

Aroha Term 1 Newsletter 2021

Kia Ora Aroha Whanau,

Welcome to 2021! We hope you have all had a wonderful break with your whanau and your children are rested and ready for the term ahead. This newsletter is to let you know about important information regarding our learning and important dates for the term.

When your child returns to school, please ensure that all their personal belongings are named. Every day, all students will need to bring to school;

- ❑ Full school uniform with correct sandals
- ❑ Hat
- ❑ Drink bottle
- ❑ Togs & towel in a water proof bag - please bring this every day
- ❑ PE uniform

Main Learning Concepts

Importance is placed in the first weeks, on intentionally building whanaungatanga, a sense of being connected and belonging. Our learning cycle will focus on 'Identity and Wellbeing' with our big learning idea being; **A New Way Forward- Can One Person Make a Difference?**.

Learning will involve inquiring into our big idea and integrating this as much as possible into everything we do. We will be exploring our environment and learning about the world we are a part of and how our actions can affect our local environment in a positive or negative way.

Home Learning

Home learning is not compulsory at St Mary's. Our advice is for students to read every night for at least 20 minutes from a suitable book of their choice.

For maths, we strongly encourage you to purchase a **Dragon Maths Workbook**. These can be bought from your local stationery shop or online. Please discuss the appropriate book to purchase with your child's whanau teacher. We have also attached some valuable links below on how you can support your child at home with their Mathematics..

[Supporting school maths](#)

[Number knowledge activities](#)

Headphones

Aroha students have Chromebooks for use at school. Your child will often be required to view material that requires sound, therefore it is suggested that they have their own set of headphones/earbuds, clearly named, for their personal use.

Class Masses

Dates for Term One Masses in our school chapel 9am Thursday:

Week 4: February 25 - Whanau McCabe

Week 5: March 5 - Whanau Robbie

Week 6: March 11 - Whanau Akkerman

Week 8: March 25 - Whanau Kelliher and McIntosh

Week 10: April 8 - Whanau Laban

Parent Help Required for the following Extra Curricular activities:

Forest Discovery:

During week 7 St Mary's Whanau classes will be visiting McLaren's Falls Park on a guided walk through regenerating bush, with stops along the way to investigate some of the fascinating connections between the plant and animal species that live there. Basic ecology concepts will be introduced, and students will take part in native bird monitoring to assess the health of the forest, bird populations and pest numbers. Biodiversity protection is a focus with students taking part in a pest control programme involving over 100 rat traps. *If you are able to assist on this day, please contact your child's whanau teacher.*

Wood work: If you are able to help out during the day to assist our tamariki with their creative side please let your child's whanau teacher know and what you are able to help with.

Kayaking

We are kayaking on February 16th between 9:15 am - 12:30 pm. We will require parent help for this. Please indicate if you are able to help during this time to your child's whanau teacher.

Dates for your Diary. Including Term 4 Important Dates to note:

Please keep up to date with school newsletters which will be posted on HERO and Facebook for any important information.

Week 1:	Ra Whānau Mai - Thursday School Begins Friday
Week 3: 18 February	Swimming Sports - Memorial Pools 9 am - 12:30 pm - PARENT HELP REQUIRED
Week 4 Feb 24	Estuary Monitoring Whanau Robbie - PARENT HELP REQUIRED
26 February	PTA Outdoor Adventure Day
Week 5 March 2 March 3 March 3	Art Gallery Visits - PARENT HELP REQUIRED Whanau McCabe - 12:30pm - 2:00 pm Whanau Robbie - 9:30 am - 11:00 am Whanau Laban - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Parent Meeting: Keeping Ourselves Safe Parents Information Meeting - 2pm in the BAMJC
Week 6 March 10	Art Gallery Visits - PARENT HELP REQUIRED Whanau Akkerman - 9:30 am - 11:00 am Whanau McIntosh/Kelliher - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Week 7 March 16 - 18 March 19	Forest Discovery - PARENT HELP REQUIRED Tuesday 16th : Akkerman/Laban Wednesday 17th: Robbie/ McCabe Thursday 18th: Kelliher/McIntosh St Joseph Day Mass: St Mary's Immaculate

Week 8 March 26	Palm Sunday Liturgy
Week 9	Holy Week Liturgies Good Friday Easter Break
Week 11	Term One Ends Friday April 16th

TERM 4 Important dates to note:

October 27th - 29th	Year 5/6 Camp Totara Springs
Tuesday December 14th	END OF YEAR PRIZE GIVING
Wednesday December 15th	Waimarino End of Year Celebration Year 5 and 6
Thursday December 16th	End of Year School Mass - St Mary's Immaculate - 11 am
Thursday December 16th	End of Year Family Breakfast Year 6's 8 am

Aroha Teachers are really looking forward to working closely with you and your child this term. Please feel free to email your child's whanau Teacher should you have any questions.

Ngā mihi,

Aroha Team

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