



Huruhuru Team Letter Term 1, 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the school year. We hope your family has enjoyed the holiday season and you are all looking forward to the year ahead.

This year the Huruhuru classes are all Year5/6. The teachers are as follows:

St Patrick- Kathie Bodle/Brenda Neville kathieb@stellamaris.school.nz/
brenda@stellamaris.school.nz

St Dominic- Natasha Kain natasha@stellamaris.school.nz

St Augustine - Tina Hunt tina@stellamaris.school.nz

St Joseph- Tracey Law- tracey@stellamaris.school.nz (Team Leader)

Olwyn Hobman – olwyn@stellamaris.school.nz (Associate Principal).

TERM 1 INFORMATION

Concept

Our concept for this term is Hauora - Well-being. Below are the school-wide Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions associated with this concept.

Enduring Understandings

- Hauora is important.
- Following Jesus will help lead us to a balanced Hauora.
- Hauora impacts on learning and life experiences.
- We need to be active participants in our own and others' Hauora.

Essential Questions

- What does Hauora look like for each of us?
- How do our choices impact ours and others' Hauora?
- How do we develop and maintain our Hauora?
- How can we be active participants in our own Hauora?

RE

Our RE strands this term are:

-Exploring the School Charism – “Star of the Sea” (refer to the statement on the school website)

-Prayer – An Introduction to Prayer.

-Jesus Strand.

-Lent , Holy Week and Easter.

Parents are reminded that information related to these strands can be found in your Family/Whanau book, this book can be found online at the following link (which is in the school newsletter each week) <http://faithalive.org.nz/assets/Resources/Family-whanau->

[book.pdf](#). At the end of each term there will be an expectation that parents reflect and respond to their child's learning in RE by writing a comment on the appropriate post in Google Classroom.

Upcoming Events in Term 1

Meet the Teachers Picnic. - Friday 26th February

Huruhuru Team Assemblies - Monday 1st March and 29th March

Huruhuru Y5/6 Swim Carnival - Tuesday 2nd March

Triadic Goal Setting - 24th/25th March

INFORMATION AND EXPECTATIONS FOR 2021

Our Innovative Learning Environment

Students in Huruhuru are considered to be one team, with all teachers in the team responsible for the education of all students. Curriculum areas such as Maths, Literacy (Reading and Writing), Discovery Hour and Sport may involve students working with different teachers and groups of students. Professional development and changing pedagogy in education has impacted our programmes, and the team collaborate for planning, teaching, monitoring and assessing our students. This will not be completely new to students who have moved through from Mokehu as they participated in similar programmes last year.

These programmes change based on the learning needs of students. They will sometimes include workshops (directed by a teacher or chosen by a student according to identified needs), PLT (Personal Learning Time), collaborative tasks, students grouped according to achieved levels or student driven passions. This process embraces all that is successful about our class teaching.

Digital technology may be used to support these programmes, especially Google apps, such as Google Classrooms, Docs and Slides.

Team Website

Our team has a website which we update throughout the year. It contains copies of the school calendar, team reminders, newsletters, photos and explanations of learning experiences in the school, team or individual classrooms. We encourage whanau to check the website regularly for updates.

The link for the website is

<https://sites.google.com/stellamaris.school.nz/huruhuruteam/home>

Key Competencies

We place a great emphasis on the development of students' Key Competencies throughout the year. According to the NZ curriculum, "Key competencies are the capabilities people have, and need to develop, to live and learn today and in the future." There are five competencies: managing self, participating and contributing, relating to others, thinking and

using language, symbols and texts. While they are all equally important we focus predominantly on managing self in term 1. We support students to become more independent and self-reliant, to be able to solve problems and be responsible for their own resources and learning timetables. These skills are especially important for our new year 5 team members as they adapt to Huruhuru systems and learning situations. We encourage you to support your child as they develop these competencies.

Students Digital Portfolios

Every Y5/6 student will have a digital portfolio which they will share with their parents and the Huruhuru teachers. This will allow students to share their learning regularly with their whanau. Our students returning as a Y6 student have a digital portfolio they began last year and they will add to this portfolio throughout the year. New students and Y5 students will create their portfolios during Term 1.

