

Kowhai Syndicate Newsletter

Term 1, 2018.

31st January 2018

Welcome to Term 1, 2018 and the start of a new school year. Hopefully, everyone has had a good break and enjoyed the wonderful weather that Wellington experienced. Like us, we hope you are all eager to begin the school year and get to know the new students who are joining us this term.

Please remember to bring a school sunhat to school each day this term and to wear sunblock to protect your skin from our intense ultra violet rays. The classrooms do not have a supply of sunblock as this can create problems with skin allergies, so you must bring your own and re-apply before play and lunchtimes.

Many students have allergies to different foods as well. So we ask you to remind your children not to share food at school.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Short and Mrs Govind to St Benedict's School. Mrs Short will be teaching in Room 9 and Mrs Govind will be teaching in Room 6. We also welcome Mr Bath to Kowhai Syndicate in Room 7. We also have some students new to the school joining us this year; Josephine Hanlon Room 6, Zac Hinds and Christopher Hanlon Room 7, Taylin Fourie and Neala Wicomb Room 8, Nickolas Vera and Beatrice Hanlon Room 9. We warmly welcome you and your families to St Benedict's school community and look forward to getting to know you all.

Kowhai Syndicate covers Year 3 to Year 6. The teachers and classrooms in our syndicate are:

Room 6	Year 3	Mrs Lata Govind
Room 7	Year 3 and 4	Mr Jared Bath (School Sports Co-ordinator)
Room 8	Year 4 and 5	Mrs Jacqui Miranda (Director of Religious Studies)
Room 9	Year 5 and 6	Mrs Clare Short
Room 10	Year 5 and 6	Mrs Cheryl Taylor (Deputy Principal/ Kowhai Syndicate Leader)

Our school values are key to everything that we do at St Benedict's. They are empathy, perseverance, integrity and creativity. We hope that through their knowledge and ability to display these values all of our students will grow into well rounded Christian citizens.

The Year 6 Camp takes place later in the term, April 4th, 5th and 6th. All year 6 students will bring home the camp information pack this week.

In the Kowhai Syndicate we focus on supporting students to become independent and self-motivated learners. Students are responsible for getting all work in on time, bringing their sports gear when needed, negotiating with their teacher solutions to issues and taking an active role in everything that is happening at school. We look forward to helping students to be the best that they can be.

Kind Regards

Lata Govind Room 6, Jared Bath Room 7, Jacqui Miranda Room 8, Clare Short R9, Cheryl Taylor Room 10.

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Homework

Please encourage your child to complete their homework and hand it in on time each week. Homework provides two things, a link to what is being covered in class and an opportunity for your child to practise the new skills being taught. We envisage that homework should take no longer than 20-30 minutes daily. This includes the reading time – which usually consists of a book brought home from class but can be a combination of books given to them in class and also books of their own choice for Year 3 and 4 students in Room 6, 7 and 8, and independent reading for Year 5 and 6 students in Rooms 8, 9 and 10.

Students should be able to complete their homework by themselves but doing it with them allows you to discuss it with them and to be involved in their learning journey. However, homework should not cause any friction at home. Along with the homework sheet most classes also have Study Ladder tasks set up each week. We welcome your feedback on the homework that your child is receiving.

Lunches

The students are supervised for the first 10 minutes of lunch to ensure that they have time to sit and eat their lunch before running off to play. We encourage students to be eating a healthy lunch each day. As an Enviro-School we encourage “nude lunches”, this means eliminating packaging and unnecessary food wraps.

As we get older and are burning up more energy we need food that will sustain us throughout the day and that will feed our brains. Snack foods don't provide this for us so please limit treats to special occasions and make sure that your child has a healthy filling lunch. By this stage of their life they should be encouraged to make their own lunch (with supervision of course). Please do not include food items that are hard to open or require heating.

