

Senior School Newsletter
Term 3 2020



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back!

Last term was extraordinary and we must say how well the students have coped with the transition back to school after our lockdown period. We hope you have managed to get out and about with your child during the holidays and are ready for a new term, jam packed with lots of interesting learning opportunities for everyone.

Literacy News

This term our big focus is on speech writing. We will give the students plenty of opportunities to learn the art of writing a brilliant speech. It would be great to start talking with your child about a subject that they understand well and are passionate about. When it comes time to choose a subject they will have already thought about some ideas. A successful speech is often one that has a bit of humour and something that all students can relate to. Have fun brainstorming together.

Reading

There is much more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. When children can read (or decode) texts with increased confidence, as many of our senior students can, the learning emphasis shifts towards developing a deep understanding of what they read, including making comparisons, judgements and forming opinions on the writing of others. Reading at home will strengthen comprehension and build vocabulary skills. These tips might help students and parents with reading outside of school:

- Aim to visit a local library at least once a term or during the holidays to increase the variety of books available to your family.
- Comparing opinions about articles in newspapers or magazines is a good place to begin, especially if your time is limited.

Mathematics

This term the Year 5 and 6 classes will continue to cross group for maths three days a week. The teachers will continue working together to ensure that we provide a carefully targeted maths programme. The students will also take part in problem solving and maths teaching in their own classrooms.

Below are some websites that you may find useful:

www.mathletics.co.nz

www.sumdog.com

<http://nzmaths.co.nz/families>

<http://www.math-exercises-for-kids.com/>

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Footsteps

The Y5 students will have the opportunity to learn some dances this term. We are very lucky to have a fantastic specialist come to teach us. The Y6 students will have the opportunity next term. Hopefully each student will be able to bust out some moves for your entertainment at the next family party!

Inquiry

The Inquiry concept this term is, How the World Works, and we will be having a science and technology focus.

The Year 6 students are reading a novel called 'Into the White'. It is all about Robert Falcon Scott's expedition to the Antarctic. Our investigations will follow a scientific route of exploration.

The Year 5 students will be having a technology focus. Our big question is:

"How are people's needs reflected in structures?"

Activity Fees

Thank you to those who have already paid their activity fees. If you still need to pay, please could you pay the fee (\$35 per term) for any unpaid terms. Your school donation is also very important to us to assist with curriculum related items. This can be paid online or to the school office.

ASB 12 3109 0011698 00 (please put your child's name as a reference).

Future Dates To Note:

Monday 10th August - Portrait Photos
Wednesday 12th August - Parent Meetings, 3:30 - 7:30pm
Thursday 13th August - Parent Meetings, 3:30 - 5:30pm
Thursday 20th August - Rippa Tournament#3 Tuesday 25th August - Rippa Saver Day
Friday 28th August - Y6 Trip to Kelly Tarlton's
Monday 14th September - Friday 18th September - Book Week
Friday 25th September - End of Term

Communication between the school and parents/caregivers is important. Please feel comfortable in contacting your child's teacher if you have any queries about their learning. You can also contact the team leaders if you need to:

Jenny Bate – Year 5 Team Leader: jennyb@greenhithe.school.nz

Zara Fletcher – Year 6 Team Leader: zaraf@greenhithe.school.nz

We are looking forward to a fantastic third term.

Senior Syndicate