



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 *Hauora* or Wellbeing. We will be spending time unpacking what Hauora means to us; as children, a class, a school, a community and a country and ways that we can enhance our own Hauora and others'. 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 2021. As usual we have lots of exciting events and learning opportunities planned for this term so please keep a close eye on dates in newsletters and the School App.

**Our 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.

**Our 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?

**Our Marian Values:**

- Courage
- Trust

**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 at any time at [diana@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto: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.

### **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 will on Shine Challenges will follow..

### **Sports**

We will have team sport on Monday afternoons. Please ensure named PE uniforms are at school for this.

### **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 ring or email the office and leave a message with your child's name and class - [absences@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:absences@stellamaris.school.nz)

### **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**.

### **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. Organic scraps are collected and either composted or fed to local animals. Please let us know if you would like a collection for your animals. The children are very knowledgeable on being wastewise and we encourage you to begin using some of our practices in your homes.

We look forward to a successful year and developing our relationships with your children over the next few weeks and meeting you all at the Welcome Picnic on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Nga Mihi,

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