.nz)

[steved@plimmerton.school.nz](mailto:steved@plimmerton.school.nz)

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

Regards,  
Hongoeka Teachers