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Kia ora whanau,



A warm welcome to Room 13 and our new school year! I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer break and are settling back into the school routine. It has been lovely to meet and catch up with many of you already.

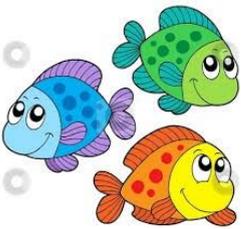
Our learning begins with a focus on our Knighton Way foundation of 'Getting Along'. We will be practising kindness as we get to know each other and become familiar with the routines and expectations of Room 13. Further into the term, we look to the artwork of master-weaver Kohai Grace to help us find new, untold, real and imagined stories of 'Exploring'. Later in the term we will celebrate the wonderful diversity of our Knighton children and community with our cultural festival. More information will come home about this closer to the time.

People in Room 13

This year I am continuing in the role of Associate Principal of the Middle School. **Mrs Lyndal Roche** will be teaching in Room 13 every Thursday (starting Thursday Week 2, February 13). Lyndal often covers other days I may be required to be out of the classroom. This ensures the regular programme continues as usual. We are also lucky to have Lukas Green, one of our wonderful learning assistants, helping us out at various times of the day. We are also looking forward to our student teacher **Catheine Kaur** joining us for 3 weeks from this coming Monday, 10th February.

Special Days For Term 1

- Homework sheet - Monday
- School Newsletter - Tuesday
- Swimming - Tuesday and Friday in Term 1
- Library day - Thursday
- Mrs Roche teaching in Room 13 - Thursday
- Middle School Assembly - Friday 1.30 pm in our school hall



Our swimming Days are Tuesday and Friday!

Room 13 will swim every week on Tuesday and Friday. Please help your child to remember their togs and towel in a named plastic bag or swimming bag. Encourage your child to wear named clothes they find easy to change in and out of. It is a good idea for girls with long hair to have their hair tied back. Swimming is an important part of our Health and P.E. curriculum. If your child is unable to swim for any reason please email, send a written note or pop in and let me know.©

Homework!

As a minimum, I strongly encourage you to read with your child everyday as research into successful readers suggests the more words your child reads the more confidence they will gain in reading.

I will also provide some **homework suggestions** in the form of a weekly tic tac toe sheet. Information about how the homework can work for you will be glued into the front of your child's homework book when it comes home early in week 3 . Please note: Homework (apart from reading each day) is not compulsory and will not be chased.

Reading Books:

In class, your child will work on an instructional reading programme with me and may often bring home a reader/journal to share with you that we have worked on together. These books should start coming home during weeks 2 and 3.

For the independent **readers** in the class, self-selection is very important and I will be encouraging children to choose age and topic appropriate reading material that they are interested in. These books may be from your home selection, the public or school library as well as from the choices I will provide.



Stationery and Hats



Thank you to all the families who have organised stationery payments already. We are hoping to get started in our books at the beginning of Week 3 (Monday 17th February) at the very latest. If needed, stationery lists should have arrived home with this letter.

We encourage families to pay any school costs online through our Kindo shop. If you do not already have a Kindo account, go to www.mykindo.co.nz or via the link on our school website. There are no fees for Kindo payments unless you choose to use a credit card. Using a Kindo account is the most efficient way to pay - and you don't need to send any paper forms back to school, so nothing gets lost in school bags. Alternatively, you can use one of the other payment options suggested on the stationery list.

School hats must be worn in Terms 1 and 4. If your child needs a new hat, one can be purchased from the school office for \$5. If your child does not have a school hat, they will only be able to play in our designated shady areas during morning tea and lunch breaks.



Tissues

To help maintain a healthy classroom we use tissues for runny noses and sneezes. If at anytime during the year you can help us out by donating a box of tissues to our class we would be most grateful. ☺

Medicine

Should your child need any medication during the school day, please visit our Office where you will be asked to fill in a permission form and the medicine will be kept and administered safely.

Meet The Teacher Picnic Evening Week 2 – Tuesday 11th February.

We will be holding our 'meet the teacher' picnic next week on Tuesday 11th of February from 5pm onwards. If you would like to come along, it is an opportunity to meet our principal Stuart Armistead and myself, if we haven't met already. There will also be time available to pop in and see Room 13. We would love to see you there.

Middle School Team Building Day Week 2 – Friday 14th of February

On Friday the 14th of February, from 10.40am – 12.40pm, the Middle School classes will be having a fun morning of team building activities. This is to help children get to know their new classmates and for the Middle School teachers to meet all the children in our team. The activities will take place from 10.40am – 12.40pm and include a swim in the pool. Your child will need their togs, towel and an extra snack in their lunch box. You are welcome to join us on the junior field at the back of the school from 10.40am.



Dojo

In Room 13 we use 'Class Dojo' to connect with families and share our learning adventures. Many of you have used it before. You may have received an email from me already asking you to connect with 'Dojo'. If you are not familiar with 'Dojo', you will find this is an excellent app you can download to your phone. You can see and comment encouragingly on your child's learning journey. Please let me know if you have any difficulties connecting. Look out for our first posts during the next week or two.

Wow! What a lot of information. We really are looking forward to a fabulous year of learning in Room 13. If you have any questions or queries at any time please do not hesitate to come in and see me. If this is not possible, you can phone our office and leave a message for me to contact you or you are most welcome to email me (this is often the easiest way) at jsimpson@kns.ac.nz

Kind regards

Jackie Simpson ☺
Class Teacher

