

Tōtara Syndicate Newsletter

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Please remember that Term 1 is a summer term and students are required to wear their bucket hats.

TECHNICRAFT

Students need to be at school by 8.30am on Thursdays so that we can take the roll and get on the buses by 8.45am. Please ensure they are wearing closed shoes and any long hair tied back

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the first term of 2026. It is a reasonably short one, but we have managed to pack it full of exciting experiences and learning opportunities. The following is a brief summary of what we have planned.

Senior Camp:

We are now less than two weeks away from the start of camp on the 3rd of March. We are sorting through the last bits of admin and planning and getting our own kit lists prepared. Thank you to everyone who has sent back all the pertinent information and permission slips. We will have one last set of reminders sent out next week. If you have any questions at this stage, feel free to email me directly.

Curriculum Focus and Other Learning Opportunities:

Our first inquiry of the year is "Kō wai tatou", or "Who are we?" This takes in aspects of citizenship, cultural identity, what defines us as individuals and as a group. We will integrate this learning into a series of recounts, reports and reflections. We will also be using our camp experiences to craft narratives and poetry in the latter half of the term.

Our Mathematics Strand focus will be on Geometry. We will also reinforce number knowledge and strategies in workshops being held twice a week.

Technicraft started last week. I must apologise for not notifying all parents ahead of this newsletter. Students have all been advised to arrive at school by 8.30am on Thursdays so that we can take the roll and get onto the buses by 8.45am. For reasons of safety, students must also wear closed in footwear and ensure any long hair is tied back.

The "Food for Thought" programme has been booked in for Week 7 of the term. The programme is sponsored by Foodstuffs and helps students to make informed food choices through inquiry-based classroom sessions and hands-on supermarket visit.

Beyond 3pm:

Students will have the opportunity to reinforce school learning at home through a series of take home activity sheets, with answer sheets provided on the following Monday. Participation remains optional. Other home learning can be accessed via Google Classroom and will include links to this term's Inquiry, reading activities, maths programmes and touch typing tutorials.

So there is plenty to get on with this term, although I have no doubt the term will race by and in a blink of an eye we will all soon be making plans for Easter.

Thanks and regards on behalf of the Tōtara Syndicate.

Mark Hughes