

Team Rimu News

Term Two, 2017



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to a new term. I hope you all enjoyed the holiday break.

It was a long awaited and very exciting day when we were able to move into our new classroom last term.

“The Treehouse” as we have nicknamed it, is a fabulous space that we are all very proud of.

Towards the end of the term, Rooms 10, 16 and 17 were all sharing the space together in a trial period to see how it might work with three classes together. While providing some initial challenges, we feel this has worked really well and eliminates potential logistical and social issues that might arise from continuing with running one single cell classroom as part of the team.

We have decided to continue with this arrangement, so from Term Two forward, Room 10 students will hang their bags, learn and socialise in the Treehouse. This has the added bonus of allowing Room 10 to be used for our new New Entrant classroom which we have had to start sooner than we anticipated.

If you have any questions about this, please pop in

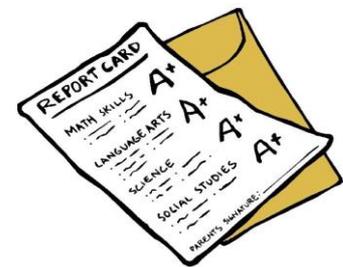
and talk with us. Below are a couple of websites that give more information about innovative learning environments and the teaching theory and practice that goes with them.

<http://ile.education.govt.nz/>

<http://www.core-ed.org/assets/Uploads/Innovative-Learning-Environments.pdf>



Many of you are connected in to Seesaw and I hope you are enjoying seeing the work that your child shares with you through this tool. If you are having problems with this or are not sure how to connect, please let us know so we can help.



As a Year Four student your child will receive a Mid Year Progress Report close to the end of this term. These will be shared on Seesaw and will be followed up with a Parent/Teacher meeting.

More information will be available closer to the time.



This term sees us focusing on Managing Ourselves. Across the school we have developed a framework for this key competency.

Managing Ourselves is broken down into four areas:

- Showing initiative
- Identifying learning goals
- Responsibility for actions
- Trying my best at school work.

In Team Rimu we will be working on setting goals and weekly reflections and reviews. Teachers and students will be in regular conversation about this important area that has a big impact on learning. We believe the right skills developed and mastered now will stay with the students right through life.



Our over arching theme for the term is “Survival”. From a scientific point of view, we will be investigating aspects of Planet Earth and Beyond that help us survive, expanding into considering whether those things are on other planets, where there are shortages of things needed to survive and what that could mean for us.

Spelling Homework

This term we are using a different resource for spelling homework. Based on a comprehensive list of words grouped by usage and age, students will be working on individual words from the levelled list their test results start them at. Regular testing will continue and students will progress through the lists as they learn and remember their words.

We are looking forward to a great term of learning together. If you would like to visit any time and see our new space in action, you are most welcome.

Also if you are willing and able to participate or help out in the classroom with any of our topics or just in general we would love to hear from you!



Warm regards, Andrew, Jeremy, Maree and Philippa.