



# Spring 2020 Class Newsletter New Zealand

Class Teacher: Mr Coomber

## Welcome back!

Welcome back to a new term, I hope you all had a restful and refreshing Christmas period and that you are ready for an exciting term ahead! Thank you very much for the wonderful gifts that you gave me at the end of last term.

Here is a brief outline of the topics and areas we will be covering during the coming term.

### **Important dates for New Zealand class:**

- Hawking About visit - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January
- Clubs begin - Week beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January
- Sponsored fitness circuit - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- New Zealand class assembly - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January
- Inset Day - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Half Term - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February
- World Book Day - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Pupil Reports go home - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March
- Parents Evenings - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (3.30-6.00pm) and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March (5.00-7.00pm).
- Clubs finish - Week ending Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter Play performed to parents in school - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 1.30pm
- Easter Play performed to parents in school - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 1.30pm
- Last day of term - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**P.E.** - this term the children will be doing P.E. on a Monday and Thursday each week. One session will be based indoors (Monday) - this will be dance taught by me. The other will be an outdoor games session (weather permitting - Thursday) - taught by the Albion in the Community Coaches. Please ensure that your children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning and remain in school all week. All kit must be clearly named, long hair must be tied

back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions. Children should have a white P.E. shirt, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and jumper or tracksuit for outdoors in a named PE kit. We are very short on spare PE kits in school, if you have any spare kit that you would be able to donate to the class these would be much appreciated.

### **Homework:**

- Reading logs - please ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading three times per week and this is signed and dated in their reading log. In Key Stage 2 we will encourage them to write in their reading logs as independently as possible. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading, and is a key dialogue between home and school. Reading logs will be collected in and checked every Tuesday but should be in school every day.
- Weekly spellings - these will be sent home on a Monday and tested the following Monday. Please ensure your children are practicing their spellings at home each week. There are lots of fantastic apps which can help with this - Spelling Shed and Spelling Bee are recommended.
- Homework - Your child should have now received a grid of homework activities for the Spring Term. Please let me know if you have not received one or would like another copy of this. I will be expecting one piece of homework from your child each week; I will be marking these on a Thursday each week although I am flexible; if you would prefer, hand in a piece a week on a day that suits you. If you have any queries or concerns about the homework or its format, please don't hesitate to ask.
- Times tables - Please ensure your child is practising their times tables at home each week. In Year 3 we focus on 3, 4 and 8 times tables. The school has signed up to a new website called Times Tables Rockstars which has lots of games to help practise times tables. Your child should have received a letter with details of how to log on to this. If you have not got your log in details, please do come and ask me for another. We will also be setting My Maths homework at various points during the term.

### **Theme for the term - Predators and Prey**

Our theme for this term is Predators and Prey, where we will be learning about lots of different types of animals, their lifestyles and their habitats. This topic will be the main theme of our learning across different subjects this term, and we will link our learning to it as much as possible. We will be kicking off our topic with a visit by Hawking About who will be bringing a range of birds of prey in to school to show the children. This will be an amazing opportunity so please do make sure you have returned your permission slip to the office.

**Literacy** - Here are the main themes we will follow during the term:

<b>Theme</b>
Stories, including adventures - based on The Enormous Crocodile
Authors and Letters
<b>Half term</b>
Information Texts
Stories with Familiar Settings - How the Camel got It's Hump

**Numeracy** – Work will always be differentiated to suit the needs of the child. Our themes for this term will be:

Theme
Multiplication and Division
Half Term
Fractions
Money
Statistics

**Science** – Our science this term will be very closely linked to our topic work on Predators and Prey. For the first half of term our topic is 'Animals including humans' where we will be learning about the body and diet of both animals and humans. During the second part of term we will be focusing on plants and how they grow.

**Computing** – we will be learning how to follow and write simple instruction and codes using computer programmes. We will then move on to designing our own routes and mazes and programming BeeBots to move through them.

**R.E.** – In R.E we will be learning about Gospels and Jesus' life and followers. After half term we will also be practising and performing the Easter play!

**Art/PSCHE** – we will start off our art work this term by learning how to portray relationships in humans. We will then use what we have learnt to show the different relationships between predators and prey.

**Music** – during our music lessons this term we will be learning how to create different sounds and rhythms related to animals. We will also be spending time practicing our songs for the Easter Play.

**D&T** – our DT work will focus on creating our own story books and pop ups. We will be designing our own animal themed characters and will then learn how to make a pop up page from a story book based on our character.

**Geography** – we will be studying physical geography this term and we will be learning about earthquakes, volcanoes, the water cycle and different climates and biomes around the world.

**MFL** – The children will continue to learn Spanish each week with Mrs Vanieris.

I hope this has been helpful. I have an open door policy so if you have any concerns please feel free to pop in and speak to me before or after school. Alternatively, ring the school on 01798 872007 or arrange an appointment at the school office.

Kind regards,  
Mr Coomber  
New Zealand Class Teacher