

| Weka Newsletter  Term 2 2025  Kia ora! Haere mai!  Welcome to Term 2. I’m glad to say that the students have settled quickly into routines and school learning. Weka have a lovely work ethic and they have certainly come back and hit the ground running. They are a credit to you all,  **Communication**  A reminder that your first avenue of communication is through emails. I read these 2-3 times a day and the response time for you is less than if you Dojo me. While I do read messages on Dojo they take a little longer for me to respond to.  **Maths**  This term we are trialling a different way of working to help students get maximum time and support in learning Maths. The maths programme that Buckland School uses, as set down by the Ministry, is Maths No Problem. The programme is taught in year levels and in term one teachers with composite classes were teaching two levels in an hour session. This term the students have been organised in year levels for Maths and will move through to other teachers for maths. Y5 students will go to either Mrs. King or Ms Tannion and I will be teaching all of the Y6. This allows students more time to grasp concepts and allows teachers more time to support those requiring extra help than was previously available when two year levels were taught in one session. We are excited about the results we hope to see.  **TOPICS for Term 2**   1. “Japan” - this term our focus is a country study and the children have selected Japan. We will be learning about a range of topics within the umbrella of Japan including: history, geography, language, culture and making comparisons with New Zealand. 2. Health/Science and Technology - “Good Food Map” A unit examining our community through the lens of food and food waste. 3. Art - Painting.   **Sport/P.E.**  Sadly, the swimming season is over, so we will be having 2 weekly sessions of P.E. The term kicked off with some small ball skills and will move into large ball skills, rugby and soccer. Sporting events this term include Franklin Soccer for those who are interested. We also have a visit from ‘Footsteps’ a company that encourages students to see that technology is used in sport and can help improve our physical outcomes.  Reminder, during Term 2 & 3 students wanting to play on the field during break times must have a change of clothes-no change, no play.  **BELL TIMES**  The start time of the school day is 8:55am. Please ensure that you have your child at school in plenty of time to prepare for their day and create connections with their peers. Late students begin the day on the back foot and often struggle to keep up with what they have missed. It’s an added stress that doesn’t help their mindset for the day. We are still having a small group of students arriving 5-10 minutes after the bell which is causing anxiety for many.  **FAST FINISHERS BOOK**  Students in Weka have a ‘Fast Finishers’ book that they work in if they complete classwork quickly. This term they are choosing a country to study (not Japan or NZ). Students who do not complete work in class will be asked to take it home and finish it over the weekend. I do a check-in with them on Thursday and if they are falling behind they are expected to take it home on a Thursday and get caught up.  **HOMEWORK**  There is an expectation in Y5 & Y6 that students are becoming more independent at completing homework. All students should be completing Mathletics at home with a view to getting 2000 - 3000 points a week. Mathletics supports the concepts being taught in class. This equates to about 15 minutes on a device after school. Additionally, all students need to be reading for a minimum of 15 minutes every night. Although students do not come home with readers, they are self-selecting from the library and should be completing at least one small novel a fortnight.  Starting this week all students will have basic facts and/or times tables to learn. They will be tested every week and practice will occur in the class. However, they need to be practicing at home to ensure concepts are automatic. This will help reduce cognitive load when working in the classroom on new learning. Please support your child to learn these. Other homework may take the form of unfinished work, or completing work in their ‘Fast Finishers’ book.  **RESOURCES NEEDED**  We are on the hunt for old newspapers to cover tables with when we are painting this term. If you have any to spare please send them into school.  Hopefully, I have covered most of the house keeping aspects. Here’s looking forward to a productive and positive term, and year. Keep a look out for the 3-Way Conference notices and get booked in when they become available. Looking forward to seeing you all to discuss your child’s progress.  Ngā mihi nui  Whaea Sally |
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