



Monday 1 May

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2. We trust you had an enjoyable break and are all ready for the term ahead. Term 2 is 10 weeks long and is shaping up to be a very busy and exciting term of learning. Welcome to new children and their families who are joining Karaka School this term.

Cooler weather has arrived and warmer clothing will be needed. Please ensure all polar fleeces, socks etc are **named**. Help your children to develop responsibility for their own belongings. It is always more likely that named items are found and returned than unnamed ones! Although it is not compulsory to wear school hats in term 2, it may still be useful to have them at school for any sunny days.

There are a number of exciting events happening throughout the term. These include SNAG Golf which will be part of our Phys-Ed programme, Book Week in Week 5 including a show and Grandparents Day, an Enviro show and a performance by Rhythm Interactive. There are costs associated for these special learning events and one notice requesting payment for all events will be sent home at an appropriate time rather than lots of separate ones. In Week 9 there will be an Art Exhibition run by the PTA where a special piece of art created by each child will be on display and can be purchased. This is the main PTA fundraiser for Term 2.

**Numeracy and Literacy:** In Maths the focus continues on Numeracy: Addition and Subtraction and beginning Multiplication and Division. Strand maths will include Geometry and Financial Capability - Money. Reading, spelling, phonics, oral language and handwriting will happen daily in each room according to the class timetable.

**Home reading** continues to be an essential component of the school programme. Please hear your child read the book they bring home and sign and return the next day. Sit next to your child and talk about the pictures and things that may relate to them in the story. This home support is extremely important and valuable. Please be aware that if the previous day's book is not returned, a new book cannot be sent home. Books can not be sent home without a bookbag for protection (This includes Library Books).

**Written Language** continues with most writing based on personal experiences as well as some integrated work on Narrative and Persuasive writing.

**Phys-Ed** programme for Term 2 will be developing ball skills, passing, catching and striking as well as Snag golf. Fitness will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

**House Challenge:** The end of term house challenge will be in Week 9 and will involve learning and performing the new school haka developed for us during our participation in the mass haka performed at the renaming ceremony of Papakura Intermediate.

**Inquiry Learning:** The Inquiry based focus for term 2 is **Ancient Footprints**. Ancient cultures needed to trade to survive. How did trade work in the past? We will be looking at needs and wants and how these were achieved in ancient times by trading. We will follow the Inquiry model of sharing what we already know, asking questions, finding and rewriting information and presenting and reflecting on our learning. The Inquiry will conclude with a Market Day at the end of the term.

**Virtues:** The first virtue focussed on in term 2 is **Responsibility**: Responsibility means others can depend on you. If you make a mistake you make amends instead of excuses. You give your best to any job.

The second virtue for term 2 is **Determination**: Determination is focussing your energy and efforts on a task

and sticking with it until it is finished. You are determined to meet your goals.

Principal awards for children who demonstrate the virtue are presented on Friday afternoons at whole school assembly.

Responsibility and Determination align with the Karaka School values. The major focus for the LEARN school values this term is **Excellence**.

**Lunches** :Please remember healthy lunches are important at school and to save treats and flavoured drinks for home. An emphasis on reducing rubbish in lunch boxes will be part of the school's enviro goal this term. Re-using containers rather than using gladwrap/packets is a great way to start this. Children will be recognised for having "rubbish-free" lunchboxes.

**Reports:** As many of you will be aware, children in Years 1 and 2 will not receive a traditional mid and end of year report. Reporting will be based on National Standards as prescribed by the Ministry of Education. Children will receive two reports per year according to their birthdate or when they started school.

**Discovery:** Unfortunately due to a very full term and busy timetable, we are unable to offer regular Discovery afternoons as we usually have. Although this is disappointing there will be many valuable independent learning opportunities. Hopefully Discovery will be back in term 3!

**Shoes/Uniform:** A reminder that children are required to wear footwear to and from school for safety reasons. It is extremely helpful when children can get these on and off independently. Jandals are not part of the school uniform. It is expected that the correct Karaka School uniform is worn every day with pride. Hair ties need to be blue or red only please.

**Parent Help:** We value any times parents are able to help within the school. This may be working with children, such as the reading Mileage or Early Words programmes, or helping put readers away, helping in the classroom, cutting, gluing etc. Talk to your child's teacher if you are able to help at any time. Please ensure your police check has been completed.

**Nits/Head Lice:** We had an ongoing issue with headlice in Term 1. Please ensure long hair is tied up for school to minimise the risk of catching these. Regularly check children's hair and please let your class teacher if you find eggs and/or lice.

At Karaka School we value the partnership between school and home, and working together on your child's learning journey. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Mornings can be very busy in a junior classroom and not always an easy time for discussion. Contact via e-mail to ask a question or to arrange an appointment time is an easy alternative. Please be respectful about times teachers are e-mailed. Teachers will reply as soon as practically possible.

We have a busy time ahead of us in the Junior Team. We are all looking forward to a challenging and exciting term 2!

Kind regards

**Diana McDonald, Tanya Davis, Rachel Yuretich**

[dianam@karaka.school.nz](mailto:dianam@karaka.school.nz)

[tanyad@karaka.school.nz](mailto:tanyad@karaka.school.nz)

[rachely@karaka.school.nz](mailto:rachely@karaka.school.nz)