

Team Engage

# Term 2 Newsletter

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It has been wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic to get back into their learning over the past two weeks.

We extend a big welcome back to Mrs Karrie Bryce in HB11. Last term Karrie was on study leave to extend her skills in te reo and tīkanga, and we are very much looking forward to her sharing her new knowledge with us. A special thank you to Mrs Jayne Clark who did an outstanding job in HB11 during Karrie's absence. We look forward to seeing Jayne again for relieving days.

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## HYfa`&@YUfb]b[ s

This term, our learning centres around our Inquiry that we have called “Chem-Mystery.” This is essentially a science-based Inquiry with strong connections to learning in other areas. We will again be using the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning framework to plan and teach this unit. This framework asks us to consider four key areas when planning: pedagogical practices, learning partnerships, leveraging digital and learning environment. It also has strong links to student voice and student advocacy. The topic has been selected from student voice and will focus on chemical and physical processes and changes. If you have an expertise in this area, your child’s homebase teacher would love to hear from you!

In k f]h]b[, children will be looking at writing reports around their scientific observations and findings. We will also be working on surface features, including spelling. In a Uh\Ya Uh]Vg the numeracy focus is on addition and subtraction, while the strand focus looks at the measurement of mass, capacity and volume. Our j ]gi U`Ufh media is clay which provides the perfect opportunity to explore physical and chemical change in an authentic context. In D9 the focus is on invasion games and we will also be preparing for a fun endurance race called Clearview Tough Kids to be held later in the term on Thursday 28th June. More details to follow.

## GdY``]b[ s

In class we are working to develop children’s skills in spelling. Children will be working on identifying sounds and then matching these sounds to letters or groups of letters in order to record unknown words more accurately. The intention is that this will give them the tools to be able to apply this when writing words they don’t know. In addition to this, the teachers have sent home the Essential Words Lists with the words your child was able to spell correctly when tested, highlighted. We would encourage you to work on learning some of the others at home. Start with a small number of words, about 5 and once these are mastered, begin learning some others. We also work on these words at school.

## FYUX]b[ s

This term we are beginning two new initiatives. Firstly we have two reading dogs coming in for children to read to. "Panda" along with owner Maree, and "Frosty" and his owner Sarah will be at school for an hour each week for children to read to. These dogs have been trained for this as part of the Dogs in Schools programme. The owners will be with the dogs at all times.

We are also beginning a grandparents reading programme in which retired folk will come along for children to practise their reading with. These volunteers have been trained up by us to help them with their role.

We know that reading mileage is very important in reading success and we hope that both initiatives will help to achieve this.

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## FcrtU`K YXX]b[ s

This Friday, 17th May, we are planning a "Royal Wedding Special" day with the children. We ask them to come along to school dressed as princes, princesses, The Queen, wedding guests, Royal guards - anything connected with the Royal Wedding. This does coincide with the Pink Shirt dress up day, however as the other one asks children to wear pink, it is easily combined. We will also hold a shared lunch with a 'high tea' theme - please could your child bring to school a plate of finger food to share. We do have a severe peanut allergy in the team, so we do ask that all food is dYUbi hZfYY. The teachers are planning a special Royal Wedding discovery session along with other special events to mark the occasion.

## A Uh\ Y`Yh]Wg`Hf]U`s

The School has signed up for a free trial of the computer programme Mathletics. If you have older children you will already be familiar with this programme. Recently the content has significantly improved for junior students.

The teachers will send through your child's login details in the green home reading notebooks. We would appreciate feedback on the programme once you have trialled it.

