



It has been a lovely few weeks getting to know each other after such a big break. The classroom has been a haven from the heat and a (calm) hype of activity. We have jumped into our theme, maths and literacy and have had a lot of fun along the way.

We have set about getting to know each other (and ourselves) as we step into 'My Place' and write and draw all that is important to us. The kids have found many similarities and differences as well as looking at some of the important events in their lives. We are also making a timeline starting with the children and working back through our families and broader community. Be prepared to answer a few questions at home!

This week we interviewed each other to find out how many grandparents, cousins, pets and siblings we all have. We were able to compare by using objects to represent our results and will continue to represent through graphs.

This term we are also exploring shapes and numbers. Grouping shapes into their many different qualities and determining how many different ways they can be categorised is an important skill in addition and early multiplication.



In addition we have been creating city scapes and filling them with hotels and towers to help us with counting. We have been discussing even and uneven numbers, doubling, tripling and halving; and using the maths symbols more than and less than.

Sid the snake (a toy!) has made his way into our emerging literacy group and has been a great help in practicing our sounds. We have been playing lots of 'I spy' using our mural in the

bungalow and are focusing on initial SOUNDS only. We also took all the sounds from our first name and put them together to discover we are collectively known as msrsoiamnrndeglwow!



While our emerging group has been practicing our figure of eights to develop finer motor skills, the more established writers have been word searching and letter puzzling! They have also been writing about their holiday and taking a look inside their minds, describing what they see (a little bit cryptic, watch this space for more).

All this along with many wonderful moments chatting about this, that or the other!



Andy and Kimberley

An extra snippet

One of our group one families asked why Nina was in group 1 on a Friday so we thought others may have had a similar thought ‘

We invited Nina to work in group 1 on Fridays in term 1 as we did not want to bring another new face (Kimberley being a move from group 2), to the little ones. Nina is familiar. Nina works 4 days a week in Preschool and is helping us out for this term in Primary. The position ultimately belongs to Bea Heine who is on maternity leave and due back in term 2. Kimberley is a locum for this position.

Not sure if you were aware that teachers in Primary at Kinma rarely work full-time, usually maximum of 4 day weeks. The workload and commitment is huge - so we support the 4 day week.

In group 1 Andy works Monday and Tuesday off Wednesday and back Thursday and Friday. In group 1 Kimberley works Monday - Thursday off Fridays. Kimberley works in group 1 on Wednesdays as a single staff member as many children in early part of the year will not be here on the Wednesday and the afternoon is free choice (free choice is manned by all staff). Hence staff ratios are still low. This will change as numbers increase on a Wednesday. Julie C