

Title 2021 Senior Syndicate Newsletter Term 1

Friday, 5 February 2021



Waterloo School Senior Syndicate

Years 5 and 6

Newsletter Term 1 2021

Kia ora everyone

We hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you a very 'Happy New Year!' The warmer days have arrived and let's hope the weather continues to be settled as we begin 2021. The teachers have been busy preparing their classrooms for their students and we are all looking forward to firstly, reconnecting with our Year 6 students and secondly, meeting our new Year 5 students and welcoming them into the senior syndicate. This term we also welcome Ruby Leonard who will be teaching in Room 1 and we look forward to working with her this year. Finally, we extend special congratulations to Miss Charlotte Conlon who has become Mrs Kelly over the holidays.

Inquiry:

In our inquiry studies we will be covering a variety of topics in Term 1. Our 'umbrella' concepts are change, community and social responsibility.

We will link these to the following contexts:

The Treaty of Waitangi - (its importance and relevance to us as New Zealanders).

Our Classroom Ecology – getting to know and reconnecting with each other, reminding ourselves of our responsibilities towards each other, our environment and our learning.

Our Place - asking ourselves what do we know about where we live, work and play?

Our health programme, Navigating the Journey, will run throughout the year. In Term 1 we will be learning about relationships, for example, forming and maintaining friendships.

Literacy

Literacy learning will concentrate on establishing balanced reading and writing programmes.

In writing, our focus will be on purposeful writing tasks linked directly to our inquiries. Each classroom will work on different tasks according to the needs presented by their inquiry process. These writing tasks may take a variety of forms, for example, personal experience, poetry, letters, reports and so on. Through these tasks, we will be learning about things such as how key ideas are selected, how different texts have different structures, the importance of selecting specific words, correct punctuation, proof-reading and editing.

A great way for you to help at home is by reading with your child and discussing the features that make up the texts you are sharing. For example, how is the layout of a newspaper report different from that in a novel? What rich descriptive vocabulary or devices such as similes are included in a piece of text? Why do reports or explanations have headings or subheadings and so on.

You could also spend time guiding your child to be observant about their everyday experiences: a walk along the beach, a sport game, a game with siblings, or a cooking experience. All these experiences are rich fodder for writing. Help your child to discuss the events, the sights, sounds, physical sensations and emotions of their experiences and explore the rich language through discussion.

Alongside our writing focus we will be establishing reading routines that will support the work the students are doing in other areas of the class programme.

Numeracy

Students will explore addition, subtraction, multiplication and division concepts. We hope to continue to consolidate their number knowledge and their strategic thinking when problem solving. We will have a particular focus on geometric thinking and measurement sense. The students will be encouraged to develop their own personal learning goals which they can revisit and modify throughout the year.

Physical Education

The weather is perfect this term to be outside for PE – as long as we have lots of water, sunscreen and sun hats with us! The PE programme will begin with athletics including long jump, high jump, sprints, vortex, discus and shot put, moving into small ball skills and related games. Athletics Day is currently penciled in for Tuesday 13th April, (pp. Thursday 15th April). We will let you know if this changes.

Home learning

We cannot over-emphasise the value of developing a love of reading in your child. This may also take the form of you reading to them and modelling the joy of reading. Individual classes will have their own additional homework expectations. These are based on class needs and can look different from class to class. Teachers will encourage students to complete any classwork that they are behind in, and to read, read, read every day.

Please speak to your child's classroom teacher if you need further clarification or require any more information.

Active Learning

All classes worked throughout last year on 'Active Learning' and the 'Active Learner Traits' ("Connecting me", "Thinking me", "Managing me", "Collaborating me", and "Communicating me"). Active learning happens when a student actively participates in, or interacts with the learning process, rather than being a passive consumer of information. This approach to learning is becoming part of our everyday discussions and increasingly part of the culture of our classrooms. The students will continue to learn about and apply the 'active learner' traits.

Up-Coming Events

Next week on **Thursday 11 February** there is a "**Meet the teacher**" evening. This is an informal opportunity to visit your child's classroom and briefly meet their teacher. There will be a short 10 or 15 minute talk from the teacher. Then you'll be welcome to bring your picnic dinner and join other parents and teachers for an informal dinner picnic on the field, if the weather is fine. If you need to have a longer discussion with the teacher about your child's needs, the teacher will be able to arrange another time for a chat.

Parent Queries/Concerns

We believe in working together to provide the best for your child. If you have any queries/concerns - big or small please approach your child's teacher first- then the Team Leaders (Glynnis Bell and Janice Karl) or the Deputy Principal (Esmee Elias-Tito). The partnership between home and school is crucial so please don't hesitate to talk to us and discuss any issues you may have.

Bell Times

The bell goes at 8:55am for the school day to begin. Students need to be at school at least 10 minutes before the bell so they can unpack their bags and get ready for their day.

***Please remember that the students are not able to enter classrooms until 8:30am*.**

COVID-19

Teachers will remind students about the health and safety procedures that help keep us well at any time, but which are especially important during this time of COVID-19. Students will be reminded that they need to wash their hands before they come into the classroom, before they eat, after they use the toilet, after they blow their nose and after they use play equipment. There is hand sanitiser available in each classroom.

Please keep your child home if they have a cough, cold or runny nose. If they have a tummy upset, your child needs to stay home for 48 hours after the last episode. This time helps them to get better and stops those bugs from affecting their classmates and teachers.

There is a scan sheet for the COVID-19 location app in each block of classrooms and each teacher has a sign-in sheet for parents and any other adult visitors.

We look forward to a fantastic year at Waterloo with your child.

Regards

The Senior Team

Glynnis Bell, Janice Karl, Charlotte Kelly, Katie Everett, Rachel Henry-More, Anna Boyce and Ruby Leonard.