



Middle Team



Kia ora koutou

Welcome to term 2! We are all excited to continue the wonderful work that has taken place over the first term. 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 around procedural writing (instructions) and explanations. This will tie in with our science focus where they will be carrying out investigations and writing their findings so they can be presented to an audience.
- 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 and incorporating it into their handwriting as well.

READING

- Teachers will be supporting students to build on their 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 learn about things that are of interest to the students and also that relate to our topic and writing focus for the term.
- Your child will be reading with their teacher focusing on fluency, comprehension and implementing their phonological skills learnt from their spelling lessons.
- Building reading stamina and enjoyment of books through regular independent reading, either in class or in the library.

MATHS

- Our focus this term will be on revisiting addition and subtraction strategies as well as applying knowledge to solving problems in everyday contexts. We will also explore multiplication and division strategies that are relevant to their current needs.
- Later in the term we will be exploring geometry, which will include revising properties of 2D and 3D shapes and delving into coordinates and directions.
- Basic facts will be consolidated and extended throughout their maths this term, especially through games and activities.

ARTS

- Students will have the opportunity to take part in music and dance through our regular Poly Club and Kapa Haka lessons.
- We will also look at a variety of visual art techniques that promote creativity, including the opportunity to select a piece to be made for our Calendar fundraiser.
- Singing and drama opportunities will be incorporated in our programmes to promote oral language and confidence.
- Later in the term we will explore a variety of art ideas to promote Matariki.

TOPIC – SCIENCE

- This term our school wide focus will be around science investigations where students will then present their findings at the school science fair on Tuesday 23 should this be 24th June.
- Also during the term students will rotate around the classes where they will carry hands-on experiments. This will focus around making thoughtful hypotheses, accurate measurements and clear conclusions. They will have opportunities to work collaboratively and discuss the science behind each of the experiments.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HPE)

- During the first 4 weeks of term 2 we will focus on cross country. This will be a variety of fun activities to boost their stamina alongside running the course. The school cross country event will take place on Friday 23 May.
- During our class PE sessions, we will be doing more work around developing the correct techniques with larger balls such as football, rugby and netball. This will involve skills around catching, passing, striking and shooting.
- Throughout the term we will continue to use the bike track and build on the skills and safety knowledge acquired during the Pedal Ready programme.

END OF TERM LEARNING CONVERSATIONS AND REPORTS

On Thursday 26 June you will receive a mid-year report uploaded onto your child's Seesaw account. This will have a general comment, which will focus on the school values and how they are going socially in the first half of the year. It will also give you an indication of where they are currently achieving academically in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

On Tuesday July 22nd and Wednesday July 23rd (Week 2 of term 3) there will be an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their learning. This will be a 15 minute time slot with individual families where students will share work and then have time to discuss progress and next steps in their learning journey.

MATHLETICS

The Middle Syndicate will continue to use 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 \$26 per child. Without your voluntary contribution we would not be able to offer this programme. If you have not done so, please support the school by making this payment so it can continue in the future.

HOMEWORK

This year, we are focusing 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

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 (fresh fruit or vegetables only please) and to have a drink of water. Please include an appropriate snack in your child's lunchbox.

During the first 4 weeks of term 2 we are doing regular cross country training, either on the course or other stamina promoting activities. It would be great if your child wears trainers on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays rather than crocs. They can always have their crocs packed ready to use after their training.

UPCOMING DATES

Mon 28 Apr	First day of school for students
Mon 28 Apr	Mihi Whakatau - welcoming new students and whānau to our School - 9.15 start
Mon 28 Apr	Bee Healthy dental van will arrive to start dental checks on students
Fri 16 May	School Disco
Fri 23 May	School Cross Country event (PP Tues 27 May)
Mon 2 June	King's birthday-school closed
Fri 13 June	Curriculum Day-school closed
Fri 20 June	Matariki-school closed
Tue 24 June	Science Fair
Thur 26 June	Mid-Year report to parents on Seesaw
Fri 27 June	Last day of term 2



Contact Us:

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

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Release Teachers for our Middle Team

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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