

# MIDDLE TEAM

Whanake rā tātou kia pai ai te āpōpō

## Kia ora koutou

Welcome to a brand new school year!! We are all excited to meet you and to get to know your children as we work together to continue their learning journey.

Below you will find an overview of our teaching and learning this term as well as some key dates for the term ahead.

## OUR LEARNING PROGRAMME

### LITERACY

- Our focus for writing this term will be on letter writing and recounting a moment in time based on the students' experiences at camp and Year 4 experiences during their overnight stay
- Sentence structure and punctuation will also be a focus this term to build accuracy and consistency in their writing
- All classes in the syndicate will be continuing their phonics based spelling programme that was part of our structured literacy professional development focus last year
- Handwriting will be done at least three times a week developing appropriate letter size, shape and spacing. We will also incorporate our weekly spelling focus into the handwriting programme so it is reinforced. Typing skills will also be weaved into our programme to develop their keyboard skills

### READING

- Teachers will be starting the term supporting students to revise skills and strategies for both the mechanics of how we read, as well as how we can respond to texts to support our understanding of them. We will be using reading sessions to incorporate our topic work
- Your child will be reading with their teacher focusing on fluency, comprehension and implementing their phonological skills learnt from their spelling lessons
- There will be a greater focus on oral language which benefits both their speaking and listening skills

## MATHS

- Our focus this term will be on revisiting and extending number knowledge (how numbers ‘work’ and are put together), addition and subtraction strategies as well as applying knowledge to solving problems in everyday contexts
- We will also be learning about geometry and measurement, with a focus on real-life problems and practical activities. Throughout the term, students will take part in a variety of problem-solving tasks that encourage collaboration, creative thinking, and the use of previously learned skills in new and meaningful ways.

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HPE)

- During our class PE sessions, we will be doing a lot of team building activities as we get to know each other as a class, as well as developing small ball skills and games involving small balls
- Harold from Life Education will be coming to Discovery School in weeks 7-9. Each class will have two sessions exploring relationships, growing and changing

## CONCEPTUAL CURRICULUM

In 2026, we will be introducing a conceptual curriculum that brings together learning from different curriculum areas around one shared “big idea.” This approach helps students make meaningful connections across their learning.

To celebrate our school’s 50th anniversary, our learning focus will be Whanaungatanga (relationships). We will explore how strong relationships have been the foundation of our school community over the past 50 years and how they continue to help us learn, grow, and thrive. Through reflecting on our journey, students will celebrate our history while also looking ahead to building a strong and connected future together.

During the first 4 weeks of the term our focus will be on building a respectful and collaborative classroom environment. We will look at developing the following:

- Positive learning environment
- Relationships
- Learning about themselves and others
- Exploring the school values
- Being respectful and safe at school and online

Later in Term 1 and throughout Term 2, students will be learning about the history of our school and the people who have shaped it, both past and present. During this time, we will support students to plan and prepare a range of activities and initiatives leading up to our Student-Led 50th Anniversary Celebration, which will take place in the final week of Term 2.

Further information will be shared with families once plans and ideas have been confirmed.

# CAMP and EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom)

## Camp for Years 5 & 6

Monday 16 February to Wednesday 18 February the Year 5 and 6 students will be attending the school camp at Kaitoke. A separate notice will go home for students attending with reminders about what to pack and what events they will be taking part in.

## Overnight stay for Year 4s

While the Year 5 & 6s are at camp the Year 4s will be doing some exciting activities around school and some outside of school such as a visit to Te Ruaparaha Arena Pool. They will be spending the night at school on Tuesday 17 February.

## STATIONERY

A big thank you to all parents / caregivers who have already purchased stationery for the year. The Stationery lists can be found on the school website.

If you have not already done so, please ensure your child has all the supplies they need. Bring in all the stationery, including the glue sticks. We will store the excess supplies in class so they can access it quickly once they run out.

