Kowhai Syndicate Newsletter Term 2, 2018.

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Welcome back. We hope that everyone has had a good break. The Wellington weather has certainly been kind to us and we all feel well rested and ready to launch into Term 2.

A reminder that many students have allergies to different foods so, we ask you to remind your children not to share food at school.

Our school values are always a main focus for us: making them key to everything that we do. Our values are empathy, perseverance, integrity and creativity. We encourage you to discuss these with your children and encourage them to find ways that they can make them part of everyday life.

This term we begin our Swimming lessons at Keith Spry pool in Johnsonville beginning in Week 2 Thursday 10th May and finishing in Week 9 Thursday 28th June. We travel by bus to the pool and all students are expected to take part in these lessons which are part of the school curriculum. Please ensure that your child brings their swimming gear every Thursday. PE uniform should be worn on Thursdays.

Electives will begin on Friday 11th May (Week 2). If you are still to enrol in an Elective option please do so urgently by emailing the office.

We have Kapa Haka and Te Reo lessons beginning on a Friday also this term. We welcome Jo Raukawa our new Kapa Haka / Te Reo teacher to our staff. Kapa Haka will be at lunch time in the library between 1 and 1:25. Te Reo lessons alternate between each week with Year 1-4 starting in the first week of term and Year 5-8 starting in the second week. Lessons will be 30 minutes in duration.

Teachers are always happy to discuss your child's progress with you or any concerns that you may have. Trying to do this in the morning before classes begin is not always appropriate, as teachers are preparing for the day and welcoming students to class. If you have concerns or want to share anything with your child's teacher, please make a time to meet with them so that they can give you their full attention.

For consistency with our homework we have decided this year to use a generic sheet each week across year levels; Year 3-4 and Year 5-6. This means that classes at the same two year level will experience some of the same homework. We also use study ladder activities as homework tasks. These are specific to the level your child is working at and are selected to reinforce what is being taught in the individual classes. The expectation is that students will complete both the homework sheet and the study ladder activities. Homework is handed out on Fridays and is due back at school the following Thursday.

Thank you for supporting us in all that we do to create a positive learning environment for the students at St Benedict's School.

Kind Regards

Lunches

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All 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.

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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 8:50am in all classrooms. Students who arrive before 8:30am should remain outside. No-one is permitted to be in the classrooms or corridors before 8:30am as this is teacher's preparation time.

Uniform

Please encourage your child to wear their uniform with pride. 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. It is too easy to lose precious pieces and some jewellery poses 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.

Curriculum Focus for Term Two

Topic:

What is Light?

This is a Science unit focused on the Physical World. We will be learning about refraction, reflection, transparency, spectrums, rainbows and shadows. There should be a lot of hands on fun with this unit.

Animal Control Talk- Hutt City Council

As part of their education programme an animal control officer from the Hutt City Council will be visiting school to talk to the students about safety around animals. She will be at school on Tuesday 8th (Rooms 6-8) and Wednesday 9th of May (Rooms 9-10).

Mathematics

Number continues to be our major focus and this term we begin to focus on number strategies that we use to solve addition and subtraction problems. We will continue to learn our basic facts (facts to 20, doubling and halving and times tables- at the appropriate level).

There will also be a Geometry and Measurement focus across each class, these will vary across the syndicate but will include coverage of telling the time, angles, shapes, transformation, direction and location.

Literacy

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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 how an author identifies the intended **Audience and Purpose** and how the **Structure** of writing varies according to the genre. To do this we will focus on a variety of genre but in particular narratives- picture books, fairy tales, myths and legends.

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Te Reo

Lessons will be alternate Fridays in the library with Ms Jo Raukawa.

Physical Education /Health

Swimming starts this term but we will also be focusing on Cross Country and Winter Sports.

Dates to Diary

SCHOOL MASSES AND LITURGIES

Pentecost Liturgy in Library at 9:15am Monday 21st of May St Benedict's Mass Friday 6th of July 9:30 am

CLASS MASSES-

Rooms 4 and 9	Wednesday	2" of May
Rooms 5 and 10	Wednesday	9 th of May
Rooms 6 and 11	Wednesday	17 th of May
Rooms 7 and 12	Wednesday	23rd of May
Rooms 5 and 10	Wednesday	30 th of May
Rooms 4 and 9	Wednesday	6 th of June
Rooms 6 and 11	Wednesday	20 th of June

OUR CLASSES LEADING SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Room 10	Monday 11 th of June	Room 9	Monday 18 th of June
Room 8	Monday 25 th of	Room 7	Monday 2 nd of July

SPORTS

School Cross country Wednesday 23rd of May 11 am Northern Zone Cross Country Thursday 7th June Interzone Cross Country Tuesday 18th June

ICAS EXAMS (these can be subject to last minute change)

Science Tuesday 30th of May **Writing** Tuesday 12th of June

PARENT INTERVIEWS and ACTION PLAN REPORTS

Wednesday 4th July and Thursday 5th July