

## Room Kea Newsletter #2: Term 1 2023

Well it has been a crazy few weeks! I hope that none of you have been badly affected by the floods and cyclone. I'm feeling desperately sorry for all those around New Zealand who have been devastated by these events. I am very pleased with how quickly the students have settled back to school despite the disruptions. I apologise for another newsletter so soon after the first. I don't usually send a second newsletter in term 1 but have a few important things to let you know about.

### **Class Parent Meetings**

Thank you to the parents who did manage to attend these. I have included my 'notes' from the meeting with this email for your reference for those who were not able to make it.

### **One on One Parent Teacher Meetings**

We have quite a bit of testing coming up in the next couple of weeks so I would prefer to arrange one-on-one parent meetings for after that (then we can also discuss the results). This will not be before the week starting 6 March. I also need time to mark and analyse the tests, so I will send a further email once that is done.

### **Year 6-8 Camp - Peter Snell (Whangaparaoa)**

Dates for this have been confirmed Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November with a day trip to Tiritiri Matangi island on Thursday 2 November. We are endeavouring to keep costs as low as possible for this and are applying for funding for the day trip to Tiritiri Matangi. Further information will be sent out once we have finalised things. This is just a 'circle those dates in your diary' kind of message. If you already know that your child will not be able to attend camp on those dates please let me know.

### **Other Reminders (previously advised, new info highlighted)**

#### **Want to keep up with what your child is working on in class?**

To continue preparing our students for the reality of learning in a digital age, they will continue using the Google Apps for Education this year including Google Classrooms. Students can log in to their Google Accounts from home and share what they have been working on with you that way. Accounts can be accessed from a PC, Laptop or Chromebook. It is also accessible from most other devices via an App. Assignments are shared with students this way and this is also where they 'hand in' digital work.

**We have quite a bit of work already completed or underway on Google Classroom and I encourage you to get your child to show you what they have been working on.**

### **Homework**

Homework in Kea Room will begin next week with just a few small tasks. A copy of our homework policy is available on the school website.

#### **Weekly homework in Kea Room will initially consist of**

##### **Maths**

Working on learning specific Basic Facts. **Students now know which facts they need to work on and have made flashcards at school to practice with. Each student should only have 4-7 facts. Once they know those they move on to the next 'set'. You can help by practice their facts with them daily.**

##### **Reading**

Students should get into the habit of reading/listening to an audiobook each afternoon/evening.

##### **Other tasks**

Tasks will vary from week to week (they may run over a few weeks and some weeks there will be no project work). Tasks will be linked with topics we are covering at school and will often be work around goal setting or reflections - to encourage students to take increased responsibility. Tasks will usually involve discussion/input from someone at home, and be set on Google Classroom. The first task will be to research where their family comes from for their 'Bit About Me' Presentations (more information to follow). **Most students have finished their Bit About Me presentations. If not, this is now homework and needs to be completed by the end of next week (Friday 24 Feb).**

### **Contact details reminder**

My number is 027 630 7451. **Please note that I do not read my emails or texts during class time (in fact after 8.15 am or before 3.30),** so if you need to get a message to me or your child during the day (e.g. to let them know to go home with a friend because you can't pick them up as planned etc), please ring the office on 09-238 9419.

Lisa Goldsack, Year 7 & 8 Teacher