

Totara Team Newsletter

Welcome to Term 1

Kia ora koutou, this is the first Totara Team (Purple Team) Newsletter of 2022. Our newsletters go out at the beginning of each term to give you an overview of our learning programme. Please check the school website for important dates this term and make sure you have downloaded School Apps NZ for regular communications sent home from the school. At this stage, we are old hats at adapting to changing circumstances and the flexibility and resilience being developed will last a lifetime! **With our knowledge of how quickly situations can change, updates are released to parents via the school app first, so it is vital you have it in order to keep up to date with changes as and when they happen.**

We hope you have all had a good, relaxing holiday and are ready for an exciting first term. Life at ANI is full of new opportunities, experiences and learning. We look forward to guiding, supporting and helping you, our students, reach their potential in the coming weeks and over the course of this year.

Homework will be given out on a Monday and should be returned on the following Monday (further information to follow). The Totara Team will work collaboratively and reflectively throughout our planning process to provide engaging learning experiences and consistency across classrooms while ensuring that each student's individual needs are met.

Our wonderful Totara team is made up of the following classroom teachers, please reach out to your student's teacher if you have any queries.

Team Leader/R22: [Kieran Gleeson](#)

Room 19: [Sophie Hunt](#)

Room 20: [Casey Zhang](#)

Room 21: [Xavier Rice](#)

Room 23: [Maddy Mitchell](#)

Room 24: [Charlotte Ironside](#)

Recent weeks have seen the return of restrictions and in the spirit of optimism, this poem shows us we can do it together, in the face of change!

It Couldn't Be Done

BY EDGAR ALBERT GUEST

*Somebody said that it couldn't be done
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it!*

*Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.*

IB Social Science Theme 1 - 'Who We Are'
Week 2 (8th Feb) until Week 11 (12th April)

THEME DESCRIPTION: The structure and function of organisations (communities)

CENTRAL IDEA: People participate in a community by establishing agreements and responsibilities

LINES OF INQUIRY:

- A community is formed by different elements;
- The roles and responsibilities within a community;
- Agreements protect the values of communities

KEY and RELATED CONCEPTS: Form, function, responsibility and community

LEARNER PROFILES: Principled and open-minded

APPROACHES TO LEARNING: Social skills.



Literacy is fully integrated into our IB theme. The focus for writing and reading is below.

- Our focus in writing will be
 - Foundational writing skills e.g. spelling, vocabulary and structure
 - The writing process including organisational tools and frameworks
 - A variety of writing styles (fiction and nonfiction)
- Our focus in reading will be
 - Reading for enjoyment
 - Questioning
 - Note-taking
 - Identifying text purposes
 - Using graphic organisers to support comprehension



This term we will be starting with Number Knowledge and Statistics & Probability, building on what the students already know. We will continue Number Knowledge throughout the year with a weekly focus on the fundamentals. Our focuses for these two strands will be:

Number Knowledge

- Solve + and – problems with fractions, decimals, and integers
- Solve x and \div problems with whole numbers
- Solve problems involving fractions including, equivalence, simplification, addition and subtraction
- Use ratios in real-life situations
- Use fractions, decimals and percentages to solve problems
- Select and use an appropriate way to solve word problems

Statistics & Probability

- Analysis of data displayed in graphs and statements about this data, determining the appropriateness of graphs and making our own statements about data;
- Using the statistical inquiry process to conduct investigations about ourselves and the world around us;
- Identifying the likelihood of different events and communicating this in a range of forms.

Specialisation

The Totara team will have their specialist day on each Wednesday, a day where they will rotate around three different specialist areas for term 1, moving to the other three areas in term 2. Our wonderful specialist team is so excited to welcome the Totara student into their creative makerspaces.

The 6 specialist areas are:

- **Hard & Digital Technology** - using software packages students will create their own animations and learn to use hard materials safely eg wood and perspex to create a model
- **Art and Design** - Designing and creating their own artistic pieces using different styles and mediums i.e pencil, paint, clay etc
- **Soft Technology** - Food Technology preparing, cooking and serving of various dishes and sewing by hand and with machines
- **Music/Dance/Drama** - Areas from instrument instruction/playing to singing and use of voice, movement and rhythm.
- **Science** - Looking at various aspects of science in the world around us.

Language - Students will begin to understand some basic and more complicated instructions and sentences in French with **Madame Jasmine Hanaway**. French will be taught for two forty-five minute sessions each week. We will also have Te Reo lessons with **Mr Mauri Hohepa** every week.

Term 1 Dates for your diary

- Waitangi Day - Monday 7th Feb - School closed
- EOTC Education Outside the Classroom - Week 8 Tue 22nd Mar - Fri 25th Mar
Parent help is required so please try to make it along on a day or 2. More details to follow.

All further events will be organised with our current public health measures in mind and dates will be communicated via the School Apps. You can download the app [here](#).