

DISCOVERY

with Whaea Leasa

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK!

Kia Ora Koutou, welcome back to a new year! I hope each of you enjoyed your summer holidays and are looking forward to all the interesting and exciting learning and events we have planned for Term 1 2026!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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THIS TERM IN DISCOVERY...

- We will begin with activities centred around getting to know each other, and a focus on self-esteem and having a growth mindset.
- Our core topic for this term will be learning, reading, and writing around the rocky shore and estuaries.
- Prime Maths, our structured maths programme will be up and running promptly. All groups, no matter which book they're on will begin with a large focus on number and place value - reading and writing larger numbers, breaking them apart, putting them together, and developing rounding and estimating skills.
- We have EPRO8 this term, a science and engineering challenge. With an opportunity for Year 5 & 6's to attend an interschool event in Term 2.

COMMUNICATION & ATTENDANCE

Class Communication: The main communication platform that both myself and tamariki will use to share learning and last minute notices is Seesaw. Once your child has signed in at school, you will get an invite via email - check your junk mail over the next couple of weeks in case it ends up there. See me if you are having trouble connecting.

Whole School Communication: It is important, you also have access and are getting the notifications on Schoolstream - these are more school-wide notices, newsletters and sports info. Please read the newsletter on School Stream to keep informed of events, activities and opportunities happening during this term.

Attendance & Punctuality: Your ongoing support at home is vital to the success of your child's learning and accomplishments while at school. Please ensure your child comes to school on time, refreshed and ready to learn 5 days a week. At this level, learning concepts and developing knowledge and skills is continuously built upon throughout the week, consolidating their learning happens over a number of days. One of the most rewarding parts of teaching is seeing the confidence growth in a child as they learn and realise they can learn hard stuff!
Lastly, we all have bad days/mornings, don't hesitate to flick me a message if your child may need an extra check in that day or some extra words of encouragement.

CONTINUED...

TERM 1 SWIMMING

- Instructional swimming will be happening daily. Please provide a note should there be a reason why your child can't swim that day. Encourage them to have a routine for hanging out and packing their togs into their bag daily. Check lists or visual reminders help - if you would like me to share the one I have made, just flick me a message and you can edit it to suit you and your whaanau.
- We will be focusing on refining stroke techniques in freestyle, backstroke, and breaststroke; and developing swimming fitness. Later in the term I will introduce butterfly technique and some survival skills.
- Goggles - the difference a pair of goggles can make to a child's swimming! It's just one less thing to not have to worry or think about while swimming. Thanks to our FOS, who have purchased a pair for each child. Children will have a routine for looking after these and keeping them in their tote trays, if they're accidentally taken home, please ensure they are returned. If your child has their own pair they're welcome to bring and use theirs.

AKO TAHI - LEARNING TOGETHER

This year will see a change across the school, with Ako Tahī books (instead of reading logs) coming home weekly. Activities will be accessible to all children and will take 20 minutes to complete.

Online platforms that we use within class can also be accessed at home.

ALL children have a StepsWeb account and the incredible results we see from this platform make it well worth investing some time in it.

You may have also heard about Times Tables Rockstars, a platform we have subscribed to for recall of times tables and division facts- it is exciting to see children learning their times tables and division facts with speed!

ROUTINES & REMINDERS

1. **WHEELIE WEDNESDAYS**- Children can bring drift trikes, roller blades, skates, scooters etc to ride. Don't forget a helmet and shoes!
2. **LIBRARY:** This term our library day will be on a Friday. It is compulsory to have a book bag or waterproof bag to be able to take books to and from school in. Please support us in demonstrating respecting our equipment and resources. Also, if your child is not bringing home a library book or reading material, please let me know so I can support them with choosing appropriate books for their reading level and enjoyment. Reading to them, talking with them about their reading and encouraging reading for sustained periods of time has many positive benefits to their learning. Morrinsville Library has a great app for reading books or listening to audio books too - I often find listening to a book being read, whilst tracking along with a book in hand can be a good hook into reading for those who are reluctant readers.
3. **SUMMER WEATHER:** As per our Sunsmart Policy, potae (hats) are compulsory in Terms 1& 4. These are provided by the school and will be allocated to each child for the term. Most children self manage this well with little reminders needed. Sunscreen is also required to be applied. School supplies this, but children are welcome to use/bring their own.
4. **WARM WEATHER** means some older children are getting very hot and sweaty at lunchtimes. Roll on deodorants may become useful.
5. **DRINK BOTTLES** are a great idea and easy way to keep hydrated both in the classroom and when outside. I have created a 'Hydration Station' in class to encourage drinks of water throughout the day. Being hydrated sets the brain up in the right state to learn and be able to concentrate!
6. **THURSDAYS** - I will be out of class on my DP and Class release time - doing paperwork and monitoring student progress essentially! Discovery Class is lucky to have Mrs Connie teaching them on Thursdays this term.