



TAUPŌ SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 2, 2021

We welcome students and families to Term 2!

Organisation:

Jo Verran	Room 14	jov@plimmerton.school.nz
Andy Tate	Room 15	andyt@plimmerton.school.nz
Naomi Fairley	Room 16	naomif@plimmerton.school.nz
Clayton Schimanski	Room 17	claytons@plimmerton.school.nz
Katherine O'Neil/Adie Dott	Room 18	katherineo@plimmerton.school.nz adrienned@plimmerton.school.nz

Technology: Computational Thinking:

This term we are having a school wide focus on Technology. We will be looking at the area within technology called computational thinking. This involves taking a complex problem and breaking it down into a series of small, more manageable steps to help solve it in the best way.

Students will be involved in a learning game called 'RUIN' where they will be given a series of complex problems to solve. They will work in groups and earn points over the term trying to be the winners in their respective classrooms.

Literacy:

During literacy we are going to be reading and writing Choose Your Own Adventure stories. We will be learning about the features of this type of story and creating our own stories to go into a Digital Library for the syndicate.

PE/Cross Country: This term our students will have a fitness focus for our sports programme. Each session students will participate in exercises, challenges and games to increase their fitness level. Students will need to bring appropriate gear everyday. We also have our Plimmerton School Cross Country on **Friday 21st May**.

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

Languages

Our students are continuing to learn Sign Language from our deaf tutor - Tarsha Takurangi-Berry. These lessons will finish half way through term 2.



Hoodies

Over 75 children in the syndicate now have hoodies and it is great to see them wearing them out in the playground. They are available for the price of **\$40** and orders are available from the office. 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.

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.

At this stage of the year many students are beginning to receive badges as they have earned enough credits. We are encouraging them to sew these on their hoodies.



Homework

Over a 2 week period students are expected to complete 4 Mathematics tasks, practise spelling words and do regular reading at home. At the end of the 2 week period students need to upload evidence of the maths, spelling and reading they have done to their homework google classroom site. All students in Taupō receive the same homework. Students who have not completed the homework may miss out on the opportunities provided by teachers (sport, art, technology etc) on Friday afternoons.

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

Homework Cycle in Term 2

Week 1 - 2 (Fri week 2 for first hand in)
Week 3 - 4 (Fri week 4 for hand in)
Week 5 - 6 (Fri week 6 for hand in)
Week 7 - 8 (Fri week 8 for hand in)
Weeks 9 -10 (Fri week 10 for hand in)

Arts Rotations

This term we will continue with our rotations focussing on activities within 'The Arts' curriculum.

Jo and Zoe a local dance teacher:	Dance
Mr T:	Movie Making
Miss Fairley:	Fuse Drumming
Mr S:	Stop Animation
Mrs O'Neil/Mrs Dott:	Music/Art

Brain Break:

During the morning students may have an opportunity to have a short snack and water break. Food eaten during this time must be healthy and could include - fruit, vegetables or nuts. Other snacks should be kept for interval and lunch times.

Chromebooks:

Children need to ensure that their chromebook is fully recharged prior to coming to school as they are unable to recharge them during school time.

Phones

Students are expected to put phones away in their bags with the volume muted, or turned off as soon as they arrive at school in the morning. They can get it 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 and they will put you through to the classroom.

If phones 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.

Nga mihi,

Taupō Teachers