

Kiaora Room 20 Whanau,

Welcome to Room 20. As I am sure you are aware I am new to Mairangi Bay School but not to teaching. I hail from South Africa where I completed my studies and taught for many years. In 2018, I completed my New Zealand teachers registration which involved a teacher refresher course and practical experience which I was fortunate enough to complete at this wonderful school. I am also a mum to three of my own children and two adopted children. So rest assured your little ones are in good hands.

I am really looking forward to teaching your child and working alongside you to ensure they enjoy school and get the most out of every learning opportunity this year. Please let me know if there is anything that will help me to know and understand your child better. You can contact me by email: [jodyk@mairangibay.school.nz](mailto:jodyk@mairangibay.school.nz)

I will be encouraging the children to become independent thinkers and learners and be responsible for their own actions and belongings. Over the first few weeks, I will be spending a lot of time talking to your child about themselves and making them feel that Room 20 is a safe and happy place to be. We will also be learning the new routines that will help reinforce their independence.

Our regular programme will be up and running and books will be coming home from next week. These books are:

- Reading books, reading cards (this will have a reading log in for you to sign each day - if this is not brought to school a new reader will not be issued) and a home learning notebook (this will have basic maths facts for your child to revise at home and words to go through that relate to the reading level your child is on).
- On Fridays, a poem book will come home with a poem that will have been read during the week. This will need to come back on Monday.
- Our class library time is on a Monday afternoon.

The large journal bag you have purchased will be used for your child's library books. The medium journal bag will be used as their "homework" book bag which will have to be brought to school everyday with their class readers, reading cards and home learning notebooks inside.

On that note please send all stationery purchased from Officemax as per the list sent out last year to school with your child as soon as possible.

Your child will also be set up with a Sumdog account. This is a computer based mathematics programme that we will be using at school and it can also be played at home. It is an excellent

tool for helping reinforce basic facts knowledge. I will glue their username and password into the back of their home learning notebook so they can use this at home too.

On Monday mornings children are encouraged to tell their news from the weekend. This can also be used as a show and tell session and children are encouraged to bring any items of interest to share with their peers.

As part of our Investigation Programme we will be engaging in many varied activities that will involve construction, building, dismantling etc... For this we require any boxes, loose parts, unused tools and items that can be pulled apart (old appliances/technology) so that we can add them to our collection. These are welcome any time.

I am also looking for the following:

- Any old dress up outfits you would like to get rid of - even fancy hats you may not want anymore are suitable.
- Magazines
- Newspaper
- Egg boxes
- Milk bottle lids
- Old sheets for hut building

#### Parent help

Please let me know if you can help at any of the following times or with any of the following activities:

- Story Writing and Maths: Monday - Thursday 9:15 - 10:40
- Reading and Investigation: Monday - Thursday 11:00 - 12:30
- Art Tuesday: 1:45-3:00
- Weekly returning of reading books
- Cutting and pasting jobs

You will be informed via email of any events, activities and dates to remember etc... so watch this space.

I look forward to a fun filled and wonderful year with your child. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Kindest Regards  
Jody Kukard