



# KNIGHTON NORMAL SCHOOL

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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 over the two past weeks. The children have settled well and are already working hard.

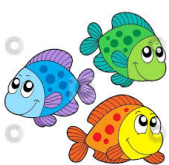
Our learning begins with growing our understanding of the Knighton Way and our school values, in particular 'Getting Along' as we get to know each other and become familiar with the routines and expectations of Room 13. In week 9, 27- 31 March we will participate in the Te Ahi Ora programme, which will provide opportunities in movement and creativity for the children and include the opportunity for everyone in our school community to attend a fire performance given by the Te Ahi Ora staff. We will also explore our world, and celebrate the wonderful diversity of all our Knighton children and community with our cultural festival. Our special parade day is in week 10 on Wednesday the 5th of April from 9am. More information will come home about this closer to the time.



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..

## Special Days

- **School Newsletter** – Every second Tuesday (first one was last week)
- **Swimming - Tuesday 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



## We swim every Tuesday 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 11.30am so if it is a little cooler in the morning please send togs regardless. Swimming is an important part of our curriculum, and our focus is confidence. If your child is unable to swim for any reason please email, message via 'Dojo', send a written note or pop in and let me know. ©

## Homework!

We keep homework super simple during term 1. As a minimum, I strongly encourage you to spend some time reading with your child everyday. Research into successful readers proves that the more words your child reads the more confidence they will gain in reading. From time to time your children may be asked to research topics or search for some bits and pieces we may need at school for topics or art projects.



## 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.

A 'Homework for Parents' questionnaire should have arrived home with this newsletter. I would love you to fill in as much of it as you can and return it to me over the next week.

## Stationery and Hats



Thank you to the many families who have been able to organise stationery payments already. We are getting started in our new books this week. This is always an exciting time.

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. We really do understand that this is an expensive time of year, please come and have a chat with myself or our office staff if the stationery payment is worrying you.

**School hats** must be worn in Terms 1 and 4. We sorted hats last week and tried hunting them down in previous classrooms, however several children are still missing hats. :) Please have a chat with your child to see if they have their hat and have a hunt at home. 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 4 – Tuesday 21st 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 Andrew Campbell, 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 in Room 13. We would love to see you there.

## Middle School Team Building Day! Week 4 – Friday 24 February 10.50am -1pm

On Friday the 24th February, from 10.50am – 1.00pm, 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 10.50am – 1.00pm 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.



## Class 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' and some messages from me via '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 photo 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 at [jsimpson@kns.ac.nz](mailto:jsimpson@kns.ac.nz) or use 'Dojo' to message me (this is often the easiest way).

Kind regards

Jackie Simpson  
Class Teacher

