A cold, wet end to the first half of this year! 🍁

As this term draws to a close I’ve been generally pleased with the perseverance shown by the students. Cold mornings and often wet days would have made it very tempting to have a day or two off school but most have maintained their excellent attendance rate and have now earned a well deserved holiday.

Please take the time to go through your child’s work samples that have been sent home. As you go through the work samples ask you child to explain what they have done and what they have learnt, and maybe discuss what they still find tricky. Successes need to be celebrated not only at school but also at home. It has been disappointing that so many folders were not returned to enter this new work. Please locate the folders and return them.

A midterm report is also enclosed. This provides a snapshot of how your child is progressing in each curriculum area and in their personal and social development.

LITERACY

Continuing on with our theme on Water, we finished our explanation text on learning why the sea looks blue, then spent time looking at possible explanations as to why the sea is salty. Tales from the Philippines and Europe provided traditional and entertaining stories that I think the students actually enjoyed more than the real facts about the salt. Their own narratives about this topic provided lots of laughs. To complete this unit we will consider all the reasons we should not waste water.

Modelled reading each day has provided the opportunity to demonstrate various strategies that can be used to decode text. It’s been great to observe each student having a try with these different strategies. Reading on, then going back to an unfamiliar word and checking for sense appears to be the most successful for most at the moment. Fostering this independence and self confidence is very important for all learning.

MATHS

Amongst other topics during these last weeks, we tackled what I consider one of the big areas of the curriculum, that being money. Students not only experienced making amounts and calculating change, but also creating shopping lists and working within a given budget. I think they were all surprised as to how much food actually costs when you add it all together. Other learning in Maths included fractions, decimals and percentage, triangle types, angles and perimeters. Learning throughout the rest of the year will extend understanding and knowledge of these topics.

THEME

High student interest in our learning about water and its impact on daily lives was maintained right up to the end of term. Students had never before considered that the water on earth has been here since the beginning and that we can’t just ‘nip out to buy some more for the planet’. The thought of having to drink unclean and unsafe water highlighted the lives of people in less developed countries. Hopefully all will now treat this finite resource with a bit more care and consideration.

OTHER

Students are very excited about the sports program on offer at the town gymnastics club next term. Reminders will be sent home in week 1.

Please enjoy your time with your children over the holiday period. I look forward to catching up with everyone next term.

Stay safe and warm.

Kath Carter
Working on our villages - putting a bridge over the water supply.

Paint and oil pastel art works