



Room 6 Newsletter – Term 1 2013

14th February 2013

Welcome back after a simply glorious summer holiday. I hope you have had a fantastic break and are refreshed and ready to leap into 2013.

A special welcome to all who are new to the senior class; I know our OWLS will help you settle quickly into routines. Remember, if there is anything you want to know – ask an OWL.

Organisation

Ideally we would like all children at school by 8.50am so they have time to hang up their bag, take books etc into class, and get ready for the day ahead. Please note that parents who need to drop children to school before 8:30am are required to book their child into The Burrow (Bradford's Before School Care Programme) as even though teachers may be on site, they use this early time to prepare for the day ahead. Burrow care can be arranged through the school office.

Cross Country

Our annual cross country race will be held in mid March this term; I shall let you know the date as soon as it is confirmed. We are going to be running the cross country track at school most days. Please ensure your child has suitable footwear and clothing for this – shorts, t-shirt, and running shoes would be great. If, for any reason, your child is unable to run on a particular day, please let me know either by e-mail, phone call, or a note that can be written in their senior diary.

Home Learning

All children are expected to read for about 20 minutes each night. At this senior level, this is more often a book of their choice that they may have had issued from the library, or one that they have at home.

Basic facts – it is of enormous help if the basic facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication & division) are practiced at home. A few minutes each day with some quick-fire questions is really beneficial to maths development. Children will have a daily grid to complete, although it is advisable to do this at school.

Once initial testing has been done, children will come home with spelling lists. Please hear your child's words twice weekly and sign their notebook to show that you have done so.

We have a revolving Oral Language system this term where children are responsible for presenting to the class one day a week. This has been explained fully to the children and reminders will be written in their diary. You can find out more about our class programme and systems at the Information night on February 21st. The information session begins at 6:30pm for Room 5 and 6 parents and 6:10pm for R2,3 and 4. Families who would like to bring a picnic tea can come along with their picnic from 5:45pm.

Inquiry

We are beginning the year with an inquiry that once again gives 'student voice' to the children. Already we have set up our classroom, evaluated its effectiveness as a learning environment, and suggested changes. Children have had an input into the writing of our levels and have also helped design our weekly timetable. We will continue delving into *The Community of Learners* for a few weeks before changing to *From Moo to You*. Intriguing topic title!!

Blog

Over the holidays the teachers had a day of Professional Learning around a new web-based site called ultranet. Currently we are setting up class pages and becoming familiar with the possibilities that the site offers. Eventually our class blog will be part of this interactive site. More to come.

Outdoor Education / End Year Camps

All parents are invited to a meeting at **6:50pm on Thursday 21st February**, (directly after the *meet the teacher* session) where we will discuss options for the end-of-year Outdoor Education activities for the Year 5 & 6's. This may seem very early to be thinking about camps, but venues and activity providers can be booked up very quickly. It would be great if a representative from each family could attend this short meeting, as early decisions on fundraising ventures and amount of parental support required, will be important.

Because Room 6 is the senior class of the school, we have certain responsibilities and expectations placed on us. The younger children in the school will be looking up to us and modelling their behaviour on what they see us doing. Let's make a real effort to follow our school values and show the whole school that Room 6 really is a class of responsible seniors.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any concerns about your child please contact me at school to make a time to discuss them. Alternatively, I can be reached on the following e-mail address - liz@bradford.school.nz