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Room 31

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome back everyone, I hope you managed to have some family time over the Christmas break and made the most of the warmer weather. One of the exciting things about being in senior school is the many extra curricular activities available to your child. During term 1 these include cricket, miniball, touch, chess club, kapa haka, T.O.P.A and a range of sporting opportunities during break times. Year 5/6 tamariki also have the opportunity to build their leadership skills. There are a number of ways that your child can contribute this year, please encourage them to step up into one of these roles: mediators, wet day monitors, school councillors, librarians, and road patrollers. Parents feel free to send me a Class Dojo message if you have any questions. If you are not currently connected to Clasdojo yet please email me as this will be our main form of communication this year - [jpenman@kns.ac.nz](mailto:jpenman@kns.ac.nz). I look forward to meeting you all throughout the year.

The Knighton Way: Getting Along / Mahi Tahī

'Getting Along' is the Knighton value during term one.

*We believe it is essential that children learn to relate to a range of people in a variety of contexts.*



- Socially Responsible
- Playing by the rules
- Thinking first
- Accepting others
- Valuing cultures
- Co-operative

### Literacy:

Writing will be a major focus in Room 32 as it is a subject in which many of our tamariki need extra support. During the first term, we will mainly be doing memoir and descriptive writing. This will allow the students to write about their own personal experiences and describe a range of objects.

Each student will work on individual writing learning intentions that are identified during the first few weeks. Your child will also be given reading, grammar and spelling activities to help support their learning.

Reading: **Your child will bring home a reader, journal or chapter book daily** and will be expected to read one story each night. Please help your child by listening to them read and signing their reading log. Journals and readers will start coming home during week 4.

**Maths:**

The senior school will begin having maths in our cross-group classes every afternoon (1.45-2.45pm) in week 3. The children are in class groups that; suit their learning needs, challenge their thinking, extend their understanding of mathematics concepts and encourage them to work both independently and collaboratively to solve number and word problems.

**Topic:**

This term's work will focus around what makes our students, our kura and our local environment special. Students will participate in a range of activities with the purpose of getting to know their new classmates (mahi tahi). While also learning about their own and others cultures. The unit will finish off with our tamariki sharing an activity with the class on the day of the cultural festival.

**Swimming:**

Room 32 will be swimming two days a week. Our swimming days are Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure that your child has their togs on these days. Swimming is part of the curriculum and therefore all students are expected to participate.

**PE:**

Students will also be learning a range of co-operation games that will help build their communication skills and ability to get along with others. We will also learn a number of traditional Māori games in preparation for the Cultural Festival later in term one.

**Class Dojo:**

Class Dojo is a website/app that allows teachers to communicate with whānau (family) and upload photos so they can see what activities their children have been doing at school. Your own personal sign-in has been sent home with this parent letter if you have not already signed up.

**Medical Forms:**

If your child requires any medication to be administered by an adult during school hours, please visit the office to complete a permission slip. Any medication will be stored safely and administered by the office staff.

**Hats:**

A reminder that students are required to wear their **Knighton hat** when outside throughout terms 1 and 4. Hats can be purchased from the office for \$10 or through the online Kindo shop. If your child does not have a hat, they will be expected to play in the shade during break times.

**Library:**

Our library day will be Friday during term one. It would be greatly appreciated if you could remind your child to bring back their library books on this day. Students will be able to issue or return library books during most lunchtimes.

**Stationery:** Our stationery notice went home today. 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.

**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 kaiako until the end of the day.

Ngā mihi

James Penman