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Kia ora e te whānau,



A warm welcome to Room 13 and our new school 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. The children have settled well and are already working hard.

Our learning begins with growing our understanding of the Knighton Way values further, in particular 'Getting Along' as we get to know each other and become familiar with the routines and expectations of Room 13. Further into the term, we will celebrate the wonderful diversity of all our Knighton children and community with our cultural festival. Our special parade day is in week 8 on Wednesday the 24th of March from 9am. More information will come home about this closer to the time.

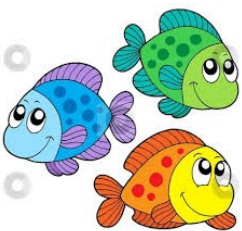


## People in Room 13

This year I am continuing in the role of Associate Principal of the Middle School. **Mrs Lyndal Roche** will be teaching in Room 13 every Thursday. Lyndal often covers other days I may be required to be out of the classroom. This ensures the regular programme continues as usual. We also have Jan Monds, one of our wonderful learning assistants, helping us out at various times of the day. This week we welcomed our two lovely student teachers Leonie Doran (Whaea Leonie) and Shontae Black (Miss Black) **who are with us full time until next Friday, the 19th of February. They will then return each Wednesday** during term 1 and into term 2.

## Special Days For Term 1

- Homework - Mondays from week 4
- School Newsletter - Tuesday
- Swimming - Wednesday and Friday in Term 1
- Library day - Thursday
- Mrs Roche teaching in Room 13 - Thursday
- Middle School Assembly - Friday 1.30 pm in our school hall



## Our swimming Days are Wednesday and Friday!

Please help your child to remember their named 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. Our swimming time is after 11am so if it is a little cooler in the morning please send togs regardless. I will carefully monitor the weather. 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 everyday 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 bi weekly 'tic tac toe' sheet, (even weeks - 4, 6, 8, 10). 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 4. 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 during next week.

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 and I am very happy to report that all Room 13 children have their own hats at the moment. This is great news!! :) 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. New hats are available for \$10 through our Kindo or our school office should one be needed.



### Tissues/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 3 – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 5 - 6.30pm

Bring your dinner or take aways and join in our family picnic on the senior field. It is an opportunity to meet our principal Stuart Armistead, myself (if we haven't met already) and catch up with previous teachers your child has had. There will also be time available to pop in and see what we have been up to Room 13. We would love to see you there.

### Middle School Team Building Day! Week 3 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of February 10-40am -12.30pm

On Friday the 19th of February, from 10.40am – 12.30pm, 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 – 12.30pm 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 senior field and turf from 10.40am.



### Dojo

In Room 13 we use 'Class Dojo' to connect with families and share our learning adventures. Many of you have used it before. You may have received an email from me already 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 fun filled fabulous year of learning in Room 13. 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 [jsimpson@kns.ac.nz](mailto:jsimpson@kns.ac.nz)

Kind regards

Jackie Simpson ☺  
Class Teacher

