



Year 2 Kowhai Newsletter - Term 3

Kia Ora Year 2 Whanau,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful holiday break. We have a fun-filled Term 3 installed for your Year 2 tamariki. Below is an outline of what we will be covering during the term as well as a few notices.

SWIMMING - Weeks 8, 9, 10

Earlier today we emailed our first swimming letter – a paper copy is coming home today. Could you please ensure you return the slip to your child's class teacher by next **Monday 2nd August** so we can determine if we can go ahead with this or not.



SHED BUILD

Our Kowhai shed has finally arrived and we need parent helpers to put this together. If you think you could help out, we are doing this on **Saturday 4th September at 9:30 a.m.** Lunch will be provided. Please email vburn@adventure.school.nz if you can help on this date.

MATHS PARENT HELPERS REQUIRED

We are wanting to provide extra support for some of our children who are having difficulty grasping mathematical concepts such as place value, number identification, number sequencing and basic facts. Diane Pepperell will train up parents who are willing to come in each week and work with a small group of children. If you are interested in doing this, could you please contact dpepperell@adventure.school.nz or vburn@adventure.school.nz over the next week.



UNDER THE SEA PLAYGROUND

To ensure children have opportunities to explore all areas of the wider curriculum, we create 'playgrounds' in our classrooms. This term, in Year 2, we will have an Under the Sea playground with opportunities for children to explore, process and extend their knowledge and thinking about sea creatures and their habitats. This will be supported by direct teaching of background knowledge. The children will learn about the characteristics, habitats, diet and predators of a range of sea creatures and learn what is / is not a fish. They will also learn songs, listen to sea inspired pieces of music and write information reports about a sea creature of their choice. The

playground will provide opportunities to explore concepts across the curriculum:

Maths

- sort and classify sea creatures
- measure out, and compare, the length of various sea creatures

English

- write about sea creatures in whatever way appeals to a child
- research further through books and video links

The Arts

- create imaginative role plays incorporating their new knowledge
- create their own music and dances with a sea creature theme

- create artworks with a sea creature theme, using a range of drawing, painting and collage materials. There will also be an example of a diorama as a provocation.

We want children to use their imagination, curiosity, critical thinking and problem solving skills to deepen their understanding of the wider world around them. A range of undersea resources and loose parts will be available and their use will only be limited by a child's imagination. When engaged in authentic play, children are more likely to develop higher order cognitive and socio-emotional skills than if exposed to direct teaching and adult-structured learning opportunities only.

During the play, we will observe their emerging understanding and support the direction they are taking by providing further knowledge and resources or directly teaching skills as needed e.g. painting skills. Play is also a key time of the day to coach our Adventure Way attributes of curiosity, creativity, collaboration, self-awareness and self-direction.

MATHS

During the first four weeks of this term, we are diving into FRACTIONS. The children will learn what the fraction symbols mean for $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{5}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$. As part of this, they will need to understand the numerator and denominator and what each part represents in relation to the whole. They will recognise and make halves and quarters of various shapes. Next, we will explore using equipment to show half and quarter of a set of objects and introduce some word number problems involving fractions. The children will learn about equal sharing, depending on the number of groups that need to be divided into e.g. 2 groups to show halves, 4 to show quarters, 3 to show thirds. This is a very important concept to understand. Alongside this, we will lock in the knowledge of quickly recalling doubles and halves to 20 e.g. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 8 is 4, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 16 is 8, double 7 is 14, $6 + 6 = 12$. There is lots of mathematical language used here to understand these concepts.



After that we will focus on teaching TIME - reading and making o'clock and half past times, extending on for some children into quarter past, quarter to and 5 minute increments of time. This follows on nicely from our fraction learning. We will also cover days of the week, months of the year and sequencing events of the day in order.

Finally, we will spend a week on Statistical Probability - determining if events are certain, possible, impossible to happen, also using vocabulary such as likely and unlikely.



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PE / SPORT



For the first 5 weeks of Term 3 we are going to focus on Folk Dancing. The children will learn 7 dances from around the world. These are lots of fun to learn where the children learn traditional dance moves, sequences, develop a sense of rhythm, timing and teamwork. In Weeks 6 and 7 each class will learn a new game involving ball skills. Finally, we hope to have 8 swimming lessons at Ally Todd during Weeks 8, 9 and 10.



As you can see, we will be busy beavers! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher.

Many thanks,

Vanessa Burn, Kim Swettenham and Rachel Grant
Year 2 teachers

