



## Ngā Totara Newsletter Term Four, 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Welcome back. Wow, Term Four is upon us! We hope you enjoyed the term break. Term four is always a busy term with many different things happening. For the first half of the term students will be participating in different athletic skill sessions in preparation for our athletics day in Week 6 of the term. Some Year 4 students may be selected for the Athletics Super Cluster in Week 7.

Other activities this term include the Wairau Arts Extravaganza, Diwali celebrations and the Kapa Haka group will be busy with different performances.

A reminder that on Friday 25th October (Week 2) the school is closed for a teacher only day, and Labour Day is on the following Monday - Monday 28th October.

### Learning in Ngā Totara

#### **Inquiry Learning - How has technology changed our world?**

We are all excited to be beginning a new inquiry topic under the theme of 'Change'. Our big question to investigate is ***How has technology changed our world?*** To spark the children's interest for this inquiry, we began by setting up a mini museum of different technologies. The children had a chance to look at and predict what these were/are used for. We were also very lucky to have 3 vintage cars and a vintage fire engine visit our school on Tuesday.



Other activities may include investigating famous inventors and their inventions. The children will also engage in collaborative tasks to build or make something using selected materials, such as constructing a bridge, or making a balloon powered car.

Our Mitey focus will be based around the book ***Rosie Revere, Engineer***. This book focuses on perseverance, creativity and that failure is a necessary part of the learning process, and failure is not the end but a stepping stone to success. We will also be linking our **Arts** curriculum to this book through the area of drama. Students will have an opportunity to interact with the story through various dramatic activities.

### **Mathematics**

In Maths, we use Inquiry-Based Maths, a problem-solving-based approach that encourages diverse thinking and allows children to develop their mathematical understanding through a range of strategies. This term each class will be teaching based on gaps identified in the first three terms of the year, in preparation for 2025. We will also be exploring algebraic thinking. Students will understand that there are many ways to add, subtract, multiply or divide numbers and it is important to recognise when each operation (addition, subtraction, multiplication or division) is appropriate to use. They will develop their number sense and estimation, asking does my answer make sense? They will continue to see that the patterns in the place value system can make it easier to interpret and operate with numbers.

### **P.E.**

As already touched on earlier, we are focusing on athletics for the first half of the term. This will include long jump, high jump, hurdles, shotput/softball throw, sprints and discus/disc golf. Each teacher will take one of these skills and each week the students will rotate around the activities. This is in preparation for the athletics day in Week 6 (Wednesday 20th November). From Week 7, each class teacher will be with their own class focussing on team sports and skills.

### **Te reo Māori**

This term our focus will be learning 'kupu' related to seasons and becoming more confident sharing our mihimihi in front of different people. We will continue to ask and answer questions, enjoy waiata and learn some basic poi, haka and tī rākau actions.

### **Writing**

The term our focus will be integrating our writing with our big question: ***How has technology changed our world?*** Writing activities will include writing a letter to someone living 100 years ago, explaining one of today's technologies. Through this, students will gain an understanding of how to structure and write a formal or informal letter, including using appropriate language, greetings, and closings. They will be able to organize their ideas clearly and communicate their thoughts and feelings effectively in written form.

Other activities will involve creating a timeline of a chosen technology, and writing to persuade if a piece of technology is positive or negative.

### **Reading**

Small group guided reading will continue this term. Students will bring readers home as part of their Home Learning and a poem will also be included on the home learning sheet. Encourage your child to retell the story and answer questions about the texts they read. When, where, who, what and why are great ways to start questions and encourage discussion. Help your child to add expression as they read by taking turns, using different voices and volumes. It is also important to ensure that students take notice of the punctuation, such as stopping for fullstops and pausing for commas, as they are reading. This helps with being able to understand what they are reading and also links into their punctuation skills in writing. Students will continue to visit the Library on a regular basis and select books for enjoyment. **It is important that you read with your child everyday.**

### **Oral Language**

Oral Language is important for all learning and social interactions and is a key component of Literacy. During the term students will continue to develop their speaking and listening skills through sharing their news with buddies, asking questions, retelling stories, interviewing each other, drama, talk topics, vocabulary building and giving instructions. Spending time talking with your child each day is an easy way to support their oral language which in turn supports their writing.

## **Digital Technologies**

During this term, students will begin to show confidence in using chromebooks and being able to access their google accounts. They will use google docs to support their writing across the curriculum. Students will continue to use the authentic context of our inquiry to develop digital technology skills. They will be using google slides to create a slideshow to showcase their inquiry learning. They will be able to share their slideshow with others.

## **Reminders**

### **Summer Uniform:**

This is a reminder that jewellery or bright accessories/socks are not allowed. School shoes must be completely black. As we move into our summer terms, school hats are compulsory in term 4. Any student without a hat will need to remain under the old shade area during break times. Clearly labelling your child's clothing, particularly hats and jumpers, is a great help as things do go missing. If your child has lost or misplaced anything please check the lost property box in the hall.

### **Home Learning Expectations:**

We have been impressed with the children's home learning efforts so far this year. A sheet will continue to come home every Monday and must be returned on Friday. It is an expectation that **children read each day** so please support your child with this. We hope the range of different learning experiences each week keeps everyone engaged.

**Bell Times:** At Sunnynook Primary, a bell is rung at 8.30 am to let children know that the classrooms are open. Children are **not to arrive at school earlier than 8.30 am**. You can book before-school care at SKIDS which is located in the Sunnynook School Hall. All children leave school at 3.00, it is important that you and your child are aware of where they are being picked up from or where they are meant to be after school.

We believe that it is important to have regular communication between whānau and the school. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to approach your class teacher or send an email. If your concern may need some time to discuss or is of a sensitive nature, please make an appointment. If we are concerned about your child we will bring this to your attention as soon as possible. We look forward to an exciting Term 3 in the Year 3/4 Team.

### **Joe Miller (Team Leader),**

On behalf of the Ngā Totara Teachers; Manju Naran, Kelley Olsen, Sylvia Stirling, Emma Brailey, Kaitlin Hubble.

**Ruma 7: Emma Brailey [emmab@sunnynookschool.nz](mailto:emmab@sunnynookschool.nz)**

**Ruma 18: Joe Miller [joem@sunnynookschool.nz](mailto:joem@sunnynookschool.nz)**

**Ruma 19: Sylvia Stirling [sylvias@sunnynookschool.nz](mailto:sylvias@sunnynookschool.nz)**

**Ruma 20: Kelley Olsen [kelleyo@sunnynookschool.nz](mailto:kelleyo@sunnynookschool.nz)**

**Ruma 21: Kaitlin Hubble [kaitlinh@sunnynookschool.nz](mailto:kaitlinh@sunnynookschool.nz)**

**Ruma 22: Manju Naran [manjun@sunnynookschool.nz](mailto:manjun@sunnynookschool.nz)**

