



## **Huruhuru Team Letter Term 1, 2022**

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. Last week was a busy start of the year and all classes are now fully engaged in their learning programmes.

### **This year the Huruhuru classes are all Year 5/6. The teachers are as follows:**

St Dominic- Natasha Kain [natasha@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:natasha@stellamaris.school.nz)

St Augustine - Tina Hunt [tina@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:tina@stellamaris.school.nz)

St Joseph- Tracey Law- [tracey@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:tracey@stellamaris.school.nz) (Team Leader)

Olwyn Hobman – [olwyn@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:olwyn@stellamaris.school.nz) (Associate Principal).

### **TERM 1 INFORMATION**

#### Concept

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

#### *Enduring Understandings*

- While we are unique, we are part of God's creation
- God created us with special and different gifts

#### *Essential Questions*

- What are my God-given gifts and how do I use them?
- What does it mean that we are made in God's image?
- How do our actions and values define us?

#### 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.

## **INFORMATION AND EXPECTATIONS FOR 2022**

### **Students working from home due to Covid isolation rules**

We are aware that some children from our team may have to work from home in the future. Therefore we spent time in week 1 introducing the Huruuru students to the private website and the Google Classroom that we have set up for them. The website is an overview of the suggested tasks for the week and the Google Classroom contains the instructions for each of the tasks. If your child clicks on an image on the website it will automatically take them to the instructions. The students have been asked to familiarize themselves and their parents with our system. Students isolating at home are also able to join their class for prayers daily via Zoom. The links and the information for this is on the website. Please feel free to email us if you have any questions.

### **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 Huruuru systems and learning situations. We encourage you to support your child as they develop these competencies.

### **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 2022 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 2022 to assist with their learning.

All students who intend to bring their devices to school in 2022, 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 were sent home in week 1 .

### **Home learning.**

All Huruhuru students will be expected to complete their home learning each week. Our emphasis for 2022 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.

### **Sporting Events in Term 1**

Unfortunately we will be unable to hold interschool sports events, including the swimming carnival this term. The Huruhuru Team is looking at possibly holding a school Y5/6 swimming event in term 4 as part of our swimming lessons.

### **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

### **Teacher Introduction Letters**

The teachers from the team will send home an introduction letter to the parents of their students this week. Please look out for these.

If you have any concerns throughout the year you are asked to first contact your child's teacher via email. If you wish to discuss any concerns further please contact Tracey Law, (Team Leader).

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

Huruhuru Teachers