

2018 Information for you and your child in Ruru (Morepork) (Room 3)

Welcome

We are looking forward to a fun and productive year in our room.

We are a class of 21 Year 2 students.

Below are some points that may help you know what is happening in the room and some information that you may find useful.

It is really important to have your child at school and ready to be seated on the mat on time. They need to be at school by 8.55 a.m. when the handbell goes.

School starts at 9.00 and the children are trained to begin our morning routines as soon as the bell goes. If your child is late this means that they will miss some important information about what is happening during the day and they miss out on the benefits that come with regular routines.

CLASS LEADER

Every student has a turn at being the class leader. This is designed to begin developing leadership skills and good attitudes towards leadership in all students.

On the day they are the class leader they are asked to prepare the class calendar before school begins. They select poems, songs, etc that are used on their day; they take messages etc, etc. (The children are chosen in the same order as they are in the class roll. This ensures that every child gets a regular turn and so that the children get to know when their turn is getting close). If a student is sick on their day their turn simply gets moved to the day **AFTER** they return. They do not miss out.

This is a very prestigious role and one that is proudly looked forward to. If a student is feeling insecure about being the class leader, on their day, the chair is left vacant for them and they are encouraged to do small things for the role.

READING

Everyday the students have 3 types of reading:

- 1) We read to them.
- 2) We read together (big books, poems, what's on the walls etc) .
- 3) Reading by the students (in a group designed to meet their current learning need/s).

Some form of Reading or Maths can be expected to come home from Monday- Thursday to share with you. This may take the form of readers, poems, songs, number charts, games, library books etc.

Readers that are sent home are often expected to be quite easy to read.

Easy reading helps children enjoy success and gives them a great opportunity to practice reading fluently (i.e. with lots of expression and a good degree of speed.) These are essential skills underlying great reading.

Needless to say **UNDERSTANDING** is paramount with reading.

If you can please comment in the student's notebook, on the way your child read, it is a great help to us. This notebook is also a good place to put notes and queries (on any topic) if you have them.

Library books. We exchange library books on **Wednesdays** but the children can also go to the library every lunchtime, if they wish, and most times they are able to exchange their book at this time also. Library books must come to and from school in your child's bookbag. No bookbag = no library book (or reader) allowed to come home.

No return of a reader = no new reader.

All readers are to remain in the student's bookbag when they get to school. The children bring their bookbag into class and put it in the basket- **without taking out their reader.** We ask the children to take their reader out during their instructional reading time.

CLASSROOM HELPERS

If any of you would like to come and help in the classroom...that would be really lovely.

It is better if we know you are coming at least 1 day before to give us time to prepare extra materials that will ensure the students get the greatest benefit from your help. We look forward to hearing from anyone who has the time (and the inclination) to join us.

SWIMMING

Could you please send along a jacket/polarfleece **DAILY...even on hot days.**

Sometimes the students only require their top for a short while after swimming- even on the very hot days children often get the shivers after getting out of the pool. .

If your child has a **rash shirt** they are encouraged to wear these as we swim in the afternoon when the sun is strong. Please make sure **all** swimming gear is named.

MONEY

When students need to bring money ***please*** **ensure it is in a named envelope** that clearly states what it is for. It can be very frustrating to have children lose money or not be sure what it is for.

MATHLETICS

If you can possibly help by checking that your child can bring up the Mathletics programme and sign in to Mathletics all by themselves that would be a tremendous help.

We try to get every student earning a certificate each week (they need 1000 points to get their certificate). If you can find time to do 10 minutes of Mathletics (or more if you wish) 2 or 3 times a week that would help them a lot.

DRINK BOTTLES

Students are allowed to bring their drink bottles (that have water in them - not juice) into the classroom each day. They just put it on the sink and can have a drink at anytime during class time.

And, as always, if you have any queries or concerns please feel free to come and make a time to talk with us. We are more than happy to do this.

Looking forward to a great year together.

Kerry Bartlett and June Lockyer

(June Lockyer teaches our class on Wednesdays and Kerry Bartlett teaches on the other days.)