Punctuality

All students are encouraged to be at school between 8:30am and 8:45am. This allows them time to get themselves set up for the day and to chat to their friends. Arriving on the bell or after the bell doesn't allow students to do this important organisation for the day. The roll is taken at 8:55am in all classrooms. Students who arrive before 8:30am should remain in the library or outside in the playground if the weather is fine. No-one is permitted to be in the classrooms or corridors outside the classrooms before 8:30am as this is important preparation time for teachers.

Uniform

Please encourage your child to wear the correct school uniform. Girls should have hair ties and bands in school colours (navy, maroon or white). Nail polish and jewellery is not to be worn to school please. It is too easy to lose precious pieces and some forms of jewellery pose a safety risk in the playground. Earrings should be **plain** studs or **sleepers** only please. Students will be asked to remove nail polish and any jewellery that is not appropriate for school wear. We thank you for your support in ensuring that St Benedict's School uniform is worn by all students correctly and with pride.

Kowhai Curriculum for Term One

Topic:

All About Me

This unit focuses on friendships and relationships. We will be highlighting the ways that we are different and have different needs. The children will be asked to bring some items that tell us about themselves to share with the class. This unit links to **Religious Education- Myself and Others, Health- Building Relationships as well as the NZ Police Kia Kaha unit and Social Science- Rights and Responsibilities.**

Let Us Go Together- Journeying to Peace and Hope in Timor-Leste

This is an inquiry unit based on the Caritas Lent Unit, it covers the curriculum areas of **Religious Education-Church, Jesus and Communion of Saints, Catholic Social Teaching Principles of Human Dignity, Solidarity, Subsidiarity and Human Good and Social Science- Belonging to groups is important.**

Mathematics

Number continues to be our major focus and this term we begin with **number knowledge, looking at fractions, place value, ordering and reading numbers.** We will also be learning about the number strategies that we can use to support us when solving problems.

Statistics will also be covered this term. Students will carry out a statistical investigation and learn how to read graphs and display their own data in an appropriate way. This is also linked to ICT.

Literacy

In Kowhai syndicate our reading and writing is closely linked to our topic study. This helps us to use our reading and writing as a learning tool. We will focus closely this term on being able to recognise the **main idea** that an author is trying to get across and in being able to get our ideas across to our audience when writing. To do this we will focus on a variety of genre but in particular biographies, research, note taking, summarising, time lines, narratives and recounts.

Te Reo

Akomanga- The Classroom –The students will learn phrases commonly used in the classroom, greetings and the names of classroom objects. Extra tasks will be included in the homework so that the students can share what they are learning with you.

Physical Education /Health

This term we are having lessons in school in Cricket and Hockey. Please make sure that your child wears their PE uniform and sports shoes to school every Thursday.

Dates to Diary

School Masses and Liturgies

Ash Wednesday Mass Wednesday 14th February 9:30 am
Stations of the Cross Thursday 29th March
Resurrection Liturgy Wednesday 4th April at 9:15 at school

Class Masses–

Rooms 3 and 8	Wednesday	21st February
Rooms 4 and 9	Wednesday	28th February
Rooms 6 and 11	Wednesday	7 th March
Rooms 5 and 10	Wednesday	14 th March
Rooms 7 and 12	Wednesday	21 st April

School Picnic –Friday 16th February at Bishop Park Eastbourne

Meet the Teacher Evening – Thursday 8th February

Year 6 Camp - Wednesday 4th April to Friday 6th April at Palm Grove Christian Camp Paraparaumu

Mission Fair – Wednesday 11th April

Our Classes Leading School Assemblies

Room 10	Monday 26 th February
Room 9	Monday 5 th March
Room 8	Monday 12 th March
Room 7	Monday 19 th March
Room 6	Monday 26 th March

Sports events this term:

Primary Schools Wellington Northern Zone Cricket Tuesday 27th February
Primary Schools Wellington Northern Zone Football Tuesday 13th March

Goal Setting Interviews:

Wednesday 28th February and Thursday 1st March

Parent Interviews Year 1-3 reporting timeline:

Wednesday 11th April and Thursday 12th April