

Rāpare tua toru o Here-turi-kōkā: Thursday 3 August 2017

<http://www.levinnorth.school.nz>

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## Can you answer these questions?

Why does **fitter** have two 't's but **later** only one?

Why is the 'k' sound written with a 'c' in **cattle** but a 'k' in **kettle**?

Why do the words **bridge, badge, hedge and fudge** end in 'dge' but **stage, huge and page** end in 'ge'?

The structure of written English is based on the **sounds** of the language (phonology – eg the 'b' and the 'oy' in boy), the **spelling patterns** that represent these sounds (orthography eg 'sh' 'o' 'p' spelling patterns in shop), the meaning attached to parts of words (morphology – the 'ed' in jumped, the 's' in hats) and the rules and conventions that underpin why words are written in particular ways.

**Good spellers and readers** can read and spell not only familiar words but also words they have never seen before and they tend to use all of the above without even knowing what they are using. The challenge for us as teachers is to look at the errors that our struggling spellers are using to understand which skills the child needs help to develop.

So how can you help at home? Children need to hear the language to learn it; oral language is the absolute foundation of literacy development.

Last week I talked about playing 'I spy' but this week I have some ideas to develop oral language (speaking).

**Books, books, books** – books can be used in so many ways to develop language and early literacy skills. All the evidence shows that children that have more exposure to books develop early literacy skills earlier, however it is NEVER too late!

**Sing songs and nursery rhymes** – songs and rhymes contain rhythm and rhyme, skills that help with speech and literacy development.

Make **every opportunity a language learning activity** – if it's a trip to the shops, or bath time, you can make every activity a language learning activity. Point to things, name them, or ask a question. You don't have to set aside a specific time of day to learn language; every activity is a language learning activity.

**Go forth and talk with and to your children!**

*Levin North School is a positive, caring community, which promotes lifelong learning, celebrates individuality and encourages participation and success for all.*



Cycle safety is back for our Year 5/6 students. Constable Fiona puts some of our children through their paces on our cycle track (Fundfinders project last year!) The 'in school' practice leads up to a 'ride around town' with the children learning how to be safe on the roads.



### Transition to School

Gaywyn Shippam (our learning Support Coordinator) has started regular visits to Betty Montford kindy to help smooth the transition to school for our 'newbies'. Yesterday was the first visit and as 'school' has changed so much over the past few years, we hope to be able to answer questions from our prospective families.

One thing that we are encouraging parents and families to do is to enrol at the school early as all of our staffing (employment of teachers) is based on the numbers of children enrolled. It is **so** hard to have enough teachers when we don't know who is coming! Enrolling early helps us to do a better job for your child.

### Photos – the never ending saga ...

Thank you to those families who have been so understanding in this space. We appreciate your empathy!

### Learning Conversations This Week

Another thank you to all of the families who took the time to come and celebrate their children's learning for the year to date. Our teachers find it rewarding to look back on where a child started the year and see the progress (no matter where they started or where they are now!) and we know the children are just as excited. They love to share their learning space with their families. If you haven't managed to get to see their progress this week, just let us know and we'll find another time!



Learning Conference in action in Room 12.

### An Artist in the making... having a great learning time at Levin Intermediate.

Sometimes bad news travels much faster than good news, so here is a good news story about our Intermediate... Check out Izzy (an ex North girl) developing some amazing art work!



### Scholastic Lucky Book Club

All students have been given brochures for the Lucky Book Club. If you wish to place an order, please ensure your orders are handed in to the office before next Tuesday 8 August. **Please note we can no longer accept Book Club order forms with credit card details. If you wish to pay by credit card, you must order online (see note below from Scholastic Book Club).**

**Message from Scholastic:** Two years ago, we launched LOOP – the easy way for parents to order and pay for Book Club online – as part of our mission to make things easy and less work for schools. Please note that from this Issue onwards, **all parent credit card orders must be placed via the LOOP platform**. This is the next step in reducing the paperwork and hassle for schools running Book Club. Parents can order online at [scholastic.co.nz/LOOP](http://scholastic.co.nz/LOOP), [mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz](http://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz) or via the LOOP mobile apps.

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