

Kereru / Middle Pod Newsletter Term 2 2021

Welcome back to school for Term 2. It's great to have the children back refreshed and excited for the new term.

Curriculum

Our Term 2 curriculum overview is shared in the Kereru Long Term Plan.

We are very excited about our inquiry, which will look at our physical body, health and fitness as one of the pillars of hauora. There are many crossovers to enable us to pick up inquiry in other subject areas. If you have any subject specific knowledge, and are willing to come and talk to the children or run a session, we would love to hear from you. An exciting element of our plan is to look at all sorts of areas of fitness and expose the children to many experiences they might not usually have in class. We're using the catch phrase 'Find your fitness'.

The whole school is also following the 'Keeping ourselves Safe' programme during term 2. This fits really well with our inquiry. We will be following the programme developed by the NZ Police.

Keeping Ourselves Safe is a comprehensive child abuse prevention programme for schools that we run every few years. If you would like to know more about the programme, [here is a link](#) to their information for parents or you can attend the parent information session being held at school at 9am on Tuesday 11th May.

On the last Friday of term we would like to invite you into school to a Middle Pod Inquiry Expo, where you will be able to see what the children want to show you. This will run from 8am to 9am so you can pop in before work or at school drop off.

Here follow a few administrative things and reminders for the start of the term.

Some Middle Pod dates for your diary

(there may be more in Justin's Newsletter - keep reading them every week so you don't miss anything!)

Friday 14th May	School Cross Country event
Friday 4th June	Kereru Pod will be hosting our school assembly
Friday 9th July	Before school Kereru Pod open classroom Expo of our inquiry

Cross Country

Over the first couple of weeks of term children will be practicing for the school cross country event most days. They will need suitable clothing and shoes for running through the bush track.

School Trips

We currently have no trips outside school planned for this term. We are, however, planning our EOTC week activities for term 4. We are aware that the costs for activities during that week are higher than usual term costs, especially with the costs of an overnight visit. We anticipate the EOTC week costs to be in the region of \$100 and mention this now in case you want to put a little into your school account this and next term to spread the payment. This may be particularly helpful if you have more than one child in the pod, or an older child who will be attending camp in term 4.

We have secured a booking to stay at Zealandia overnight in Term 4, rather than our usual Zoo visit. We feel that this aligns closely with our Term 4 inquiry and learning objectives can be linked with our own school bush environment. During this term we will be sending some more communication out about the Zealandia trip, as it takes a lot of organisation and planning. Our expectation is that all children will attend, so we ask that you build up their resilience to a night away from home and family over the coming months and air any concerns early.

End of day pick up

A reminder that in Year 3, children will still need to be collected from class by an adult (or go to Skids), but we dismiss Year 4 students from the class. There is an expectation that children will either walk home, meet you on the playground or at your car, but they are not allowed to stay at school unsupervised after 3pm. Please let us know if someone different is picking your child up.

Term plans

These have been shared on our new website, alongside an overview of our overarching inquiry themes for the school year.

Please let us know if you have any specialist knowledge or interest that you could share in class to add to this learning experience for our students.

Winter Term clothing requirements

We often see children arrive at school during the Winter terms dressed for a car trip to school, rather than changeable weather or rain. We all know that Wellington weather is very changeable and children need to be prepared for a change in temperature and for rain. Please make sure that they have a warm layer and a waterproof jacket. We send children outside to play in all but heavy rain.

Saying that

Lost property

We have a huge amount of this each term. Children are generally not very good at looking through this and often don't recognise their own clothes! Please make sure there are names in any clothing that might get removed during a school day. Warm layers, hats and coats are prime examples. As the children take their shoes off, having names in them can also be useful.

We are looking forward to seeing you in our classrooms in the mornings or after school. We have regular meetings some afternoons after school, so if you want a longer chat, please arrange this in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Best wishes

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