



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Our class has their very own website and blog!

You might be wondering 'what is a blog?' Well a blog is essentially a website or an on-line space where children can access, display and share learning/information with an authentic audience.

We can use our Blog to:

- Create an online community for our students and their parents
- Share resources and notices
- Share students work and learning (providing a real authentic audience world-wide)
- Provide up to date information on what is happening at our school.
- Integrate multimedia of all descriptions (videos, photo stories, podcasts)
- Receive feedback (we love receiving your comments and suggestions)
- Provide opportunities for students to read (posts), write (posts and comments),
- Post homework and extra learning experiences

As you can see the blog is an amazing tool that has huge potential to enhance children's learning (a blog is not a chat room). We will use our blog to share information about what is happening in our class.

Keeping our students' safe on the Internet is of importance to us. We have discussed as a class rules about being cyber safe and have created the following guidelines as a class. These are displayed in the classroom as well as on our blog. Only students who have parental permission (the signing of the "Online Publication of Students Images/Work" form are allowed to have their work, name or photo posted online. Our blog will operate in strict accordance to the above policy and to the below agreed blogging guidelines.

## Room 303's Blogging Guidelines

We will...

- Only ever use our FIRST name on the blog
- Get all posts on the blog CHECKED by Rachel before publishing
- Never put any of our PERSONAL DETAILS online - this includes phone numbers, addresses, personal email addresses or family information
- Only have our name, work or photo on the blog if we have written PARENT PERMISSION
- Only display nice PHOTOS of other people (check with them first - we don't want them to feel embarrassed)
- Be RESPONSIBLE when writing and using our class blog

We also ask that...

- Parents and adults commenting only use their FIRST name or describe themselves as "John's Mom" (for example) so they don't identify their child
- All comments on our blog are also "moderated" by Rachel first. This means she checks them and they have to be approved by her before they go onto our blog.

For more information about cyber safety visit:

<http://netsafe.org.nz/>

<http://www.inmyday.org.nz/>

The address of our blog is:

<http://mrsspinrodsclass.weebly.com>

Please feel free to visit us online and leave us some comments on our learning. We would love to have you involved and sharing in your child's education on a regular basis.

If you have any questions or concerns about the use of our class blog, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Corinne Spinrod

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