



## Batten Newsletter

### Term 1 2024

#### **Teena Koutou,**

Batten teachers extend a warm welcome to all of our new and returning families. We hope you had a fantastic break, enjoying the stunning kiwi summer.

Our team of classes are called Batten. We are named after Jean Batten, New Zealand's greatest aviator. The school's other syndicate names are Blake, Hillary and Rutherford.

Our fantastic team of teachers are:

Room 14 - Charlotte Mansell and Alex Dowdle (Wednesday release teacher)

Room 15 - Maria Vettise (Monday, Tuesday) and Anna Wren (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

Room 16 - Colleen Bredenbeck/Team Leader (Monday - Thursday) and Johanna Shortt-Smith (Friday release)

#### **Term 1 focus:**

**Kotahitanga/Togetherness:** Our inquiry this term will be focusing on creating a sense of belonging and togetherness by strengthening relationships with our team.

**Reflections of Me:** We will investigate how artists depict people in portraits, with a focus on self-portraits. Students will learn how to represent themselves using their image (portrait) and objects that are important to them.

**Thursday Electives:** CPS delivers a fantastic electives programme each Thursday and Friday. These are run by specialist teachers. The rotations are: STEAM, Te Reo, Music, Outdoor classroom, Garden to Table and Science. Students can wear their PE gear to and from school on Thursdays.

**Te Reo (the language) and Te Ao (customs and protocol) Maaori:** This term we will be exploring some of the cultural aspects of the Maaori world through storytelling, daily karakia, waiata, greetings and games.

**Swimming:** Your classroom teacher/s will let you know your swimming day.

**Spare clothing:** We encourage your child to have a spare change of clothes, including underwear and bag. Accidents do happen and it makes it easier if we have access to clean clothing. We suggest PE gear is left in your child's bag for this reason.

**Uniforms:** Please ensure that **ALL** of your child's uniform is clearly named. The PE uniform is a requirement and is used at various times throughout our learning week.

**Book Bags:** Your child will bring home their book bag Monday-Friday. If they do not have their book bag at school they will not be able to take a reader or library book home.

**Homework:** Homework books will be set up in the next few weeks as our stationery comes in. Your classroom teacher will also be sending the poem book home each Friday for you to enjoy with your child.

**Water Bottles:** Please send a named water bottle to school daily to help keep your children hydrated.

**Litterless lunch:** We are an enviro school and encourage our community to make wise choices when packing lunch boxes. All wrappers and food scraps will come home in your child's lunch box. The healthier the lunch box, the healthier the child and their learning!

**School Houses:** Children belong to one of four school houses. The houses are named after four famous Cambridge horses. These being **Sir Tristram** (Yellow), **Charisma** (Black), **Young Quinn** (Green) and **Zabeel** (White or Blue). House points are collected in many ways such as litterless lunch boxes, demonstrating our CPS Key Competencies and at sporting events like Cross Country, Athletics, Swimming and Tabloids. Families are kept in the same house and all children are encouraged to dress up in their house colour for school sporting events. The winning house is announced at our full school assembly.

**8:30am Classes open:** An 8:30am bell rings to indicate children can enter the school grounds. If you are at school before this time, please respect the teachers need to have time to prepare for the day. Children are not to be on school grounds unsupervised before 8.30am (unless in Before School Care).

**Staggered release times:** To ease traffic congestion, we will continue to do staggered release of children at the end of the day. Times according to surname: A - F; 2:50pm, G - M; 2:55pm, N - Z; 3:00pm.

**Wanted:** A box of tissues is greatly appreciated for each class.

**Other Information:** -Please regularly read the school newsletters and the week ahead through Hero. All information is also available on our CPS website.

We offer many opportunities and challenges throughout the year and we are looking forward to an exciting year of learning.

### **Ngaa mihi mahana**

The Batten and Blake Team - Colleen (Team Leader), Anna, Maria, Charlotte, Alex and Johanna

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