Please remember to name all of your child's stationery, drink bottles, lunch boxes, hats and clothing.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEAR 6s

We will continue to look throughout the year to provide opportunities to grow our Year 6 students as leaders.

We always differentiate the curriculum to cater for student's learning needs no matter what year they are in, so these opportunities are more around leadership and culture. We will have a separate Year 6 leadership award that will be given out at a special hui during the last week of each term. Opportunities such as supporting the Junior Syndicate in sport events such as Athletics Day will be available.

## MATHLETICS

The Middle Team will be using Mathletics this year (Years 4-6). It has been a huge success having access to Mathletics at school and at home. The teachers have seen an improvement in the students' academic achievement and attitude towards maths in general. Teachers have also noted that the programme reinforces classroom learning in a fun and rewarding way. We have enjoyed seeing many children achieve awards as they work their way through the programme.

We have incorporated Mathletics into the stationery list. It will cost \$32 per child. Without your contribution we would not be able to offer this programme.

# CHROMEBOOKS

The Year 5 and 6 students will be part of the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) programme to support their learning. If they don't have a device, they can use a school one.

The Year 4 students will not need to bring their own device. The school will provide one for them to use when needed. Please do not send a chromebook to school with your Year 4 child.

If you are unsure of which type of Chromebook or the specifications that would be best, please contact your class teacher. They will re forward an email sent out late last year regarding this and also around setting it up.

In the first weeks of school we will revisit internet safety and expectations of responsible use of devices.

# HOMEWORK

We are continuing to focus on making homework simple, effective, and easy for families to support at home. Our key areas of focus are Daily Reading and Mathletics.

## Daily Reading

We encourage students to read for at least 15 minutes each day. They can read independently or aloud to a parent or sibling.

Ways to support your child's reading at home:

- Talk about the story – Ask questions like What happened? Who is your favourite character and why? What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- Explore new words – Discuss any tricky words and their meanings. Look for words with similar meanings.
- Break down difficult words – Help your child sound out tricky words by breaking them into smaller parts. Writing them down and revisiting them weekly can also help.
- Read a variety of books – Exploring different genres will expand their vocabulary and understanding. Visiting the local library is a great way to find new books!

## Mathletics

Teachers will assign problem-solving and revision activities for students to complete at home.

- Completing two-three activities most school nights is ideal.
- Live Maths – This feature helps build quick recall of basic facts. Just 2-3 quick rounds per night (a few minutes) can make a big difference! Teachers can adjust difficulty levels as needed.

Our goal is for students to reach 1,000 points each week to earn a Mathletics certificate. Typically, students earn:

-  100 points per activity
-  10 points per Live Maths round

## Extra Homework

We understand that many children have busy after-school schedules, and homework may not always be possible every day. If you'd like additional homework tasks to further support your child's learning, please contact their teacher.

# REMINDERS

Term 1 is a 'hat' term so students are expected to be wearing sunblock and a sunhat everyday this term.

We are continuing with our Hauora Kai. At 10 o'clock each day children have a 5 minute break to eat a delicious small snack (fruit or vegetables only please) and to have a drink of water. Please include an appropriate snack in your child's lunchbox.

## UPCOMING DATES

Tue 3rd Feb	Meet the Teacher meetings from 1-6pm in your child's class
Wed 4th Feb	First day of school for students
Wed 4th Feb	Mihi Whakatau - welcoming new students, whānau and teachers to our School - 9.10 start
Fri 6th Feb	Waitangi Day - public holiday - school is closed
Mon 16th Feb	Year 5/6 students attend Camp
Tue 17th Feb	Sleep over at school for Year 4 students
Fri 6th Mar	Curriculum Day-School closed for Teacher Professional Development
Mon 9th Mar	Start of School Photos (over the week)
Week 7-9	Life Education
Thu 2nd April	Last day of term 1



## Contact Us:

Here are our email addresses in case you would like to make contact:

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Please feel free to discuss any issues or concerns with us as it is important that we maintain a collaborative partnership.

Kind regards,

Middle Team Teachers