

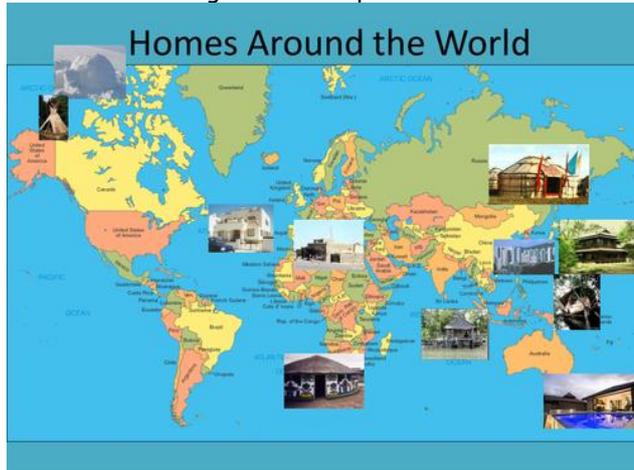
Nau mai, haere mai

Welcome back to another busy term at M.P.S.

Some of the things we will be doing this term include:

1. Learning about homes around the world.

This will be a student driven inquiry. Room 13 will be introduced to the topic, and then they will ask key questions. From these we develop our research/knowledge and subsequent activities.



2. Writing, reading, handwriting, spelling and phonics.

Students get the opportunity to do all these learning areas most days of the week.

Phonics is the skill of segmentation and blending plus knowledge of the alphabetic code. When your child goes to write or read a new word we want them to be able to make a good approximation of the word based on what it looks like, what makes sense and what it sounds like. We use the language of phonics such as phonemes - which are the smallest unit of sound. The word dog for example has 3 phonemes - d/o/g/. We need students to be able to do this quickly and not to read the words in an awkward, robotic way. So they need to process sounds quickly and know what letters match up with the sounds. For example they need to know the letters *s* and *h* together make the *sh* sound.

Room 13 is improving their ability to write their ideas down. We have some students including commas, question marks, exclamation marks and speech marks. This is great!

What teaching phonics does is to provide the ability to correctly spell about 80% of words and make the others at least recognisable.

Learning spelling patterns is of course an ongoing task.

3. Arts performance shows

In week 5 (Thursday August 24) it will be the school's arts performance show. This happens every two years. There will actually be two shows, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Class items are to be 3 minutes or less. We have a tentative song and dance so will keep you posted re this.



4. Number/Maths learning this term includes;

- Counting forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Addition and subtraction - using equipment, then processing mentally and then writing the equations and answers.
- Measurement and geometry tasks.
- Using a number line to add on and also to subtract.
- Finding half of an even number of objects in a set.
- Any extra support you can give to your child will be beneficial.



5. Class Facebook page.

In Term 1 parents were invited to join a "secret class group." The purpose if this is for me to share photos of Room 13 activities. The aim is to be positive with any concerns being addressed to me in person, not via this page. We have about half our families registered so if you would like to join us, please send me your email address so I can invite you to join.

6. Class mascot- B.C.Bear.

Every Friday B.C.Bear comes home with some lucky child who can take the bear out and about or stay at home with it.

We now have a wonderful collection of weekend adventures in our book to share with each other.



7. Learning through play.

The power of play to foster learning and creativity has long been recognised. Allocating part of the week's programme to free choice with a range of equipment is a regular feature of M.P.S. Junior classes.

Every Friday morning Room 13 joins Rooms 1,2,7,8 and 9 in our so-called 'choosing time'. There is a mix of indoor and outdoor activities.

In our own class we have a Lego table that houses constructions that students can make over a period of days.



We have a range of board games, craft materials and two playhouse structures that can become whatever the students want them to be.

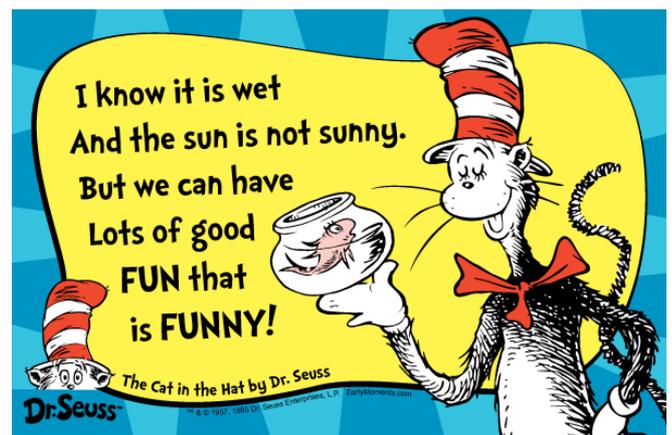


Some favourite Room 13 songs that you can find on You Tube for your child to sing along to;

- Fish and chips
- The wobbly tooth song
- Two legged mice
- Honey Bear
- The Gummy Bear Song
- Can't stop the feeling

Home/school partnership

- If you can, please come in and look at your child's writing book and let them show you around the room.
- Please remember that school starts at 8.45 a.m. After the electronic roll is marked your child will be recorded as late if arriving after this time. Please give this your attention, as it is frustrating to have to repeat instructions to those who regularly arrive late. It also makes your child feel rushed.
- As the books become longer for some students try getting them to read every second or third page to you but read the rest to themselves.



Bye for now folks

Mrs Hancox, B.C. Bear and Room 13.