

Halcombe School



Term Two - Week 6

30 May 2023

Kia Ora Tatou!

Oh, my goodness! I am a little fired-up at the moment about hearing the media bang on about literacy in New Zealand. The main point of contention is that schools are being told they should only do literacy teaching one way - it's the Structured Literacy Approach versus Whole Language approach. Why does it have to be a this or that choice? In good schools it never has been like that. In good schools there has always been a balance of the two and a recognition that children need to have learning tailored to them. SLA is an approach that breaks words down into their sounds, blends and gets children to work out a word that way. Whole language comes from the angle that literacy learning uses many cues to learn a word - its sounds, its fit in the sentence, and the context of a story (does the word fit?) Halcombe School uses elements from both - that's what good schools do. Phonics plays a part in our learning, and so does whole language and Reading Recovery. We would be foolish not to use elements of all successful approaches to teaching literacy. The biggest indicator of a child's success in literacy is simple: do they have books at home to read? Do they get read to every night and enjoy the experience? Do the adults around them talk to them and have conversations with them? It's that simple. Fortunately, our Halcombe School children are pretty well prepared for reading. For those that need extra support, they are given it, and our programme operates really well. Rest assured that in our school we keep a balance of old and new methods and we will always remain focussed on each child's academic, social, and physical success. If you'd like to know more, or have a conversation with me about this, please feel free to come in - I'd love to talk about it with you.

Have a great week,
Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Teacher's Strike

The proposed teacher's strike tomorrow has been cancelled. Halcombe School will be open and it's business as usual for us tomorrow afternoon. You may hear of other schools who are closing to allow teachers to attend union meetings. Our teachers will meet on site at school, allowing us to stay open. We greatly appreciate the teachers' commitment to making this happen.

Hot Lunches

We offer a pie-warmer system every day, where students can bring something to be warmed up for their lunch. A reminder that we need these wrapped in foil or foil containers. Please no ceramic bowls - they can burn!

Bus Rules

Last week we sent home in KIT books a copy of the bus rules to each bus child. These are reminders that school rules also operate on the bus. They are meant to lay out accepted bus behaviours, so that students are able to have a comfortable and safe ride home, without causing distractions for the driver. We appreciate you reading over them with your children.

Chocolate Fundraiser

A message for the students in Rooms 5-8 who have been selling chocolate: a reminder all money is due on Friday 16 June. Any unsold bars need to be returned in perfect condition.

After School Sports Practice & Games

If your child is going to an after school sports practice or game please let Mrs Stace know if they are not on the bus. Looking for students that have not notified us of bus changes delays the departure of the bus.

Netball

As per the note in KIT Books yesterday, there are no games for any of our netball teams this weekend, and no practices this week. Please ensure you have let Mrs Stace know if your child is on the bus.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MATAI -
INTERHOUSE NUKUMBALL CHAMPIONS!**

