

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 3!

There is a lot happening this term and I am very excited about the learning the Intermediate Syndicate has planned for your children.

Our class focus this term is on New Zealand parliament. We will be looking at some of the features of Parliament and the upcoming elections. Students will then be forming their own "political parties" and we will be having a mock election. Part of this process will involve them writing their own policies. The big question that we hope students can answer at the end of the term is "Is a democratic government the best kind of government for New Zealand?" The content of our reading will be heavily based on this. Writing is also integrated, looking at persuasive writing, debating and speech making.

Maths will focus on Number and Geometry (Wk 1 - 5 Position & Orientation, and Wk 6 - 10 Transformations). I will be helping students with their individual learning needs as identified by Maths Whizz and their recent assessments. Students will continue to work on Maths Whizz in class. I have seen an increased enthusiasm for maths in the class and I put this down to Maths Whizz. The programme is helping students step by step in areas that they are having difficulty. I am able to monitor more closely what they are doing in their independent time and the students are SO excited to see how they are progressing and improving each day. The students are also much more interested in how they are doing and are able to articulate what they have learnt and how they feel about Whizz.

In PE, the students will be creating their own tabloid game that they will have the opportunity to teach the rest of the syndicate. Fitness will be a mixture of relays, cross country running circuits.

Tomorrow in class we will go over the homework expectations. I will talk to the students about homework being for revision and completion of class work. It is not a time for new learning, and therefore should not be too hard or unfamiliar. This term, your child will bring home a small maths sheet that revises some of the key maths skills. The aim of this is for students to become quicker at applying their knowledge and strategies to complete the tasks - again this is revision. It is also expected that students are reading at least 3 times a week for 30 minutes. Maths Whizz should be done for 60 minutes a week **in replay mode**. There will be some weeks that I will send home additional work, based on the work load in class and other small tasks that need to be completed. Students will be writing this in their homework diary so it would be beneficial for you to be seeing it regularly. We will continue to mark and plan their weekly homework on a Monday. Please sign your child's diary on the weekend to indicate they have completed their homework for the week.

We will also be doing Student Led Conferences this term, in week 3. Your students will be spending time in class selecting past work that they would like to show you. This is a great opportunity for you and your families to come along and celebrate your child's learning. There will be more information coming home soon about booking a time. Please note these are not parent teacher interviews. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's learning we can make an appointment at any time in the year.

Key Dates this Term:

Student Led Conferences - Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th August

Book Character Parade - Friday 8th August

Cross Country - Friday 22nd August

Jump Rope for Heart Day - Monday 22nd September

I am looking forward to a great term full of learning!

If you have any questions about anything in this email, or in general, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,
Jaimee Fletcher