

Team Rimu News

Term One, 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Team Rimu for 2016. We hope you enjoyed a relaxing break and managed to find some summer weather somewhere!

We are excited to welcome one new face to Team Rimu for 2016.

The Year 4 team is:

Helen Ayres

Room 11 - Year 4

helena@westpark.school.nz

Philippa Matla

Room 16 - Year 4

philippam@westpark.school.nz

Diana Scholtens

Room 10 - Year 4

dianas@westpark.school.nz

Diana is getting married very soon and from 7th of February, she will be called Mrs Cloete (pronounced Cloota). We wish her all the very best for her wedding day!

Sally Rowe

Teacher Release Rm 16

Erica Leggett

Teacher Release Rm 10

Maree MacIver

Teacher Release Rm 11

Our aim is to provide the very best environment we can for our students to learn in. We know that your input and support is invaluable in achieving this.

We would love to have you involved in our classrooms wherever possible. Please speak to your child's classroom teacher about how you might be able to help!

We would also love to hear from any parent who might be able to help us with keeping our book room organised. If you can help with that, please contact Philippa.



HOMEWORK
In Team Rimu, homework will consist of spelling and basic facts practice, reading and Mathletics. Every now and again, an individual class may send a one off task to be completed. We look forward to the opportunity of working together with you to enhance your child's learning.

LIBRARY BOOKS & READERS

Your child may have reached a reading level where they no longer bring a book home every night. When this is the case, we strongly encourage students to choose their own reading material (with guidance where necessary) and do their own reading each night. With the library in use as a classroom, each class will have a selection of library books in their room and we will have an in-class "library time" each week when those books are swapped over for new ones.

PLANNED EVENTS IN TERM ONE

We are basing our learning around two themes this term, beginning with "journeys" and moving on to "wild things". Within those themes each class may be working on slightly different aspects. We are planning a trip to Te Papa towards the end of the term to explore these themes further. Also during the term one of our art topics is photography and we are going to work towards a mini exhibition of our work. We look forward to sharing these times with you.

TEAM TIMES

Tuesday afternoon
– Team assembly

Thursday afternoon
– Team sport

ASSESSMENT

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be undertaking a range of assessments across the syndicate. The following tests have been developed by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) and are offered to all schools in New Zealand. The tests are valuable as one of the many assessment tools we use. The information they give us is useful when analysed alongside all other monitoring and assessment. Among the assessments our Year 4 students will complete are:

STAR

The STAR Reading Tests are standardised assessment tools. Each test assesses a range of reading skills .

Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT)

The three tests your child will be doing cover reading comprehension, reading vocabulary and maths. <http://www.nzcer.org.nz/tests/understanding-pats-parents-and-community> provides useful background information for parents about PATs.

MUST DO/CAN DO

Building on the introduction in 2015, Team Rimu classes will be working within a "Must Do/Can Do model for their literacy and numeracy learning. There isn't space to elaborate here, but if you want to know more, talk to your child's teacher.

SUNHATS

Please help your child to bring a hat and sunscreen to school. We are all very aware of the need to be sunsmart. It would be helpful if students could have a clearly named hat they can keep at school at all times.



Things you may be able to help with:

- Helping in your child's classroom
- Helping in our bookroom
- Helping your child with their homework
- Making sure your child has a sunhat
- Having all your child's stationery at school by the end of week one

We are all looking forward to a great term together.

Warm regards

Team Rimu

