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

Tuesday 9 February

Kia ora and welcome to Room 31, 2021!

It's a pleasure to introduce myself as your child's teacher this year. My name is Renee Downey (Miss D to the kids). For the past nine years I taught at Otaika Valley School just outside of Whangarei, a rural school with just 6 teachers. Before that I worked in a school North of Whangarei called Matarau School and at Stepney Greencoat School in London. I'm so excited to be here and meet you all. Please come and see me any time if you have any questions or concerns – or just for a chat 😊 Or if you'd prefer, you can email me [rdowney@kns.ac.nz](mailto:rdowney@kns.ac.nz)

A little about what to expect in Room 31 this year;

- I love to teach through dramatic inquiry and Mantle of the Expert. This means the kids get a lot of opportunities to work as a team, explore ideas in greater depth, be imaginative, have lots of fun and be active while learning. I have taught in this way for the past 6 or 7 years and have had fantastic results. If you have any questions about what we're doing in class please let me know, I'm always happy to discuss this with parents.
- I also love to provide kids with lots of opportunities to make things. To do this we often use / repurpose things that would otherwise be thrown away – cereal boxes, egg cartons, yoghurt containers... absolutely anything that is easily cut and glued or sellotaped to other bits or that you think the kids might want to create something with. If you are able to help us by bringing things in from home from time to time that would be amazing!
- To help keep you informed about our learning, Class Dojo will be up and running by week 3 so the kids can share their work with you from time to time. I will send those parents who aren't yet connected an invitation to join.
- We cross-group for maths with the other senior classes, beginning in week 3. Your child will be placed in a maths class that will challenge their thinking, extend their understanding of maths concepts and encourage them to work both independently and collaboratively to solve number and word problems.
- **Homework** – All kids are expected to read for 20 – 30 minutes each night. There is a book review on Class Dojo for them to complete once they have finished a book. These 20 – 30 minutes can be spent reading novels or picture books. When the library is open I will be supporting the kids to find books they enjoy reading and don't find too challenging. Choosing the right book is an important skill and one we will work on throughout the year. This time could also include you reading to your child. In addition, I will set weekly tasks for students on Class dojo. They will have 2 to 3 activities to complete, which will either be to help reinforce in class learning or to be creative. These activities are completely optional – just do what works for you

and your child. When they add their work to Class Dojo they will get extra Dojo points.

- Swimming – We swim on Tuesday and Thursday. All students are expected to bring their togs and towel on these days. If you don't want your child swimming on a particular day (for example if they are unwell) please send a note to school with them.

### What's on When!

#### **MEET THE TEACHER Evening: Term 1 Week 3: Wednesday 17th February from 5.00 – 6.30pm**

This is a great opportunity to come down to school, share some kai with your whānau, and meet the teachers in a relaxed environment. There will be games on the field for the children and a brief message from Mr Armistead, our principal, as well as a chance to see your child's classroom, meet other parents in our class and chat with me.

#### **SWIMMING SPORTS**

Friday 19 March 9:30 am – 12:30 pm (HBHS pool, access off Argyle St, Hamilton). There will be competitive and non-competitive events, something for everyone! Whānau are welcome to come and watch, clap, cheer and be proud of your child.

**SENIOR COMPETITIVE ATHLETIC SPORTS** : Tuesday 23 March at school.



#### **Important to Note...**

- **Online Kindo shop:** To avoid office queues, and to ensure your payments are accounted for correctly, we encourage you to pay 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. Our great office staff are happy to help you if you have any questions or need any assistance setting this up.
- **Medication:** A reminder that a consent form must be filled in and left at the school office for any medication administered at school. A consent form can be downloaded from our website or collected from the office. All medication remains in the office for safekeeping during the day.
- **Cell phones:** We prefer children to leave cell phones at home but understand that some children require a cell phone for safety reasons and to contact family members after school. If children do bring a cellphone to school this needs to be handed into the office or to myself until the end of the day.
- **Stationery:** Our stationery notice was sent home last week. If you would like to organise a payment plan please don't hesitate to contact the office to work something out - they are more than happy to do this as we understand this can be a very expensive time of year. We will begin using our new stationery in Week 3.

I look forward to meeting you all and working with you to ensure your child has a happy and successful year.

Renee Downey