



ABOUT MRS WHITE:

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I have been teaching for fifteen years mostly at the senior end of the school. However; my first years of teaching were at the junior end of the school with my first two years of teaching being in Years 3 and Year 2.

This is my twelfth year of teaching at Hunua School however my first teaching experiences at Hunua School started twenty three years ago. I was then a teacher aide teaching braille to a blind student in Year 4. I stayed at Hunua School with that student until he left in Year 8 to go on to high school. I then left and went to university and got my teaching degree.

I look forward to getting to know your children better this year and become a learner alongside them in 2019.

KEY COMPETENCIES:

Your child is learning a range of skills and abilities (key competencies) to help them to do well in life. There are lots of things you can do to help your child develop and use these.

The world your child lives in is very different to what it was like when you were growing up and is continuing to change. It is no longer enough to just learn "facts".

No-one knows exactly what life will be like for today's children when they become adults, but we do know that they will need to develop a range of key competencies, so that they can adapt and function well in the world.

These key competencies are:

- Thinking
- Using language, symbols, and texts
- Managing self
- Relating to others
- Participating and contributing

These key competencies are an important part of your child's learning at school. They are included in the New Zealand Curriculum and are woven into all the teaching that takes place.

Key competencies are not just for school, but for life. Your child uses these key competencies in many different situations at home, at sport, at church, at cultural occasions, and eventually at work.

VALUES:

All students at Hunua school understand our values that are at the heart of our learning. Our student know that to be an ideal Hunua learner we 'Strive for Success' and always use our RiCH values.

R	Respect	Show respect by using manners, addressing others by their correct title, using all equipment for the purpose it was designed.
i		
C	Caring	Caring for myself, others and the environment
H	Honesty	Be truthful and trustworthy

As a student at Hunua School I strive to:		
R espect 	(Courteous) (Dignity) (Honour) (Considerate)	Show respect for myself, others and for all property through the way I behave.
		At all times I will treat others as I would like to be treated.
		Show courtesy to everyone.
i		
C aring 	(Cooperative) (Tolerant) (Modest) (Unifying) (Responsible)	Care for myself
		Care for others
		Care for the environment
H onesty 	(Integrity) (Honour) (Trustworthy) (Tactful)	Be truthful and trustworthy

PARENT SURVEY:

A parent and child survey has been sent home today with your child. Please take the time to fill in this survey as this will be used to help me get to know more about your child from your perspective. The child's survey is for your child to respond to. If they need assistance with recording their responses please feel free to help them. Otherwise it is helpful for me to view the responses from their perspective.

If you would prefer to receive correspondence through your email please send me an email to let me know.

EXPECTATIONS:

By Year 3 students are expected to show some level of independence in their ability to prepare themselves for the start of the day. Therefore they should be carrying their own bags into school and getting their own stationery and class requirements out of their bags and into the class prior to the first bell ready for the start of the day.

At the end of the day all students in Kahikatea will be expected to show they are able to pack the necessary items into their bag and be ready to go home prior to the bell ringing.

In class (and throughout the day) we are all part of a whanau and are here to look after one another and help each other learn and grow academically, socially and emotionally. We will be expected to work collaboratively and cooperatively, using positive language in our communications with one another.

You can help us ensure that we keep on track with this by getting your children to model these things at home and by also demonstrating these attributes to your children.

CURRICULUM:

We all know the importance of knowing and understanding the concepts within the English, Math and Science curriculum.

Understanding, using, and creating oral, written, and visual texts of increasing complexity is at the heart of English teaching and learning. By engaging with text-based activities, students become increasingly skilled and sophisticated speakers and listeners, writers and readers, presenters and viewers.

Mathematics is the exploration and use of patterns and relationships in quantities, space, and time. Statistics is the exploration and use of patterns and relationships in data. These two disciplines are related but different ways of thinking and of solving problems. Both equip students with effective means for investigating, interpreting, explaining, and making sense of the world in which they live.

Through Science students investigate, understand, and explain our natural, physical world and the wider universe. It involves generating and testing ideas, gathering evidence – including making observations, carrying out investigations and modelling, and communicating and debating with others – in order to

develop scientific knowledge, understanding, and explanations.

Just as students develop skills through the core curriculum areas it is extremely important to remember that skills and knowledge are also developed through the Health and P.E curriculum. It is therefore essential that students participate fully in this curriculum area.

Through learning and by accepting challenges in health-related and movement contexts, students reflect on the nature of well-being and how to promote it. As they develop resilience and a sense of personal and social responsibility, they are increasingly able to take responsibility for themselves and contribute to the well-being of those around them, of their communities, of their environments (including natural environments), and of the wider society.

HOME LEARNING:

For many years there has been ongoing debate about the good and bad effects of home learning (homework) on students. There is research for and against it wherever you may choose to search.

You may be asking yourself if home learning does really help children learn, and how you can manage to make it a positive and successful experience. Home learning can have many benefits for young children. It not only improves remembering and understanding of schoolwork, but it enables students to develop valuable life-skills that will be vital, even after they leave school.

According to John Rosemond, (author on parenting) here are the 7 values that home learning develops: responsibility; autonomy; perseverance; time management; initiative; self-reliance and resourcefulness.

Duke University psychology professor Harris Cooper, who found evidence of a positive correlation between home learning and student achievement, meaning students who did home learning performed better in school. Despite the correlation being stronger for older students he argues that a small amount of home learning is useful for all students.

