

Ruawaro Combined School

Newsletter: Term 1 Week 5

Thursday: 29th February 2024



Kia ora everyone

Welcome to our Week 5 Newsletter, it is hard to believe that we are almost half way through the term already. However with the mornings definitely getting darker we know we are heading towards the beginning of Autumn.

This year we will be continuing with fortnightly newsletters sent out on a Thursday afternoon. Newsflashes or items of importance that occur between newsletters will be sent via Class Dojo, Skool Loop or paper to make sure that you are kept up to date with happenings around school.

Swimming Sports:

Last Friday our Year 4-8 students attended the Cluster Swimming Sports at Glen Massey. Thank you to parents who attended to support our students for this event. Congratulations to all our students and especially the following:

- Relay – 10-11 years – 3rd Ruawaro Combined
- 4 lengths freestyle – 12 years – 1st Allie Taylor
- 2 lengths breaststroke – 8 years – 1st Hanna-Lee Mai
12 years – Allie Taylor
- 1 length breaststroke - 9 years – 3rd Lisa Dodds
12 years – 1st Allie Taylor
- 1 length sculling feet first – 8 years – 3rd Oscar Setchell
- Underwater – 8 years – 3rd Oscar Setchell
9 years – 1st Hope Sykes

At school we will continue with class swimming for another couple of weeks and will finish with our school swimming sports on Friday 15th March. We are looking forward to having you join us on this afternoon as we share and demonstrate some of the learning and progress our students have made.

An Hour of Maths, Reading and Writing a day:

As you may have heard schools |kura with students in Years 0 – 8 are now expected to spend an average of at least an hour a day each teaching reading, writing and maths. As a staff we have looked at and discussed our timetables and are satisfied that we meet the requirements. Today we are sending out a flier from the ministry for your information.

Phones away for the day: This is another new initiative for schools. Although mainly aimed at secondary schools, primary school students will often bring phones to school for a variety of reasons. Our policy on digital devices at school can be found on our School Docs site and if you are interested can be accessed using the following community username: ruawaro and Password: bainroad

Upcoming Events:

Cricket coaching: 3 sessions with (Northern Cricket Club) for our senior students (Year 5-8).

Fun Run: We will be holding a School fun Run on Thursday 11th April. Please look out for more information regarding this which will be coming home with students tomorrow.

For your Calendars:

2024 Term Dates:

Term 1 – 31 January – 12 April

Term 1 Public Holidays: Tuesday 6th February – Waitangi Day

Easter break- Good Friday 29th March, Easter Monday 1st April & Easter Tuesday 2nd April (school closed)

Term 2 – 29 April – 5 July

Term 2 Public Holidays: Monday 3rd June – Kings Birthday & Friday 23rd June - Matariki

Term 3 – 22 July – 27 September

Term 3 Public Holidays: None

Term 4 – 14 October – December (date to be confirmed)

Term 4 Public Holidays: Monday 28th October – Labour Day

As always if you have any questions, my door is always open and I am happy to see and talk to you.

Ngaa mihi nui

Sue

One hour a day of reading, writing and maths

What's happening?

Starting from Term 1 2024, children in Years 0–8 will be taught reading, writing, and maths for an average of one hour a day in each skill.

Daily teaching, along with a quality curriculum and good teaching practices, has been shown to improve children's progress and achievement.

What does this change mean for my child?

Many schools already spend an hour a day on reading, writing and maths, so this will not be a big change.

The new 'one hour a day' requirement has been designed to be practical and flexible. Schools will still be able to hold events like athletics days and school camps since the requirement is for an average amount of time each week.

What will the lessons look like?

The National Curriculum outlines what your child should be able to understand, know and do as they progress through their school years. Teachers will continue to use the curriculum and teach in ways that best suit the learning. This includes using things like active learning opportunities, group work, investigations, practice, and consolidation activities.

The 'one hour a day' requirement can be broken up into small blocks throughout the day. Your child's teacher will manage these to fit the needs of your child.

How you can help at home

To support the learning they do at school, you can help your child develop reading, writing and maths skills by:

- having your child read to you
- reading to your child and talking about books and stories
- encouraging your child to share what they think about a book (or video game, podcast, or movie), and being positive about the material they are reading, listening, or watching
- letting your child see you enjoy books, audiobooks, podcasts, games, movies, or videos in your first language
- encouraging your child to write, and talking with your child about what they are writing
- showing your child that you write for lots of reasons too, such as replying to an email, filling out a form, or writing an invitation or letter
- involving your child in activities where you use maths (for example playing games with cards or dice, grocery shopping, cooking, and DIY activities)
- encouraging your child to share how they solve mathematics problems (they may use different mental or written strategies to the ones you were taught)
- being positive about your child's reading, writing, and maths experiences, and praising their efforts.

Working with your school

It can be helpful to share your child's interests, languages spoken at home, and cultural practices with their teachers, so they can be included in your child's learning.

You can also talk with your child or their teacher about their progress in reading, writing, and maths and discuss with their teacher ways you can support your child at home.

