

Newsletter - Room 14

Term 4, 2023

Dear Parents / Caregivers

I would like to welcome you and your child to Room 14. My name is Mrs Dawn Morgan and I have the privilege of being your child's first teacher at school. I have been teaching junior children for most of my 17 years as a primary school teacher. Room 14 is the new, new entrant class and we will slowly grow in numbers as the term progresses. Please join me in welcoming the new children to our classroom and community.

All classrooms open at 8.30am. Please settle your child into class each morning by engaging them in their morning routine:

- Carry and hang their bag up by themselves
- Put their drink bottle in the box
- Write their name on a whiteboard

The children can then do some quiet choosing or play outside. Please feel free to read a book to your child or choose activities from around the classroom.

Starting school can be exciting and tiring for the children, with lots of new routines and things to learn. To help children cope with a busy school day it is essential that they have a good night's sleep and a healthy morning tea and lunch that is easy to unwrap and eat. Please include a healthy fruit snack for our fruit break at 9.30am each day. With the warmer weather coming, it is important that the children have a drink bottle with water brought to school every day.

The children are learning to look after their belongings but if/when they lose things it is helpful if things are named including our room number. This helps us to return belongings promptly to the owner when found.

REMINDERS

Book Bags: These need to be at school every day. Book bags are used to keep books clean and dry and to send notices home. Please check your child's book bag daily for notices, reading books and home learning.

Homework: At the moment I am focussing on settling the children into school. They are learning new routines and expectations of school life. I will let you know when our formal homework programme will begin. In the meantime, reading to your child, helping them hold a pencil correctly and writing their name would be fantastic.

Independence: Please encourage your child to pack and carry their own bag. It is also useful to teach your child to undress and dress themselves as we will be swimming this term. If your child is unable to tie shoelaces, velcro shoes are a practical alternative.

Library: This term we will not be visiting the library as it is being used as a classroom.

Swimming: Our swimming days are Tuesday and Thursday. It would be helpful if everything is named and in a separate bag. Swimming is compulsory so if your child is unable to swim due to illness, please send a note to school or an email.

Friday Fun Day:

On Friday's we have our Junior Assembly at 9.05am and then TOPA in the hall. TOPA stands for Talents of the Pacific Academy – lots of singing and dancing. Then after lunch we have Kapa Haka and Fun Day Friday classroom activities – puzzles, games etc. Parents/whanau are welcome to join us in room 14 from 2.30pm.

TERM 4 FOCUS

- Following instructions and routines
- Learning independence
- Learning school expectations – class Treaty
- Correct pencil grip
- Correct letter formation of name
- Structured Literacy – learning letter names, sounds and correct formation of letters
- Numeracy – number recognition and correct formation, counting forwards/backwards, addition and subtraction

I value a supportive home/school relationship to enhance the learning and wellbeing of your child. Please let me know if you have any questions or queries regarding your child. If needed, I can make a time to meet with you after school when I have no meetings.

Kind regards
Dawn Morgan
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