

Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2 and a special welcome to new children and their whānau, who have joined our school community this term. The children have returned to school refreshed and ready to learn. We have lots of exciting activities planned for this term. See the long-term plan for more information.

### **Integrated Studies**

This term, we will continue to work on our school-wide integrated unit about “Early Voyagers: Kōrinorino o Nga Tupuna (In the Wake of Our Ancestors)”. Below are some of the concepts we will be investigating:

**Navigation-** how early voyagers navigated across the ocean; how compasses, latitude, longitude, QR codes and GPS work

**Tangata Whenua meets Taiuiwi-** who Kupe was and why he is important in Aotearoa New Zealand; when, how and why tangata whenua and taiuiwi came to our place; what our local area was like 150 years ago

**Our tūrangawaewae-** where our place is in the world; when, how and from where our whānau come to Aotearoa; what are

some landmarks from the past in our local area; what are the origins and meanings of some local place names

This whole-school unit will culminate in a celebration of Matariki towards the end of the term.

### **Oral Language**

This term for our formal oral language programme, children are being asked to interview someone they know who has moved to New Zealand from another country and present this information with the class. The focus is on supporting students to be confident to present to their peers in a confident, engaging way. More information will come home about this shortly

### **Physical Education**

We are currently practising for cross-country every day and children need to be wearing appropriate shoes and clothing for this. The cross-country event is on Tuesday 17th May, (postponement day Thursday 19th May). See Steeple Rock for a tentative timetable. Parents are welcome to come and watch.

There will be a number of our students taking part in the Perceptual Motor-skills Programme this term. This programme operates every Tuesday morning in the hall. Please ask your child whether they are involved in this.

We have been lucky enough to be offered some swimming sessions in Term 3 to make up for the sessions we missed last term. More information will come home about this later in the term.

### **Interchange Programme**

We are hoping that later this term, we will be able to resume our Year 3/4 Interchange system, where children experience a variety of curriculum areas and work with students and teachers from across the team. Look out for more information about this, and a request for parent helpers for cooking.

### **School Values**

This term we will be focussing on **Self-Control, Positivity and Perseverance**. We will be sharing and discussing what these values mean to us, and considering how we can display them in our daily lives. It would be great if you could follow this up at home.

### **Home Learning and Steeple Rock Challenges**

Home Learning day is Thursday. On Thursdays, we test the previous week's Spelling Words and Basic Facts, and select words for the next week. It is your child's responsibility to bring their Home Learning book to school, but a gentle reminder each week would be appreciated!

The Steeple Rock Challenge programme is going well. The children are highly motivated and love sharing what they have done. To help manage the sharing of Challenges, please ensure the booklet is signed by both you and your child, and your child has practiced what they are going to say. We encourage children to bring challenges as they are finished (one at a time). Evidence of challenges can be brought to school, emailed to the class teacher or shared via Google Classroom. When your child is ready to share a challenge they let the teacher know, and they will be given an opportunity to share over the next couple of weeks.

### **ICT User Agreement**

Shortly your child will be bringing home an ICT user agreement to be signed by them and by you. This will set out expectations for how we use devices and the internet at school. We will spend time going through this with the children in the classroom to ensure they understand what they are signing. We would like you to also discuss the agreement with them before signing it.

### **Winter Clothes**

It will be important that the children bring a coat every day this term. With the onset of winter, we will still take every opportunity to allow students to get outside, even if it is cold. It is also essential if we were to evacuate the school.

Kind regards

Catherine Miller, Louise Noble, Jayne Carey, Marion Hair, Jayshri Daya