Punctuality

We expect all students to be at school and prepared for the day before the 8:45 bell goes. Arriving between 8:15 and 8:30 will allow students to organise their equipment for the day and prepare themselves effectively for learning.

Devices and Digital Technology

In 2021 we will continue to develop our programmes in line with the new digital technologies curriculum in order to further improve teaching and learning.

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy in our team has allowed for improved one to one ratio on devices for our children. We currently have some devices for the team's use, but when children bring their own from home it means they have full access, if and when that device is needed, rather than sharing class devices.

A reminder for students, devices are tools for the classroom. They can not be used before school, or during morning tea or lunchtime.

It is not compulsory for children to bring their own devices but we are encouraging those who already have their own devices to bring them to school in 2021 to assist with their learning.

All students who intend to bring their devices to school in 2021, will need to have a BYOD contract signed by themselves and their parents before they can use them at school. This includes students who brought the contract at the beginning of last year. It is a requirement for this to be a yearly practice to ensure that students and parents can reflect on the rules and responsibility for devices. These contracts are available on the [Huruhuru Team Website](#).

Home learning.

All Huruhuru students will be expected to complete their home learning each week. Our emphasis for 2021 with Home learning is to encourage our students to become self-motivated and organised learners who can meet deadlines and complete independent

work. If for any reason Home learning is not completed we ask you to email us or write a letter to explain.

Home learning will consist of:

Reading: Each student is expected to keep a record of their reading in their school Home Learning Diary that will be distributed in week one. They should be reading at least 20 mins per night.

Maths Buddy: Our team subscribes to Maths Buddy rather than Mathletics. Part of the programme is expected to be completed as home learning throughout the week.

Shine Challenges: The Shine Challenges are optional home learning tasks that celebrate the learning that occurs outside of the classroom. We encourage all Huruhuru students to commit to this as, along with set home learning requirements, it begins to prepare them for Home learning expectations at secondary school.

Information Gathering: There may be times throughout the year that students are expected to complete research for the inquiry process at school.

R.E. Throughout the term RE home learning will be set. These tasks will support classroom programmes. The students home learning diary also contains a RE page based around Gospel readings that needs to be completed each week.

School Uniform

We expect our students to take pride in their uniform and wear it appropriately.

Hair that is shoulder length or longer, is to be tied up and clipped back off the face with **plain** black hair ties and clips. Children may wear regulation jewellery only. Earrings are to be silver or gold studs and necklaces should be cultural or religious icons only. Nail polish is not to be worn. Shoes are to be plain black school sandals in Term 1 and 4. Plain black shoes are to be worn in Term 2 and 3. **Please ensure that all clothing is clearly named.** A letter from the parents explaining the reason for incorrect uniform is required before students can receive a uniform pass.

Hats

In Term 1 and 4 all students are required to wear a school hat when they are outside the classroom. It would also be sensible to provide sunscreen as extra protection from the sun.

PE uniform

PE uniforms need to come to school on Monday and will go home on Friday. This year our team sport session will be held on Wednesday afternoons.

Stationery

All stationery is purchased through the school as a complete pack, meeting student's requirements at their year level. Please make payments to the office or through internet banking as soon as possible and return the stationery list for processing.

Cellphones

If your child needs to have a cell phone travelling to and from school, it is to be switched off and handed into the school office upon arrival at school each day. They can collect it at the end of the school day. Please ensure that it is clearly named.

Communication

Communication between our families is important. We recommend that families access school-wide communication through the following forms

- Beacon
- School app
- Weekly Newsletter - paper or digital form
- School Website

All information related to Huruhuru Team will also be available on the [Huruhuru Team Website](#).

You are welcome to visit your child's classroom before and after school, however if you wish to discuss anything in detail with their teacher it is often best to make an appointment. Please note teachers have meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings. If you have any concerns throughout the year you are asked to first contact your child's teacher. If you wish to discuss any concerns further please contact Tracey Law, (Team Leader). If necessary, you can then contact Olwyn Hobman (Associate Principal).

If you wish to have a digital copy of this letter to access the links, please contact your child's teacher.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Huruhuru Teachers