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TERM 1 2021

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ROOM 5!

Wow - what a fantastic start we have had to our new school year! All the children are happy to be back at school and we have enjoyed getting to know one another and familiarising ourselves with classroom routines. Thank you to those of you who have come and introduced yourselves.

This term our Knighton school focus is 'Getting Along'. In Room 5 we will be exploring how we can get along with others through first developing an understanding of 'Haurora' – Personal Health/Wellbeing'. We will be looking at how we can become the best versions of ourselves and how by doing this we can collectively develop a positive, exciting classroom environment. Additionally, we will also be exploring Te Tiriti O Waitangi, developing our own class treaty and learning about all of our different cultural backgrounds as we get closer to our school-wide cultural celebration.

Important Days For Term 1

- **School Newsletter** – Every Tuesday
- **Whānau Meet the Teacher Picnic**– Wednesday 17th February 5-6.30pm
- **Library day** – Every Tuesday (beginning next week)
- **Middle School Team Building morning** - Friday 19th February
- **Middle School Assembly** – Friday 1.30 pm. Parents are always welcome to join us!
- **Swimming** – We will be swimming every **Monday** and **Wednesday** this term. Please ensure your child brings named togs and towel on these days.

Homework:

Children should be reading everyday at home. Additional homework will be given upon request in the form of a choices grid. The homework is specifically set up to be minimum stress but provides a routine. Homework 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 to share with you that we have worked on together. These books should start coming home during week 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. Children are welcome to record the books they read at the back of their homework book on the optional Reading Log.

Stationery and hats

A stationery list has been issued. If for any reason you have not received one, please let me know and I will organise a replacement form for you. We are hoping to get started in our books at the beginning of Week 3 (16th February). 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 \$10. Hats must be worn when outdoors during all of term 1 and term 4. If your child does not have a hat they will only be able to play in our Playpod area.

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.

Medical Forms and Important Information

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 safely. Also, if you need to collect your child during the day for an appointment, please remember to sign them out at the office before collecting them from the classroom.

Meet the Teacher Picnic Week 3

We will be holding a special 'whānau - meet the teacher' evening in week 3 on Wednesday 17th February. If we haven't met yet, it will be a great chance for us to get to know one another in an informal and relaxed environment. Come along and eat your dinner at school with your child. They will have time to engage in some of the games we have set up and then we will pop in briefly to our classes.

I want you to know I am going to enjoy getting to know your child over the coming weeks and working with them to create a very positive year indeed!. If I have not yet met you, feel free to pop in whenever you have a chance otherwise I am looking forward to meeting you at the meet the teacher evening. If in the meantime you have any queries, please do not hesitate to email me at the address below.

Class Dojo

You can see some of the things we have been doing on ClassDojo. For those not connected yet, accompanying this letter will be your special code to access our Room 5 dojo account. This is also a great place for communication if you need to get in touch for any reason.

It's going to be an incredible year!

Warmest Regards

Lorna Kennedy 😊
Area Coordinator/Room 5 teacher
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