



Tuesday 9th February

Haere Mai, welcome back for a new year and a special welcome to new families joining our team. Our focus this term is **Identity**. We will be spending time unpacking what our Identity means to us; as children, a class, a school, a community and a country. We will explore the importance of health in mind and body as well as establishing classroom routines and practices in order to create a positive learning environment for 2022.

Our Enduring Understandings:

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

Our 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?

Our Marian Values:

Empathy
Compassion

Our Key Competencies:

Managing self
Relating to others

If you have any concerns, questions or need more information about anything happening in the school, please talk to your class teacher first. They work with your children on a daily basis and have the most information about your child, their learning and social interactions. Diana Pearson is Team Leader in Mokehu and is based in St Anthony. If you would like to talk to her or email her, please feel free to do so; diana@stellamaris.school.nz We want the best for your children, so please let us know if you need any assistance at all. All of our emails are at the end of this letter for your information. It is a good idea to email your classroom teacher (no message required!) so that we can save your email addresses.

Morning Routine

School time begins at 8.45 each day so please have your children at school at *least* fifteen minutes before the bell to allow them time to organise themselves for their learning. It can be stressful for children who arrive late and it is disruptive to the class if latecomers arrive when morning prayers have started. With COVID Red level protocols in place, members of the Senior Management team will be in the carpark to collect children and direct them to their classes.

Book Bags

Can all children bring a named book bag to school to take information, readers and library books home? They can use their one from last year.

Homework/Shine Challenges

Children are encouraged to read daily and to keep a reading log in their diary. Reading books will be provided by their teacher and some children will use their own choice books. Spelling words will be sent home on a Monday and tested on a Friday. For maths we are using Mathletics.

We will begin testing and grouping children shortly and homework will begin after this.

Mokehu children are encouraged to complete **Shine Challenges** this year and more information on Shine Challenges will follow.

Sports

The teachers will be doing sport within their classes, please ensure named PE uniforms are at school for this. Children are also unable to access sports equipment (while in Red level) from the PE shed so are encouraged to bring their own named equipment.

Uniform

In terms 1 and 4 school hats are compulsory and children should wear plain black sandals. Long hair should be tied back. We encourage them to take pride in their uniform. Please name all your uniform.

More details are available on the school website; <http://stellamaris.school.nz>

Absences

If your child is not coming to school, please either use the School app, ring or email the office and leave a message with your child's name and class - absences@stellamaris.school.nz Teachers often don't check their emails throughout the day so for any messages that need urgent attention we ask that you contact the office.

Late Passes

If your child is late they must sign in at the office and collect a green late pass to give to their teacher

Brainfood

Students have a short brainfood break every day at 10am. This is a small healthy snack to help them retain focus and energy. It is not an extra morning tea and we encourage students to continue working while they 'nibble'. Some examples of suitable brainfood include: a small pot of dried fruit, sliced cheese, vege sticks, fruit slices. Please do not send in whole apples or oranges for brainfood as this takes too long to eat.

Please note also that we are a **nut-free school and water only**.

WasteWise

Our school is a WasteWise school and we are committed to reducing, reusing and recycling wherever possible. We encourage you to use reusable containers in lunches with little or no rubbish to become landfill. The children are very knowledgeable on being wastewise and we encourage you to begin using some of our practices in your homes. Currently, we are not collecting food scraps.

Google Classroom

Mokehu Team 2022 has been set up as a Google Classroom this year and your child has been sent an invitation via their school email. If you can please accept this invitation. We will be using this Classroom throughout the year and the teachers will share work in the 'classwork' tab. They will only be able to access this through their school email address, so please make sure they are using their school email address.

<https://classroom.google.com/u/0/c/NDYOMzkwNDM2MTU2>

Code ngftm7q

Sickness

In line with Ministry of Education guidelines and information already sent to you by our Senior Leadership team, please keep your child home if unwell. This is understandably even more important in our current situation. If there is any vomiting or diarrhoea, it is advised that there is a 24 hour absence from school from the last episode. This to keep everyone safe and healthy, especially those with lower immunity.

Summer Heat

We encourage students to apply sunscreen before coming to school. There is also a bottle of sunscreen for reapplication in each class. We also ask that students bring a drink bottle for water each day.

We look forward to a successful year and developing our relationships with your children over the next few weeks.

Nga Mihi,

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