

# Middle Team Parent Information and Term 1 Overview - February 2019

Welcome to the parents who are new to the Middle Team and those of our returning Year 4 students.

The following information is designed to help clarify the organisation in the Middle Team.

The teachers work closely as a team and children mix with more than just their own classmates.

- **Middle Team Activities which involve the whole team** - These include informal assemblies, singing, sporting activities, Jump Jam and folk dancing. At times during the year we include a rotation (when each class has the opportunity to learn with each of the Middle Team teachers and experience even more variety in their learning). These rotations are often Topic related.
- **Maths** - Children will be cross grouped according to their learning level so many children will move to another class for maths. We use teacher observation, a graded test and basic facts knowledge as well as last year's data, to group children into classes that are working at a similar level. These classes work well and only occasional shifts are made.
- **Reading** - We are currently establishing the reading programmes in our classes. Reading groups will be organised according to assessments and teacher observations. **The programme will include revision and it is possible that children could bring home a book that they have seen before.** Over the holiday break children can move up or down from where they were at the end of the previous year. The most important thing at this level is the understanding of what is being read.
- **Homework** - Every class will have spelling, reading and maths basic facts. Sometimes there may be topic related homework.

## Maths

At home your child is encouraged to learn basic addition and subtraction facts to 10/20/100/1000.

Methods might include, written or oral speed tests, flash cards or online games.

Learn times tables beginning with x2 then x10 x5 x3 x4 x6 x7 x8 x9 (including division).

We encourage oral problem solving.

E.g. - If John had 8 apples and I gave him 2 more, how many did he have then?

If Jane had 48 apples, she gave away 6 and ate 2, how many bags of 10 could she make with the rest?

## Spelling

Your child will be tested once a term to determine which Essential List they are on. Their current list will be glued into their homework notebook and is to be practised at home. Each night your child can learn a few words from that list. Their Term 1 list will be sent home by week 4.

## Reading

Unless your child is classified as an independent reader, as indicated in their homework notebook, he/she will bring home 3-4 reading books per week. Your child should spend **at least 20 min per day** reading at home. You can help to improve your child's understanding of the story by asking questions.

Children will visit the **library** once a week, where they are expected to issue two books (they are current for two weeks).

For **homework**, independent readers are expected to select their own reading material (novels, newspapers, internet and topic related non-fiction books).

**There will be a summary of this homework information pasted in their home notebook.**

- **Independence** - In the Middle Team we encourage a higher level of self management from our students. You can help by allowing your child to be responsible for their own belongings (including packing and unpacking their bags, looking for lost property, arriving at school with correct “equipment”- reading bags every day, swimming togs [Term 2] and library books).

Children are also encouraged to take some responsibility for their own learning (listening, not distracting or being distracted by others and asking for help when something is challenging.

Arriving at school in plenty of time to get organised and mix with friends, helps your child start the day well.

Many children will need support on their way to becoming independent.

- **Contact** - if you have a concern please use your classroom teacher as the first point of contact. Mornings can be hectic but there is usually time to answer a quick question. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons we usually have meetings, so it’s best to avoid those afternoons. Teachers can also be contacted by email. The protocol is first name followed by first letter of the surname [@mairangibay.school.nz](mailto:@mairangibay.school.nz) eg [janiner@mairangibay.school.nz](mailto:janiner@mairangibay.school.nz).

- **Trips, performances and visiting experts** - The costs for these are covered by the Activity Fee.

Our Topic for this term will be ‘**Identity**’.

<b>Term 1 Overview</b>	
Wednesday 6 February	School closed for Waitangi Day holiday
Friday 15 February Friday 22nd February	PTA Family Picnic 5:30 pm to 7.30 pm PTA Family Picnic 5:30 pm to 7.30 pm <b>Save a Day</b>
Wednesday 27 February Thursday 28 February	Meet the teacher appointments 3.30 to 6:50 pm. Meet the teacher appointments 3.30 to 5:50 pm
Wednesday 6 March Thursday 7 March	Visit to Auckland Museum (To be confirmed)
Friday, 12 April	Last day of Term 1 (Easter and ANZAC Day fall in the holidays)

We look forward to talking with you at the meet the teacher interviews on Wednesday 27 February and Thursday 28 February. We are enthusiastic and looking forward to providing the best learning programmes we can for your child in the year ahead.

With thanks,

Christine Wightman, Janine Rollerson, Claire Garnett, Nicolette Land, Jill Garton, Michelle Webster and Gwen Taylor