

Term 4 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to the start of term 4 – isn't the year flying by?

We start our term by hitting the ground running! Agriculture Day and Grandparents Day are happening on Thursday in our first week back. Your child will come home with a letter with more information about this day.

In R.E we are starting the Communion of Saints strand. Please be aware that the Year 3 topic is around life, death and Christian Hope which includes learning about sad times, what we can do and how we can help others, including what happens when people die. For some children who are sensitive or have experienced these times it can be a difficult topic. Please email us if you have any further questions or if you think we need to be mindful of issues your child has. As the term goes on we will be learning about Advent and Christmas. We also have All Saints and All Souls Days, and the Feast of Christ the King, which we celebrate at our Community Mass on Sunday 26th November. We look forward to meeting lots of grandparents at our annual Grandparents Day on Thursday 19th October.

It is really important that the children have their PE gear **every** day as we have athletics early in the term (date still to be confirmed). If they have no P.E gear, they can not practise during class time.

As the weather is starting to fine up the children no longer need to bring old clothes to school to play in but need to start bringing their **named hats**.

For the core curriculum areas (Reading, Writing and Maths) the children will continue to be grouped appropriately according to their learning needs. This means they may work with a different teacher for each area and these may change throughout the year as their learning progresses. You will be notified if your child changes teachers.

Reading

We continue with our daily classroom routine called 'The Daily 5' while teachers take smaller groups for guided reading. During this time the children are doing more than just reading the text and answering simple questions. Please find attached to this email a comprehension strategies booklet that identifies nine strategies that good readers use to understand what they read. The strategies identified are transferable skills that can, and should be, used by the children whenever they read or write.

Maths

Each class will continue with a strand topic with several areas being covered over the different levels.

After strand some groups will be looking at multiplication and division while others continue with addition and subtraction strategies.

Each week we set **every** child tasks on Mathletics that reinforces learning that is happening in their maths groups. We see this programme as a valuable learning tool and ask that children use this as part of their weekly homework. Please contact us if there is a reason why your child is unable to do this at home and we can arrange time before school to use a Chromebook. The children are also aware of, and should be practising, their number knowledge and/or basic facts goals for homework. You can also find these goals on their July report.

Writing

This term our focus continues on developing skills focussing on deeper and surface features that have been identified as goals for your child.

Behaviour Management System

We continue to use the choices system to acknowledge good choices and a thinking face to remind students that poor choices are not acceptable, thus enabling them to reflect on and manage their behaviours better.

If a child has their name on the board with 2 ticks (in one learning area) or their name and a tick in 2 learning areas they are sent to a partner class with a reflection sheet and work to do. They are then able to return to class for the next learning block. If they continue to make poor choices they will be sent to Cass Sutton or Marcus Oxenham. If they are sent to Marcus or Cass three times in a fortnight, you will be contacted.

Active Learner Mountain

By now you would've no doubt heard about our 'Active Learner Mountain'. There are 3 stages of our mountain: Apprentice; Climber; and Mountaineer, with Mountaineer being the level they are aiming to reach. These 3 stages encourage the children to become active learners who take responsibility for their own learning by choosing the right place to work, the right people to work with, knowing their goals and choosing activities that will enable them to reach these, and being able to ask for help when it is needed. As the children become more independent in their learning they are able to work in different areas of our hub, i.e., Mountaineers are able to work in the wet area with less supervision whereas Apprentices need to work close to the teacher.

Housekeeping

1. Could children please have **P.E gear** with them at all times, even if weather does not look good in the morning, as our athletics programme starts week 1.

2. Library: Your child will continue to go to the library each week with their reading class.

3. Homework: Children are expected to read for approximately 15 minutes every night. They will also have weekly spelling words to learn with every fourth week being a review of the last three weeks' words. Children must have a book bag to carry their reader in and, if their book is not returned, they do not take another one. They are also expected to use Mathletics for revision and to complete set tasks on a regular basis.

4. Could you please make sure all clothing, including underwear, is named (we cannot look for unnamed clothing). We still have numerous items missing which means we are using valuable teaching time checking 84 pieces of clothing. Could you please check all your child's uniform items at home and send anything back that is not theirs.

5. No toys at school except balls and tennis racquets. Please make sure these are clearly named.

6. As a change from 'class news', this year we have a 'Brag Wall' where children can display things they are proud of and want to share with the Hub. These will need to have a written explanation with the picture/photo as they won't be able to share it orally.

7. If your child is a Mountaineer they are allowed to bring a pencil case to school. We provide the stationery to fill these. This means they do not need to bring anything else to go inside them including no gel pens, smiggle accessories etc.

8. Uniform: We are now moving into the summer uniform. All children must wear a hat when outside this term. We have a 'no hat-no play' rule where, if they have no hat, they must play in the shade.

PLEASE make sure that all parts of the uniform are clearly named.

Don't forget we have our own [Colgan Learning Hub Facebook Page](#) !

Make sure you 'like' us to keep up to date with our fun learning. Feel free to share the page with family!

If you have an issue with your child's face or work appearing on our page could you please email aimee@stpatta.co.nz to let us know.

Email is our preferred way of contact as we find it the most efficient. If you have any questions or issues you need to discuss with us, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Kaitiaki teacher or, if it concerns a particular learning area, please contact the appropriate teacher. Please be aware that we try to respond to emails by the end of the day as we can't always do so straight away. If we receive

an email in the evening we will try to respond by the end of the following day. If the matter is urgent or a message for your child please contact the office as we may not always be able to check our email during school time.

God Bless

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