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FEBRUARY 2023

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# TUAKANA 2023 NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME BACK!

We are extremely excited to be on the verge of another term and another year at Tuakana for 2023. There are so many exciting aspects to this term, as well as this year, and we're eager to all get going after a lovely summer break. This term, we will be focusing on creating a Healthy Community and Environment, looking at sun and sea safety, as our Inquiry Topic. In Maths, we are zoning in on Basic Facts knowledge, as well as Statistics, and in writing, we will be really honing the basics of punctuation, spelling and grammar, built around some really interesting text types.

We are very much looking forward to catching up with you, in person, at our Setting up for Success Days on 31st January and 1st February. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

## MEET THE TEAM!

We can't wait to get stuck into this year, but first, some introductions!

### YEAR 5:

Miss Trautvettar - Art specialist (Room 22)

Miss Cammell - Digital Tech Specialist (Room 25)

Mrs Trevathan - Science Specialist (Room 26)

### YEAR 6:

Mr Hanwell - Team Leader (Room 23)

Mrs Kiata - Math Specialist (Room 24)

Mrs Thrush - Te Reo Specialist (Room 27)



# WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THIS YEAR?

## HOME LEARNING

Homework will be sent out at the beginning of the week, starting in week 3.

Homework consists of four-five challenges (plus some bonus challenges, which are optional).

Children will be sent a weekly spreadsheet with the homework details on, digitally to their school email address. The expectations and timings will be attached to that spreadsheet and your child's class teacher will go through this with them, weekly.

Most of the activities, such as basic facts and times tables practice, will not vary, but the reading and writing challenges will.

Your child will have the option of completing the written activities on their device, or written.

Verbal feedback will be given to the homework completed.



## WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO DO AT HOME



- Reading 30 minutes per day. Your child will be expected to read for 30 minutes each day over four days. There will also be a reading activity to complete.
- Basic Facts 10 minutes per day. The key to this is regular, short and 'punchy' practice, either on paper or may use <https://maths.prototec.co.nz/> to practice their basic facts. There will be regular assessment in-class to assess their progress in this crucial area of mathematics. It is expected that children, within reason, know their addition and subtraction facts, times tables and division facts by the end of year 6. There will also be other Maths-related challenges and these will vary depending on the class focus at that time.
- Spelling 10 minutes per day. We use the StepsWeb programme for our spelling practice: <https://stepsweb.com/>. For children that have completed STEPS, there will be extra spelling lists added to the programme for them to work through.
- Writing 45 minutes over the week. There will be a writing task set, related to what the children are completing in class.
- Passion Project 30 minutes over the week. Children will be working on a Passion Project across the term. Details of which will be sent out in week 3, with the homework.



## DEVICES



- In Year 5 & 6 students have their own school email to access Google Drive. This email address must only be used for learning at school and sharing learning with others.
- In Year 5 & 6 students can bring their own device to school. Again, this is only to be used for learning tasks during school time. Students should ensure that their devices are charged each day.
- We use a system called 'Hapara' to monitor student emails and documents
- We would appreciate your support with monitoring your child's internet access at home. Often issues of inappropriate content or language online end up manifesting in the playground.
- Full details about digital safety and digital technologies can be found on our [school website](#).

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Please use the Hero app, sign up to the website or read email notifications. We will use this to communicate with you during the year.
- Learning Stories: Your child will be completing at least three learning stories of their own during each term. These will be shared with you. Please read through them for an update on what they are learning and achieving, and please comment back through Hero, as your child will then be able to view your feedback!
- Please read the newsletter, which is sent out every two weeks - it will contain information about upcoming events. There is also a Tuakana web page with more information on the school website.
- Please be respectful of and adhere to deadlines for signing up for events or returning forms.



## STATIONERY

- Please provide your child with stationery by the end of Week 1.
- At the end of each term, please check that your child still has all of the stationery that they need and top up as necessary.

## RESPONSIBILITIES & RESILIENCE



### Responsibility in Tuakana

In Tuakana we expect students to pack their own bag and carry it into school. It is their responsibility to remember their homework expectations and when it is expected to be completed.

### Resilience in Tuakana

There are many extra curricular activities for children to take part in. Please encourage them to push through nerves and make the most of these. Children who are empowered to face challenges will see marked personal growth throughout the year

