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**PRINCIPAL** | Stuart Armistead M.Ed. (Educational Leadership), B.Ed., Dip.T.

7th February 2020



Kia ora whanau,

A warm welcome to Room 7 and our new school year! I am very excited to be apart of the Knighton whanau and am looking forward to having a great 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.

In Room 7 we are beginning 2020 with a focus on our Knighton Way foundation of 'Getting Along'. We will be doing activities that develop collaboration, teamwork and help us get to know each other.

As the term progresses, we also will focus on the topic 'Who am I?' which will lead into our Cultural Parade.

## People in Room 7

We are very lucky to have Mrs Bridget Adams (Learning assistant), who will be in class supporting some of our tamariki. We are also looking forward to our student-teacher **Rui Lu** joining us for 3 weeks from this coming Monday, 10th February.

## Special Days For Term 1

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

## Our swimming days are Monday and Thursday!

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 me, message me through Dojo, send a written note or pop in and let me know.



## Homework!

As a minimum, I strongly encourage you to read with your child every day 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



If needed, stationery lists should have arrived home already. 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 17<sup>th</sup> February) at the very latest.

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](http://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 any time 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.

## Important Upcoming Dates

### Meet The Teacher Picnic Evening Week 2 – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

The evening begins at 5 p.m and 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 7. We would love to see you there.

### Middle School Team Building Day Week 2 – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of February

From 10.40 am – 12.40 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 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. Activities will focus on 'Getting Along', cooperation and having fun with their peers. 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 10.40 am.



## Dojo

In Room 7 we use 'Class Dojo' to connect with families and share our learning adventures. Many of you have used it before.

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. You may have received an email from me already asking you to connect with 'Dojo'. If not, instructions are attached to this letter. Please let me know if you have any difficulties. Look out for our first posts during the next week or two.

**Wow! What a lot of information.** I am really looking forward to a fabulous year of learning in Ruma Whitu! 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 [cottingham@kns.ac.nz](mailto:cottingham@kns.ac.nz)

Kind regards

Chrissy Cottingham  
Class Teacher