

# Term 1 Newsletter

## Team Spark



## Welcome to Team Spark - 2018

A warm welcome back to school to everyone. We are excited to get underway with our engaging and exciting learning programmes - it will be another busy year in Team Spark.

A special mention to our new students and families to Clearview - we are welcoming Eva McClure to HB14, Fletcher Blair to HB16, Jazmyne Witteman to HB19, Cody Hawke to HB21 and Daniel Drury to HB22. We hope you have a positive start to your journey at Clearview Primary!

### Our Team

Blue Block - Year 3	Big Block - Year 4
<p>Aumoana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HB13 - Mrs Alice McKessar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:alicem@clearview.school.nz">alicem@clearview.school.nz</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● HB14 - Ms Claire Baker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:claireb@clearview.school.nz">claireb@clearview.school.nz</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Red Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HB18 - Miss Harriet White <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:harrietw@clearview.school.nz">harrietw@clearview.school.nz</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● HB19 - Mrs Katie Morriss / Mrs Jo Cummings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:katiem@clearview.school.nz">katiem@clearview.school.nz</a></li> <li>○ <a href="mailto:joc@clearview.school.nz">joc@clearview.school.nz</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Kikorangi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HB16 - Miss Tania Soal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:tanias@clearview.school.nz">tanias@clearview.school.nz</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● HB17 - Mrs Cara Carser (Team Leader) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:carac@clearview.school.nz">carac@clearview.school.nz</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mrs Debbie Happer - release teacher</li> </ul>	<p>Green Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HB21 - Mr Nathan Wood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:nathanw@clearview.school.nz">nathanw@clearview.school.nz</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● HB22 - Miss Rebekah Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:rebekahs@clearview.school.nz">rebekahs@clearview.school.nz</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Teachers are generally available in their homebases from 8.30am for informal catch-ups or for touching base. Emails are a useful method for sharing information like expected absences, notice of appointments etc. If you have any issues or concerns that you'd like us to be aware of, we are happy to arrange a meeting with you to discuss these. Please contact your child's homebase teacher in the first instance. Issues requiring management oversight or intervention are passed to Cara.

We will be using Seesaw and Google Drive/Classroom (year 4s) for sharing student work and events throughout the year.

**'Save the Date'** - using a similar format to last year, we will be holding 'goal-setting' meetings for parents/teachers in week 3 (Feb 13th/14th) as an opportunity for sharing your aspirations for your child with their teachers. This is also an ideal time to pass on any information that you may feel is important for us to know about your child.

## Curriculum Information

We teachers undertake regular and frequent professional development to ensure our practice aligns with current research and findings in education. You will notice that we use varied approaches and methods to best meet the wide range of needs and interests of our learners. If you are interested in the 'why' of our approaches, please come and talk to us - we love to talk about our craft!

Your child's powerteam teachers will share more specific information regarding timetabling (e.g. library) and learning focus areas with you as these may vary between zones.

### Reports

With the 'demise' of National Standards, there may be some changes with regards to reporting e.g. formats and timelines (not teaching, or tracking progress - we have that covered!). We will still be reporting on progress and achievement and will keep you informed as decisions on how this will look at Clearview are made. If, at anytime, you'd like to discuss your child's progress, please see your child's homebase teacher.

### Home Learning

Current research has found that set homework tasks (e.g. learning lists of words, times tables etc.) in primary-school aged students are ineffective in supporting learning and progress. They can also add 'stress' to already very busy family lives. We do, however, see the value in activities that promote home-school conversations and independence.

Our plan for home learning is as follows:

#### All students

- personal reading (some children requiring additional 'mileage' may have books sent home, otherwise own choice)
- Mathletics / Reading Eggs (subscription has been paid for by the school) - great for engaging, independent practice
- Work to be completed - if a student hasn't completed a learning activity after being given a reasonable amount of class time, this will be sent home to be finished

#### Year 4 only

- **Optional** - 'Home Learning Projects & Challenges' - activities designed to link real-world activities to classroom learning **or** students sharing about personal projects / investigations undertaken to follow an area of interest

### Term 1 Calendar of Events

- Goal-setting meetings (parents/teachers) - 13th - 14th February (Week 3)
- Year 3 Swimming - weeks 8 & 9 (19th-29th March)
- Year 4 Swimming - weeks 10 & 11 (4th-13th April)

### Expected costs (subject to change)

To help with budgeting for this year, approximate costs for activities currently planned are:

- additional stationery (whiteboards - \$5; file boxes - \$5)
- swimming (Term 1) - \$24
- Camp (Term 4 - Year 4s only) - \$86
- Gymnastics (Term 4) - \$65

**Digital Device Use / BYOD** - our digital safety and responsible use agreement is being updated. A Google form will be emailed home over the next few days for all students and their parents to complete. The agreement will need to be completed before access to digital technologies (either school or BYOD) is allowed.

We look forward to getting to know you and your children, sharing your children's successes and celebrating their learning. Please feel welcome to pop into our learning spaces at anytime if you would like to.

Ngā mihi nui

Team Spark Teachers