

# Tōtara Syndicate Newsletter

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**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.**

### TŌTARA TEACHERS

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**Dear Parents and Caregivers,**

Welcome back to the start of Term 2. Unlike the eight week sprint in term one, this term is a bit of a marathon at eleven weeks long. It does give us time to dive deep into new units of work. We have an action-packed schedule ahead that balances academic rigor with some fantastic physical and social opportunities.

### **Curriculum Focus and Other Learning Opportunities:**

Our primary academic focus is to build on the strong foundations that were put in place last term. In the mornings, we are implementing Structured Literacy lessons to enhance our students' reading and writing capabilities. The lessons learned will be applied to our integrated studies in the afternoon.

In Mathematics, we are continuing our number workshops twice a week to reinforce strategies and knowledge. For our strand focus, we are moving away from Geometry and into the world of Statistics, where students will learn to collect, display, and interpret data.

Our Inquiry topic for the term is a Social Science study into Sports and Sporting Celebrations. We will not only look at the physical aspects of sporting endeavours but also look at the cultural significance of major sporting events and what they mean to different communities.

Carrying on the theme of sports and celebrations, we are presently training for cross country; the whole school event will take place in Week 4 of the term. We have also started our dance practices, with the Senior Formal Ball taking place on the last Wednesday of the term.

### **Learning beyond the Classroom:**

Our homework programme continues throughout Term Two. Students 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.

Thanks and regards on behalf of the Tōtara Syndicate.

**Mark Hughes**