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19 November 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Next year your child will be in the middle (Year 3-4) syndicate.

In the coming weeks as we create the 2019 classes we take a number of things into consideration such as feedback from the 2018 teacher, assessment information, personality, likes, dislikes and characteristics that we try to match with the teachers strengths to ensure that we set your child up for another successful year with us. Every class has a range of learning needs and abilities, we do not place all the well achieving students in one class and the lower achieving students in another, nor do we stream gender or ethnicity.

Next year, Matua Steve Heke will be teaching in the middle syndicate. Matua Steve has a passion for teaching Te Reo Maori and in 2020 we plan to utilise his ability to speak fluent Maori to teach a bilingual class. In 2019, he will teach an English medium class using the NZ curriculum, with the same high expectations for student achievement as the other classes across our school. While there is an expectation that all teachers will provide opportunities for students to learn some Te Reo Maori, because this is a particular strength for Matua Steve, there will be more Te Reo Maori in his class than others. Reading, writing and maths will all be taught in English and whilst the children in the class will be exposed to additional Te Reo Maori and Tikanga (customs and protocols) they will not be taught to speak fluent Te Reo Maori. Matua Steve is also a trained martial arts instructor so in addition to the school wide physical education program, the children will also have the opportunity to participate in some basic martial arts training.

As I said, there are a range of factors we consider when making our class lists for the following year, if you do **not** want your child to be considered for this particular 2019 class then please return the slip below.

Tania Heke  
Principal

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Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

2018 Classroom : \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_