

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

As a syndicate we have had an incredible start to this term. Last week all of our children participated in thematic learning about ANZAC. The output has been overwhelming from war poems, to various art mediums, to peace poems. Please feel free to pop in and view the art work, you will not be disappointed. As a team we have been very proud of our middle syndicate children as their contributions around ANZAC have reflected a high level of empathy and care for this very special day. It was a privilege to talk our children about my trip to Gallipoli ten years ago where I had the opportunity to attend the Dawn Service at ANZAC Cove. I recall ten years ago close to ten thousand people were in attendance and I hope that this annual pilgrimage for Kiwis will continue to be made forever. I am excited about the number of our children who are inspired to travel there one day. On that note I would also like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who attended our school service and to those who attended services on Saturday with their children. It was an honor to walk with our Mangawhai Beach School Children at the Hakaru RSA. There were quite a few middle syndicate children at the Hakaru service and they were a credit to their parents and caregivers.

Our first week of this term proved to be a very busy week as we also had the Kiwi Release. This was a wonderful opportunity for our children to sight our own national bird and be a part of such an important project not just for our kiwi birds but raising an awareness about other species in New Zealand that are endangered. The learning around the sustainability of the kiwi will continue this week as will the final learning tasks about ANZAC.

The concept of sustainability is a future focus our syndicate is learning about this term. Over the term we will look at the sustainability of languages such as te reo and sign language in our community. Later in the term we will address sustainability of our world by looking at ways we can be guardians of our land so we can protect this world for the generations to come.

Curriculum Learning

Number Knowledge

As a syndicate we will continue to focus on number knowledge in addition, subtraction and basic facts. Simple rote based activities will help your child to retain number knowledge required for strategy work. Maths Whizz is an excellent programme and working in "Replay" a minimum of 30 minutes a week is considered a regular part of your child's homework. Research from the Maths Whizz Trial in 2014 showed that significant improvements and progress were made if the required time on maths whizz per week was met. Teachers can monitor usage and if you are interested in this data please contact your child's teacher. On behalf of the teachers in the middle syndicate, I politely request home support in the daily maintenance of 2, 5, 10 times tables. If you have any questions regarding this, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

Maths Strategies

This term we will be working closely on the learning of maths strategies to solve mathematical problems. The math strategies are otherwise known as "math tricks" taught in a specific way with the ultimate goal being children can eventually respond to math equations using mental strategies. Parents have commented to me many times about these strategies being complicated and complex. It would be fair to say that our children are taught very differently to how we were taught so we are keen to host a parent meeting later this term to share with you these concepts.

Literacy: Spelling

The focus this term is the learning of the spelling words from the essential list, sustaining this knowledge and the application of these words in daily writing. We have very pleasing data with many of our children across the syndicate who are achieving at or above their requirements for spelling. However, the biggest challenge is for our children to transfer this knowledge of spelling into their writing and accuracy is key. During the editing stage of the writing process, teachers will be really encouraging children to look for words that "don't look right" and use their knowledge of spelling to make corrections. The other focus is consistent use of capital letters and full stops.

Activity Fees:

Football = \$5.00

Math Roadshow = \$5.00 (Due this Friday)

Kindest regards,
The year 3 & 4 team.

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