

# Weka Newsletter

## Term 1 2025



Kia ora! Haere mai!

What an exciting journey we have ahead of us in Weka. I hope you have had a much deserved summer break and the opportunity to spend time with your children. It's certainly been a busy time setting up the new classroom and planning exciting programmes ready for the new term.

A little about me. I am a seasoned (like a good steak!) teacher with many years of experience as a classroom teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal. I am a mother of 3, grandmother of 6, and doggy mum to a delightful Springer Spaniel called Willow. I live in Waiuku with my husband, who is also a teacher.

### Communication

In Weka, we will be using positive classroom management incentives. Class Dojo is one of the tools I like to use. Students will receive points for upholding our ways of working and using the school values. There will also be a big focus on the students using Dojo to share their learning and activities at school. Email or contact through the school office remains our primary method of communication. However, there is a message function on Class Dojo that can be used for communication. Be aware that I don't check this everyday. However, I do check my emails.

Weka has an open door policy. If you have any concerns about your child's progress or worries about them then please feel free to make an appointment and have a chat. I am unavailable on Monday and Tuesday afternoon due to meeting commitments. Although I will be in the class from 8:30 every morning, this is a busy time. Therefore, before school catch-ups will be difficult. Email is the best way to communicate urgent messages. These are checked before 8:30 and at the end of the day. We ask that students are at school in time for the 8:50 am bell. Please report absences to the office in the first instance. However, updating me on Class Dojo is helpful too.

### Expectations

Expectations in Weka are that students manage their learning and behaviour in constructive ways that align with our school values. Our focus is on positive management of behaviour, developing effective ways of working together, and dealing with disputes in productive and reasonable ways. We focus on students being risk-takers and giving everything a go. We will be focusing on positive self-talk and a growth mindset, and 'managing self' to kick off our year. However, this will continue throughout the year in Weka.

Learning is about making mistakes and always trying to get better at whatever we do. Because this is such an important part of how we work we need your help. Please expect your child to:-

- try their best always
- attend school everyday unless sick
- talk to others using kind words
- be kind in all that they say and do even when conflict arises
- practise our school values at all times - Respect, Responsibility, and Resilience.
- have all their equipment for learning at school everyday. This includes bringing their BYOD (if relevant) fully charged
- Headphones or earbuds (these do not have to be expensive but are required to ensure that any online learning does not distract others)

### **TOPICS for Term 1**

1. “Managing Self” - a topic that covers the brain, growth mindset, positive self-talk, making mistakes and coming back from them with dignity, settling back into school and establishing “Weka Ways of Working.” It also includes learning to regulate emotions, impulse control, and what is inside our locus of control.
2. Science - “Kaitiakitanga - Bush Guardians” A unit covering flora and fauna in our school bush area. Planning for our big replanting this year. This is the starting place for the continued learning and development that will lead to the development of our school bush area for use as an educational tool and place for discovery.
3. Art - Collage.
4. Social Sciences - “Place and Environment- Knowing our roots and those of the Buckland Community.

### **SWIMMING**

Swimming is part of the Health and PE Curriculum and is a compulsory subject. We expect students to bring togs, rash shirts and towels everyday, regardless of weather. Teachers will make an educated call on whether the weather is too unsuitable for swimming. If your child has a sound medical reason as to why they shouldn't swim please send a letter or email to me.

### **CLASS DOJO**

During the holidays everyone was sent a Class Dojo login via email. Well done to those who have logged on already. If you haven't done so please endeavour to get the free app and join our class. This is a great platform for sharing students' learning on a regular basis, seeing the points they get for effort and behaviour, and receiving up-to-date information pertaining to Weka. I will send paper logins for those who have not joined during the first week.

## 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.

## DEVICES

In Y5/6 we balance our use of devices with pen and paper. However, some of our important learning does happen online. It is great to see so many students who have their own device this year. Those who don't have a BYOD have access to our devices at school. People with BYOD **must** charge their devices for the next day. Due to high demand, we do not have any spare devices in Weka. Therefore, if your child comes to school without their device or a flat device, it creates an increased workload for me and the students miss out on some of the aspects that can't be replicated on paper.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

If you have access to wallpaper samples, magazines suitable for school, newspaper, or small garden pebbles (no bigger than 2-3 cm and as flat as possible) then please donate them to Weka as we have some Art Projects that we require them for.

Hopefully, I have covered most of the house keeping aspects. Here's looking forward to a productive and positive term, and year.

Ngā mihi nui  
Whaea Sally