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Kia ora whaanau,



Welcome back to a new and exciting year for our Room 10 whaanau! Being a new teacher at Knighton Normal School, it has been wonderful to spend the week getting to know the students and being able to meet many families already.

Our learning begins with the Knighton Way foundation of 'Getting Along'. The students have already been finding out facts about each other and working together on cooperative activities and games. We will be practising kindness as we get to know each other and become familiar with the routines and expectations of Room 10. This term we will be exploring the topics of empathy and belonging within the class, inquiring into how to look after our native flora and fauna, and using our imaginations to explore literacy through drama. 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 festival closer to the time.)

People in Room 10

My name is Sarah King, and I am a beginning teacher at Knighton Normal School. I finished my Masters of Teaching in June of last year, and recently moved from teaching in Auckland to be closer to whaanau in Hamilton. I have a passion for teaching environmental sciences and maths, as well as allowing for plenty of creative and cultural agency for students within the curriculum through art and drama. **Mrs Lyndal Roche** will be teaching in Room 10 every Wednesday (starting Wednesday Week 2, February 12). Lyndal will often cover 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 some wonderful learning assistants, helping us out at various times of the day.

Special Days For Term 1

- Homework sheet - Monday (Beginning Week 3)
- School Newsletter - Tuesday
- Swimming - Monday and Thursday (Beginning Week 2)
- Mrs Roche teaching in Room 10 - Wednesday
- Library day - Thursday
- Middle School Assembly - Friday 1.30 pm in our school hall



Our swimming Days are Monday and Thursday!

Room 10 will swim every week on Monday and Thursday, starting in Week 2. 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 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 3 and 4.



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. Stationery lists were handed out to students on Wednesday 5th, please contact me if you are requiring another form.

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 and Medicines

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. ☺

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 10. 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 10 we use 'Class Dojo' as a class rewards system, to connect with families and share our learning adventures. Many of you have used it before. You will receive an email from me within the next week 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 10. If you have any questions, queries or information to share about your child 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 sking@kns.ac.nz

Kind regards

Sarah King ☺
Class Teacher

