

Middle Pod Newsletter Term 1 2021

Welcome back to school for 2021 and to our Year 3 students. Welcome to the Middle Pod. Our pod is called Kereru Pod. We have been busy setting up the newly refurbished classrooms and they look great! Over the next week or so the roof will be painted and the scaffolding will come down.

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

Permissions for trips: From time to time we have trips and need parent permission. This year we are using a [2021 Trip Permission Form](#) to cover most of our Wellington trips. An example is the Yr 6 students visit Raroa twice during the year and also the Orange Day Parade at the end of the year. With trips needing more details, eg: swimming, permissions will be sent out as a separate form. In order to support this, we need you to complete this form. We will inform you of any costs incurred and when trips are occurring, but we felt it might save us having to chase you up each time! **Please click on the link above to complete the form by Friday 12 February.**

Swimming Lessons

We will start swimming lessons with the Middle Pod in week 6 of term 1. This forms part of our PE curriculum and it is therefore an expectation that all children will take part.

We will be travelling to Karori pool and swimming twice a week for 4 weeks. This arrangement worked very well last year and we are pleased to have secured afternoon slots.

We will be swimming on Monday and Friday each week:

Week 6: Monday 8th and Friday 12th March

Week 7: Monday 15th and Friday 19th March

Week 8: Monday 22nd and Friday 26th March

Week 9: Monday 29th March and

Week 10: Friday 9th April (it is an 11 week term, so this isn't the last day of term)

Rooms 8 and 9 will have an early lunch and leave school at 1pm. As long as the traffic isn't bad, we will return to school by 3pm. Please bear in mind that we could be running a few minutes late.

The parent contribution towards this cost is \$60. This covers the bus transport and 8 lessons, working out at \$7.50 per lesson. We do pay for an additional teacher and swimming lane, which we believe provides better ratios for the children and smaller class sizes. We realise that this is a significant amount, but we have been able to reduce the cost from last year as both classes can travel on the same bus. By using the school account system, you will be able to spread your payments throughout the year.

On [the permission form there](#) are a few questions about your child's swimming level. We have arranged to share this information with the pool to aid their groupings.

Each class will need 2 parents to accompany them for each swimming session (including the bus travel). Please let us know if you can volunteer to help us out, even if just for one day.

We have no further trips outside school currently planned for this term.

Stationery and Emergency Supplies

School supplies, including a box of tissues and emergency food should already be in school on the first day of term, but if not, please make sure this comes in as soon as possible.

If your child finishes a school book during the year, we will send them to the office for another one and the cost will be added to your school account.

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.

Drink bottles, sun hats and sunscreen

Please make sure that your child has a sun hat at school every day. They need to be wearing these any time outside for PE or play and not having one means they have to stay in a shady place at these times.

Drink bottles are essential as our water fountains are not in use. These should be taken home and washed regularly.

Please apply this to children before school. Teachers will not apply top ups during the day, so a roll on is a good idea for your child to have in their bag.

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.

Please join us at the 'Meet the teacher' evening on Wednesday 10th February at 6.30. We will be talking more about our class programmes and what you can expect this year. You will also have the opportunity to meet Justin in the Hall at 6.00pm and receive information on our school focus for 2021.

Individual parent interviews will be held later in the term on 30th March & 1st April. Watch Justin's weekly newsletter for more details and booking information later in the term. Please note that vital information about school events are in this weekly newsletter and making time to read it each week can make keeping up with events and information about school much easier.

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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