



Mission Whānau Newsletter
Term 1 2021

Welcome back to the start of a new year, hopefully lockdown free. The team this year is Crystal Hewett in M16, Julie Kelleher in M17 and Elise Macdonald in SJ15, with Lorraine Levy as our supporting Teacher Aide.

Encounter:

Our overarching theme for the year is 'Encounter'. We will be linking our learning across the curriculum to develop knowledge and understanding around:

- An Encounter with Faith - Faith that holds you - understanding what faith is, it's importance and how this connects us as a community.
- An Encounter with Hope - Hope that guides you - with our faith we will have the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen.
- An Encounter with Love - Love that nurtures you - love is our encounter of God and the strength it gives us to be his disciples. d[
- An Encounter on our Journey - Faith, Hope and Love guide us on our journey - reflecting on our faith journeys and our next destination on the path.

Taonga Boxes: In the first few weeks there will be a focus on us getting to know your child, what makes them special, what their gifts/taonga are and how their family and culture impact on who they are. If there are any particular taonga/gifts you would be able to share with our tamariki please let your child's teacher know.

The St Pat's Way:

'The St Pat's Way' and how we act with Whakaute, Manaaki and Nanaiore has become part of the everyday language at school. However for new families, when you hear these words being used at school and home, this is what these key values mean to us:

- **Kia Whakaute** is showing respect, appreciating and treasuring.
- **Kia Manaaki** is supporting, caring, protecting and being generous.
- **Kia Nanaiore** is striving to be our best, reaching for our goals and being resilient.



Literacy/Numeracy:

Developing a Growth Mindset and using that language in our learning will be the focus of our Literacy and Numeracy programmes this term. Key ideas of having a Growth Mindset are:

- Mistakes are okay, failures can lead to success. Mistakes help me grow.
- I might not know it YET, but I will get there. I can train my brain to do it.

New Zealand Read Aloud: In Week 4 we will be starting to read two NZ books with other classes from around NZ! We connect online to share our work, ideas and questions. We are also hoping to connect with the author. We use Edmodo to do this. If you are interested in following what we are up to then ask your child to log on at home and you can create a parent account.

Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities (DMIC): We are continuing to develop the skills and attitudes towards maths through this approach. We have been excited to see the changes all the children made in confidence, problem solving and involvement during the last two years. If you are new to the school you may want to pop in and chat to your class teacher about how a lesson runs.

Religious Education:

We will start by exploring Prayer and establishing class routines for this. This will lead into the Church strand. We have so many opportunities in Term 1 and leading into Lent/Easter to go to church and connect this learning. Our theme of Encounter will be strongly linked to developing and growing our relationship with God and building our faith.



Sport:

Our team PE focus will be on Fundamental Skills and Athletics.

Sports available to the Year 3&4's this term are:

Sport	Teacher in Charge	Day of Play	Dates
Netball	Ms Macdonald	Thursday	25 Feb - 15 April
Hockey	Miss Hewett	Wednesday	24th Feb - 7th April
Cricket	Mr Wypych	Friday	12th Feb - 26th March
Basketball	Mrs Kelleher	Thursday	18th Feb - 15 April

Permission slips will need to be returned by **Tuesday 9th February** to the teacher in charge as teams need to be registered and play starts early in the term. Please note that we need parents to help coach for these sports to go ahead. Don't forget Weetbix Tryathlon, Tuesday 16th February.

PE Gear:

The Year 3's have a term to get PE gear purchased. We expect all our children to have the St Pat's sports uniform. Sneakers are optional and often depending on what we are learning. If for any reason your child cannot bring their gear (or you have not purchased it yet) please send an alternative t-shirt and shorts for PE. Monday and Wednesday are our team PE days and often class games happen on a Friday.

Homework:

After lockdown we continued to make changes to our home learning. Some of the most valuable moments of lockdown were children learning new skills and games such as knitting and gardening. We encourage you to spend time doing the hobbies you love with your child. You will be amazed by the literacy, oral language, maths and science that will come out of this.

We have a **reading calendar** where the children aim to read at least 20 nights in the month. There are collectors cards and certificates up for grabs and special prizes for those who read every month this year. Reading to, with and by are all counted towards this calendar. There will be browsing books available in the class and the children are encouraged to choose their own library books. Homework books will come home in Week 2.

Logging in:

Your child will get a password card to bring home that has their school email, Edmodo account, Sumdog account (great for maths practice) and Kodable and Scratch accounts (coding). Attached to this letter is a set of instructions for how to access their school email account at home. It would be fantastic if you could set this up early and for Year 3's, that you help them practice logging in and out.

**Learning Hub:**

During lockdown we developed a google site called the Learning Hub: <https://sites.google.com/stpatsnapier.school.nz/home-learning> We suggest you spend a little time exploring the Hub so you are familiar with what it contains. You will find links for every area of the curriculum. You can encourage your child to spend time on Hub activities and links if you are looking for more home learning. This will also be vital if we enter another lockdown.

Mission Whānau Edmodo Group:

We used the Edmodo platform to communicate and share work and photos etc during lockdown. This then became our sharing space for the rest of the year. We are going to continue using this. If your child logs into their account at home you can connect as a parent so that every time your child posts work you will be notified. It is a great way to regularly see your child's progress.

Mission Whānau Blog:

<http://sm13stpats.blogspot.com/> Please check out the team blog. We will update this with news and share our learning experiences with you (although Edmodo is used more regularly now). You will also find useful links and lots of Maths games (down the right hand side). We would love to see more parents commenting this year.



School App/Facebook:

Don't forget to sign up to the school app and our school facebook page to keep up to date. When you join the app click on the menu in the top left corner. Click on Alert Subscriptions then select all the sports your child plays and all the classes in your child's whanau group eg Year 3/4 Team. This will mean you will only get alerts that you need.

Please contact us straight away if you need help with any of the digital learning. We want to ensure you have everything you need at home...just in case!

Library:

M16: Thursday

M17: Tuesday

SJ15: Wednesday

Please ensure your child's books are in their BOOK BAG that day.



Stationery:

You are welcome to take books home to be covered. Please name and label your child's books even if you are not covering them. It would be great if we could have these back by Tuesday 9th Feb so we can start work in their books.

We are looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know your child. Please feel free to pop into our learning space, you are most welcome!

Ngā mihi.

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