

## HONGOEKA SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 2, 2022

5th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



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

### Changes in staff

We congratulate Melissa Brown as she starts her new journey as principal at National Park School. Kirstin Toleman and Emma Currie will be teaching in Room 22 for Term 2. Rebecca Courtney will be the interim Hongoeka Team leader while new appointments are underway.

### Focus: The Arts (Ngā Toi)

This term, the ākonga (students) will be learning through the strand of The Arts (Ngā Toi). They will be learning about different artist models, and analyse their works. They will also get to explore the processes and mediums the artists used to produce their art forms and create their own art pieces. Hongoeka ākonga will learn about some of the strands in dance, and they will get the opportunity to create their own dance in response to an inspired art piece.

Some of the artist models include: Frida Kahlo, Picasso, Rita Angus, Vincent van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci, Goldie, Banksy, Claude Monet, Hundertwasser, local Māori artists, and many more.



Our Writing, Reading (Pānui) and Maths (Pāngarau) will be integrated with The Arts (Ngā Toi) Unit. These are the key learning in these areas:

- ❖ **Writing:** Information reports and descriptive writing. Ākonga will create information reports about the artists they have studied. Later this term, they will explore language features and poetic devices to describe a moment, place or character.
- ❖ **Pānui (Reading):** Sequencing and inferencing. Ākonga will be learning to extract important details from texts they read about artist models, and sequence in a logical order. Later this term, we will be using clues from the text to develop inference skills.
- ❖ **Pāngarau (Maths):** Probability, Geometry - Shape and Transformation, Multiplicative Thinking, and Measurement - Volume and Capacity.
- ❖ **Hākinkina (Sport):** Fitness focus in preparation for cross country. Fitness will include: cross country, skipping, jump jam and skipping.

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.

### Structured Literacy

This term, Hongoeka ākonga and teachers (kaiako) will be embarking on a Structured Literacy journey. Structured Literacy is an evidence-based approach to teaching decoding (reading) and encoding (spelling). It has already been implemented in the junior school, and this term, years 5-8 are implementing it using the iDeaL platform. The children will be completing 4 structured literacy lessons with their teacher each week.

From week 2 onwards, your child will be bringing home some word lists to learn for home learning. The words on these lists will be aligned with the concepts they are covering in the classroom.

There will be a parent evening and morning with information about Structured Literacy early this term. Information about this will be shared with you in the next week.

### **Health - Te takahi i te ara: Whakaakorangahōkakatanga (Navigating the Journey: Sexuality Education)**

Later in Term 2, you will receive further information about our Sexuality Education Unit. In Term 2, we are covering 2 topics which are establishing a Positive Learning Environment and Who am I? - Ko wai au?

In Term 3, we will be covering another 2 topics which are Relationships, and Growing and Changing.

**You can withdraw your child from all or part of sexuality education.** To do this you must email the [principal](#) and request that your child is excluded from all or from any particular part of relationships and sexuality education. If you want to do this, it is important that you have a good understanding of what will be taught and why, so it is a good idea to talk to your child's teacher first.

More information with a link to what is being taught will come out in the next couple of weeks.

### **Fitness Practise**

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

### **Kapa haka**

Now that we have moved to orange light, we can commence kapa haka rehearsals in the hall. Students will be preparing for the pōwhiris being held on Tuesday 31st May, and Tuesday 5th June.

### **Stationery:**

It is important for ākonga to have the correct tools for learning, and we have noticed that some 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. Items should be named, as we often find them lying around and it helps us find the owner!.

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

It is very important that ākonga in Hongoeka syndicate have 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 to help ākonga to feel confident with their multiplication tables. We 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 resources that you could use to support them.

### **Suggested Multiplication and Division Fact websites:**

- [www.timestables.co.nz](http://www.timestables.co.nz)
- [Hit the button](#)

**There is helpful information for whānau, including 'how to' videos, on [the Plimmerton School website](#).**

A selection of the videos are listed below in order of increasing difficulty:

- [Solve multiplication problems using skip counting](#)
- [Doubling and halving](#)
- [Multiply 2-digit by 1-digit numbers](#)
- [Multiply 2-digit by 2-digit numbers](#) (area model)

- [Multiplication strategies - stage 7](#)
- [Multiplying fractions](#)
- [Multiplying Decimals](#)

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](#).

#### **Digital Devices:**

Hongoeka ākonga are allowed to bring to school a Chromebook that can be used to complete work online. It is important for ākonga to know and remember that devices are there to support learning and not for games or other non-educational use. Any ākonga found using their Chromebook for non-educational purposes may be asked to complete work without a device.

Ākonga cannot charge devices during lesson time. Ākonga who take their own Chromebook home are expected to bring it back each day well-charged and ready to use. Devices left at school are charged in the locked cupboard.

#### **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. Whaea Rebecca, the Hongoeka syndicate leader, is also available to be contacted should you need to.

Our emails are below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ngā mihi,  
Hongoeka Teachers