Room 4

Arthur Miller School

10 February 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome to Room 4.

We are a year 2 class of 24 children; 12 boys, 12 girls and 2 teachers.

We are delighted to be teaching in Room 4 this year. It is lovely for all the Team Horoeka children to be able to work together in our beautiful shared learning block.

We believe that dual teaching has many benefits for children’s learning and are looking forward to working with your child so they have a happy and successful year.

Our teaching days are as follows.

Lisa – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Jan – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Please note - We are both at school on Wednesday for a seamless transition of the classroom programme. Wednesday is a day for us to be with the children together, as well as reflect and plan our programme. We also team teach during literacy on this day.

**General Information:**

**Drink Bottles:**  We are happy for children to have drink bottles in the classroom.  Please ensure that drink bottles are clearly named.  It would be great if they were taken home at least every Friday to be cleaned.

**Self - Management:**  At Arthur Miller School we have a strong focus on the children taking increasing responsibility for organising themselves for school and taking care of their belongings.  Please encourage and support your child to do this.  Organising themselves on arrival at school (bringing in book bags, notices etc) is an important part of this.

**Hats:**  It is our school policy that during the summer the children wear their green AMS hat during break times. We also have sunscreen in our class for the children to apply whenever they need to.

**Class Blog:**The address for our blog is amsroom13.edublogs.org.  This is up and running for the year – please keep a look out for classroom activities on it as we get further into the term.  Comments on the blog are always welcome.

**Parent Help:**  If you have any time to spare during the week, we would love to hear from you.  There are lots of little classroom jobs you may be able to help with.  Your time would be gratefully appreciated.

**Tissues:**  It is always really useful to have a good supply of tissues in the classroom.  If you are able to donate a box, that would be great.

**Birthdays:**  Due to food allergies, please do not bring in birthday cakes and other treats for the class on your child's birthday.

**The Curriculum:**

**Homework:**  Homework will mostly consist of reading, spelling and maths.  Homework Expectations are glued into your child’s book.  Homework books are due back every Friday, so that we can set them up for the following week.  Your support with this is appreciated. Homework should be a time of “low stress” for you and your child. Ten to fifteen minutes of homework, at least three times a week, is plenty. Please see us if you have any concerns about Homework or your child’s attitude towards homework.

**Maths:**  This term our focus is Number, in particular, subtraction.  Maths homework is given every Monday – please encourage your child to make good use of the Mathletics website at home.

**Writing:**  Much of our writing in Year 2 is spent on expressive writing with children choosing their own topics.  It is always valuable if you talk to your child about possible ideas for writing.  You might even like to send or email a photo to motivate writing, if you have had a special event or trip.

**Reading:**  Group reading books will come home three days per week and a browsing book will come home on the other day.  Please remember that browsing books will be, and should be, easy.  Building up reading mileage and fluency by reading familiar stories is really important.  The notebook in your child’s reading bag is their reading log.  Please sign it once you have heard them read.  Your assistance with ensuring that reading bags are at school every day is appreciated.

**Library:**  Our library day is on Tuesday.  Children may change their books every week or keep them for two weeks.

**Inquiry Learning:**  Our first inquiry unit will be an investigation of our school’s values, “Caring, Curiosity and Collaboration”.  Throughout Inquiry Units, your child’s thinking and questioning skills will be developed.

**Health & Physical Education:**  Our swimming times vary, so please look in the weekly homework for our swimming days.  A throwing and catching unit will take place after aquatics.  The children will participate in a number of activities where they will learn how to correctly throw and catch a ball.

**The Arts:** The children will be involved in a range of visual art activities this term, with a focus on exploring colour and texture.  They will listen to a variety of music and share their personal responses and identify the elements in music.  A dance unit will allow the children to explore the different ways their bodies can move.

**Oral Language:**  Children have the opportunity to share news on Monday.  We are happy for the children to bring along something from home to share on this day, but please keep toys and other special items at home on the other days please.  Sharing news allows children to practise listening and speaking conventions while gaining confidence when speaking to an audience.

Please do not hesitate to see us or contact us if you have any concerns or queries about our programme or your child’s progress.

Kind regards

Jan Furlong & Lisa Sinden

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