



to Year 2...



...in Room 5, with Miss Williams

My name is Katie Williams and I am excited to be teaching Year twos this year at Kohia Terrace School. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and to provide all members of Room 5 with an enjoyable, positive and successful year in 2017.

I am currently entering my fifth year of teaching after moving from little Feilding to the big smoke. I completed my teaching degree in Palmerston North.

Daily Routine

8:30-8:50: Children are allowed into the classroom when the 8:30 bell rings but before this time they must wait outside. Children are expected to place their book bags in the box, with their reading books still in the bag, when entering each morning. After the 8:30am bell, children may find a quiet activity to occupy them or play outside.

10:30-11:50: Morning tea

12:30-1:30 Lunch

3:00pm School finishes but before this time children will work together to tidy and clean the classroom.

Please wait outside in the junior courtyard. If you are running late please phone the office and a message will be sent to me. If you arrive after 3:15pm your child will be waiting in the school office.

WRITING



In Room 5, we aim to write everyday. Every child will attempt to meet the success criteria for that particular day either individually or by working in small conference groups with me. The conference groups are flexible working groups that are developed from needs within the classroom.

We start each writing lesson as a whole class discussion, focusing on the days topic. Children have the opportunity to share their ideas and thinking and to build on others. We then make a plan (drawing a picture or mind maps) to organise our thinking. From here, as a whole class, we co construct a piece of writing which meets the success criteria and then the children have a go at their own piece of writing referring back to their plans.

Children are then encouraged to re-read their writing ensuring it makes sense, known words are spelt correctly and for unknown words they have used sensible spelling to record the dominant sounds in order.

We also...

- do 'Flying Start' most days where children develop their phonological awareness around letters and sounds
- do 'Say and Write' Monday through Friday where children practice their spelling words in relation to the Essential Spelling Lists
- write across the curriculum throughout each day

READING



Our reading programme is run extensively from Monday to Thursday. Children begin by 'learning to read', where processing strategies are taught, then 'reading to learn' where comprehension strategies are developed further. Children are placed in small ability groups where they read with the teacher every day or every second day. When not reading with the teacher, the children are completing reading activities based at their level. Some of these reading activities include:

- say and write where children are practising their spelling words
- reading from browsing baskets
- reading big books
- completing follow up activities which are in direct relation to their daily reader
- exploring specifically chosen activities on iPads or laptops

It is of vital importance that children return their book bag to school every day in order to take home their new reader.

MATH



Again, our maths program is run daily with strand maths being taught on a Friday. We start we a whole class maths warm up focussing on a particular skill. The children will then practise this skill either individually or in small groups. The children are placed in ability groups depending on needs of the learning being taught. Similar to the reading program, when the children are not working with the teacher, they are completing activities which are specified to their levels. Some of these activities include:

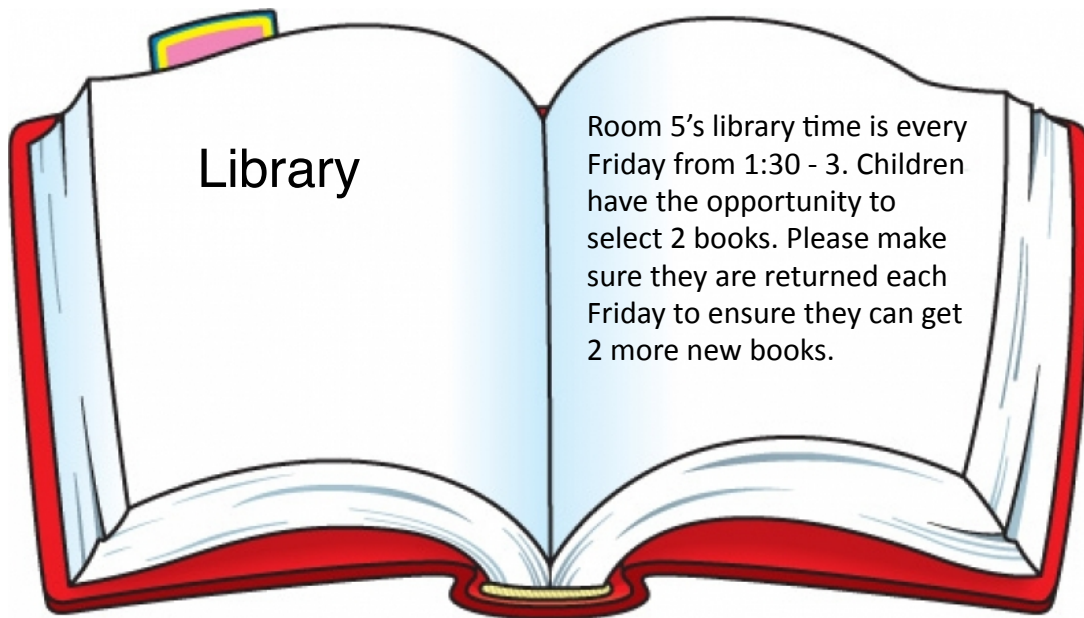
- follow up activities related to the learning being taught
- number and dice games which help to develop many basic skills
- exploring specifically chosen activities on iPads or laptops

Helping at Home

It is of vital importance that learning is encouraged and explored at home as well. Please take the time to read the book in their book bag each day and read the Friday poem with your child over the weekend. Along with their reader, some children will have flash cards with words or letters on them. These are not for spelling. Children are to quickly recall the words or letter sounds. Please, practise these with your children every night.

Also, in their reading folders, children will have a notebook containing spelling words. Practise writing and recalling these words with your child and we will aim to test these words every Friday.

We also encourage children to spend at least 10 minutes after school on Maths Whizz.



Communication

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to email me katie@kts.school.nz