



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all enjoyed a lovely relaxing holiday.

Curriculum

Integrated Literacy and Inquiry

Throughout term 2 our senior students will be conducting their own inquiry about which landmarks and places are unique and special to New Zealand. Various reading, writing and researching skills will be taught and show cased in the work that is presented from this inquiry.

Reading Strategies

Our primary teaching emphasis in Year 5 and 6 is on teaching reading strategies which help develop comprehension no matter what level a child is working at.

“Proficient readers are active readers. They actively engage with the text using a number of strategies to gain meaning from it.” (Cameron, 2009).

These strategies include: predicting, questioning, making connections, visualising, finding and summarising important ideas or information. Nine to eleven year olds still enjoy sharing their books with important adults in their lives. They should be encouraged to talk about how using one of their reading strategies can help overcome challenges they face with new texts. They also love to be read to and we encourage you to explore books together. Book talk of all kinds will continue to motivate children to read.

Writing

It is in the senior school that our students begin to really show their new learning through writing. There are several things we are looking for in successful writing by the end of Year 6 including:

- writing for a range of audiences and purposes
- a variety of sentence structures
- precise vocabulary choices
- use a range of written features to engage the audience; e.g. metaphors
similes and onomatopoeia
- a simple but effective overall text structure
- success in spelling of words on the seven essential word lists
- paragraphs

These elements will be taught and practised in class daily. In writing lessons we will explore a variety of effective texts and use them as a basis for our own writing. Over the course of a week or over several weeks children may write stories, persuasive arguments, factual reports, instructions or recounts from a particular perspective.

Mathematics

There will be a big focus on basic facts, so along with number strategies, which is taught in learning groups, there will be a big push for children to be able to instantly recall basic facts. This includes addition and subtraction equations to 20, and times tables to 10. This can also be something that the children practise at home.

This term the Year 6s are trialling cross class grouping for maths three days a week. The year 6 teachers will be working together to ensure that we provide a carefully targeted maths programme. The students will also take part in maths teaching in their own classrooms.

PE/Fitness

Students will be focusing on increasing their fitness through middle distance running. They will be monitoring their running efforts and trying to better each performance. This will culminate in the senior school cross country running event on Tuesday 4th June.

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

Children may enter the classroom when the bell rings at 8:30. Any children arriving before this time will be told to wait on the top court until the bell rings.

Tissues

Thank you to those that have already brought in a box of tissues. We would appreciate it if your child could bring a box of tissues to school, as there tend to be a lot of sniffles and sneezes at this time of the year. Please help us to reduce the spread of coughs and colds by keeping children at home if they are unwell.

Clothing

Please ensure that your child comes to school every day with suitable footwear for cross country training. It is recommended that your child comes to school with a named school sweatshirt to wear, as classrooms can be cold first thing in the morning.

Activity Fees

Please ensure that your \$30 activity fee is paid for this term.

2019 Term 2 Future Dates To Note:

Week 2:	Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th May - Mothers' Day Market Thursday 9th May - Rippa Rugby Tournament Friday 10th May - Disco
Week 3	Tuesday 14th May - Rippa Rugby 'Saver Day'
Week 4	Saturday 25th May - Quiz Night
Week 5	Friday 31st May - Teacher Only Day (at AJHS)

Week 6	Monday 3rd June - Queens Birthday Holiday Tuesday 4th June - Year 3-6 School Cross Country Thursday 6th June - Cross Country saver day
Week 7	Tuesday 11th June Class and Portrait photos and Matariki open afternoon Wednesday 12th June Bays Cluster Dance Performance Thursday 3th June - Inter school cross country Friday 14th June - Inter school cross country saver day
Week 8	Tuesday 18th June - Sibling photos Wednesday 19th June - Year 6 Netball Field Day Thursday 20th June - Rippa Rugby Tournament
Week 9	Monday 24th June - Supercluster Cross Country Tuesday 25th June - Rippa rugby 'Saver Day' Tuesday 25th June - Science Road Show Friday 28th June- Reports go home
Week 10	Monday 1st July - Supercluster Cross Country saver day Wednesday 3th & Thursday 4th July - Parent Conferences Friday 5th July last day of Term 2

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Senior Syndicate