



Wednesday 8th February, 2017

RISE Home Learning Challenge

Tena koutou Nga whanau

The RISE Challenge for 2017 will be starting in Week 5 of this term. This is the week beginning Monday 27th February. With this letter is the outline of what this programme is about and why we do it at Sacred Heart School.

Year 7 & 8 students may have projects set by their teacher to complete over the year. These may also be used as RISE Challenges.

This year I will meet with all participants at the end of each term and see how they are going with their challenges. I suggest that they set a target for themselves to complete 4 challenges per term.

Please talk to your children about whether they would like to participate in the RISE Challenge this year and then fill in and return the slip below to school by Wednesday 22nd February. Once I have the names of who has decided to participate I will set up their RISE folders for them. **Children will need to provide a 20 page clearfile for the RISE Challenge.** They can recycle their folder from last year if they still have it. Children may participate even if they did not participate last year.

We look forward to seeing lots of students participate again this year. If you have any questions please speak to either your child's teacher or myself.

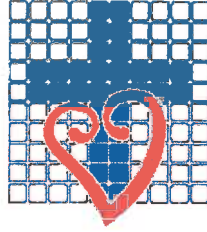
Ma Atua e Maanaaki

God bless

Liz

My child/children _____ would like to participate in the RISE Challenge in 2017.

Signed: _____



Sacred Heart School

Homework and the RISE Challenge Home Learning Programme

There are two components to this programme, one compulsory, the other voluntary.

1. Compulsory Homework

Compulsory homework focuses primarily on numeracy and literacy. Research has shown that Reading and Basic Facts when worked on at home do have an effect on student progress and achievement. At times there may be some Religious Education homework. In Years 5-8, compulsory homework also might include research for Inquiry work at school. Otherwise NO other homework is set.

Year 1 & 2

The focus of Homework in these early years is to support literacy and numeracy. Reading should be happening every night. The children in Tui and Ruru class will bring home a home reader every night and will also work on learning their basic sight words. Ruru class may also bring home some simple Basic Facts.

Kea class will focus on Reading and Basic Facts and all Year 2 children have the option of participating in and completing our Junior RISE Challenge. This is preparing them for participation in the RISE Challenge when they reach Year 3. All the tasks in the Junior RISE Challenge are based on the Key Competencies and have been developed to encourage children to become more independent.

Years 3-8

The Homework focus in Years 3-8 will be on Reading and Basic Facts. We expect children to read every night and log their Reading mileage in the Homework Diary provided. Mileage is what all children need to succeed in Reading. They need to read a variety of books from many different genres- both fiction and non-fiction titles. If your child is not a member of the Public Library it is free and very easy to join and this will give them access to a wide variety of books. Some children in Year 3 & 4 will still be bringing reading books home from school.

Basic Facts homework will be provided by the class teacher and this will be marked as part of our school Numeracy programme.

Please ensure that your child/children complete their compulsory homework each week and that you sign their Homework Diary to acknowledge the completion of the weekly tasks.

2. RISE Challenge Home Learning Programme

Based on the PRIDE challenge programme (developed at Windsor School in Christchurch),our **RISE** home learning programme for Years 3-8 students, sits alongside our compulsory homework expectations.

The **RISE** challenges will provide children with the opportunity to excel in PE and the Outdoors, Academic Excellence, Excellence in The Arts, Service in School and Community and Special Character.

There are a number of key differences between our **RISE** Challenges and traditional homework. They include:

- The children choose to participate
- Children can choose which challenges they undertake, including a ‘design your own challenge’ option within each broad category
- Children must complete one challenge from each category and then they may “major” in any area they wish
- Children may do as many challenges as they wish beyond the minimum but the emphasis is on quality not quantity.
- The programme is 80% or more home based, so you will be fully involved in the process and responsible for helping your child manage their progress
- A wide range of engaging and enjoyable challenges that involve the family and the child.
- It acknowledges many of the out-of-school learning activities children are involved in
- It reflects the unique character of our school and community
- It is learning through doing and then reflecting on the process
- It is fun, challenging, success-orientated and includes all the competencies, intelligences and learning to learn skills
- Children will be involved in the on-going review of the programme
- This learning is acknowledged, shared and celebrated

Our decision to introduce this programme resulted from our self- review of current practice against the National Curriculum. A key component of this document is the five key competencies of: thinking, relating to others, using language, symbols and text, managing self and participating and contributing.

“People use these key competencies to live, learn, work and contribute as active members of their communities... they are not stand alone. They are the key to learning in every learning area. Opportunities to develop the competencies occur in social contexts. They continue to develop over time.” NZC, P12

The structure is as follows:

Year Group Level	Challenge Name	Minimum number of challenges to be completed
Year 2	Junior RISE Matai Challenge	12 tasks
Year 3	Rimu Challenge	7
Year 4	Kahikatea Challenge	8
Year 5	Totara Challenge	9

Year 6	Pohutukawa Challenge	10
Year 7	Manuka Challenge	12
Year 8	Kauri Challenge	14

The Challenges have been designed to encourage and develop:

- Positive attitudes at school and home
- The ability to set and work towards short and long term goals
- Partnership and participation
- Risk taking with respect and responsibility
- Integrity, innovation and inquiry
- Diversity and determination
- Personal best
- Physical well being
- Academic excellence
- Excellence in the Arts
- Positive work habits
- Resilience

How it works:

- All children who successfully complete the minimum number of Challenges will be presented with a badge and certificate acknowledging their achievement. This will be presented at the school Prizegiving.
- Each child will have a Challenge clearfile to document their Challenge journey and to keep track of their progress.
- Each Challenge requires a task sheet to be completed and filed in their Challenge clearfile
- Each class has a 'sharing time' where children who have completed a specific Challenge have up to 5 minutes to share what they have done. Each class will also have a display board to share completed Challenges.
- Completed Challenges are not 'marked' by the teacher. There is no grading given. The teacher may talk with a child about what they learnt from the Challenge, what went well, what they might do differently next time, etc. The completed Challenge task sheet is signed off and filed in the Challenge clearfile. **Challenges can be signed off by teachers, coaches, dance teachers, instructors. They do not only have to be signed off by the teacher.**
- There are no consequences for children who choose not to participate in the programme

The Challenge programme will begin at the beginning of March and be completed for the year by the end of November.

Children who choose to participate in the **RISE** Challenge know that they will be challenged academically, physically and in the arts. They may be required to give to others and the community, or work as part of a team. Self-responsibility and time management skills will come into play, as will perseverance, pride and a positive attitude.

The vision of the New Zealand Curriculum for all young people is that they will be confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners. The **RISE** Challenge sits comfortably beside our school learning programme as a pathway towards achieving this vision.