



Manuka Syndicate Newsletter - Term Two, 2018

Monday 30th April, 2018

Dates for your Diary



Parish Mass at St. Benedict's Church, Wednesday at 9:15 a.m.

Rooms 2 and 3: Week 9, 27th June

Room 4: Week 1, 2nd May and Week 6, 6th June

Room 5: Week 2, 9th May and Week 5, 30th May

St Benedict's Day Mass and activities: St Benedict's Church, Week 10, 6th July at 9:30 a.m.

Get Set, Go: Wednesdays Week 1 to Week 8 inclusive (Each class has their own session time. Please wear sports mufti and sports shoes to school on Wednesdays)

Welcome to the second term at St. Benedict's School. We are excited about the many opportunities it will offer your child to learn and socialise with others throughout the school.

We welcome a new teacher to our syndicate this term. Mrs Amy Miller will be teaching our latest New Entrant class in Room Two. Room Two is located on the first floor of the school and is conveniently close to our Manuka Playground.

To those families beginning their first term with us in Room Two, we wish you a very warm welcome indeed and trust that this will be the start of many wonderful experiences with our school family. We are certain that you will quickly feel at home amongst so many friendly, helpful people. Our new students are: Kayla Matuszewski, Jacob Clark, Harrison Tocker, Molly Reeves, George Foskett, Ben Gartrell and Zachary Gartrell.

Fonterra's Free Milk in Schools Programme

St. Benedict's School receives free UHT milk (long-life milk), deliveries from Fonterra and your child may well be offered a daily 200ml carton of this in their classroom. Please inform your child's teacher if you do not wish your child to receive this milk.

Winter School Uniform

Term Two marks the time to wear the St. Benedict's winter uniform. We expect all students to wear the correct uniform with pride. Please ensure boys wear the navy blue winter shorts and long-sleeved maroon shirt, long navy blue socks with the maroon strips at the top and black shoes. Girls should be wearing the school tunic with a long-sleeved white shirt beneath, and either navy tights or white ankle socks with black shoes. Please ensure any leggings or under-shorts are not visible. Hair ties and clips should be in the school colours of black, navy blue or maroon and for safety reasons, stud earrings and watches are the only jewellery permitted. There is a navy wool school jersey for both the boys and girls, although this is often not worn in our heated classrooms.

Please visit the school office if you wish to purchase any uniform items or have any queries about the school uniform.

Sunhats

In the cooler months of Term Two, it is no longer compulsory to wear the school's sunhat at school. You might however prefer your child to wear one during break times and outdoor sports. If this is the case, it can be left at school inside your child's schoolbag, chairbag or on their bag hook. Please ensure that it is clearly named. A school uniform beanie can be purchased from the school office to keep heads warm.

Timely Arrival at School

Students are allowed into their classrooms at 8:30 a.m. Before that time, they may wait quietly in the school library or outside the school buildings. We request that all students are ready to begin classes by 8:50 a.m. The school roll is taken at 8:50 a.m. and students arriving after the roll is taken will be recorded as late. Late arrivals disrupt both students and teachers.

Weekly Homework

Homework is a valuable window into what your child is learning at school. It should require minimal adult input and should take no longer than 15 minutes each night. Homework books are sent home each Friday unless otherwise notified, and should be handed in for marking by the following Thursday at the latest.

Reading books will be found in bookbags and should be read daily by your child. Their purpose is to practise and enjoy reading at a non-challenging level of difficulty.

Term Two's Curriculum and Events

School Reports and Parent Interviews

Most of the students in our syndicate will receive a written school report at the end of the term, with the opportunity for an accompanying teacher-parent interview on either the 4th or 5th of July. The exception will be students not yet five-and-a-half years of age by the end of the term: the parents of these children will be invited to a parent-teacher conference after approximately six weeks of their child attending school. As the end of term approaches, those parents receiving reports will be notified as such by E-mail.

Electives

The school's Electives programme will run each Friday from Week Two to Week Ten (nine sessions), from 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Electives are a great opportunity to practise new skills in a supportive environment and with students from different classes and age-groups. It is sure to be a highlight of your child's term.

If you are still to register your child's elective, please do so urgently through the school office.

Get Set, Go on Wednesdays

Get Set, Go is the term's sporting focus and is an excellent programme run by a Kelly Sports coach. It practises the fundamental physical and social skills necessary for a range of sports, and class sessions will be held each Wednesday for eight weeks, beginning in Week One. **Your child should come to school on Wednesdays wearing**

sports mufti and sports shoes. Please dress your child according to the weather conditions. If it is cold, their legs should be covered and they will need a warm sweatshirt or polar fleece.

Syndicate Assemblies

A Syndicate Assembly is held each Friday and is an opportunity for us to sing together, share our achievements including students demonstrating our school values (Empathy, Perseverance, Integrity and Creativity), show our class work, and focus on our topic study through stories and other presentations.

Epic Eddie and Epic Edwina are two awards given to classes showing our EPIC values in a particular week. These awards are presented during our Monday school-wide assembly.

Te Reo Classes

Every second Friday afternoon beginning in Week One, the syndicate will receive instruction in Te Reo from a visiting teacher. The skills and knowledge that we gather from her, will be further practised within our classrooms.

Religious Education

We begin the term's Religious Education lessons with a study of the Holy Spirit. We explore some symbols that represent the Holy Spirit and learn about how God's Spirit changed individuals' lives.

After Pentecost, our focus will be on Jesus, his early life, and how He reveals the nature of God.

We welcome families joining us for morning prayers. The students value your presence. Thank you for arriving on time before 8:50 a.m. and supporting this reflective beginning to our school day.

Social Science, Science and English

We begin the term with the study of pets and ways we can meet their needs. The unit will include visits from a local vet, the Hutt City Council (talking to us about animal control), and a member of the Wellington S.P.C.A.

In the second half of the term, we will practise thinking like a scientist in the unit *Fizz, Bang, Pop!* We will hypothesise about, conduct and evaluate a number of experiments from various branches of Science.

The English curriculum focus is *The Purpose of Writing* and we will explore the purpose of our own and other authors' writings. Related activities will vary from class to class, but will link with our Social Science and Science studies wherever possible, and could include the reading and writing of experiments, instructions, explanations and diagrams.

Mathematics

Number Knowledge and *Number Strategies* will remain the focus for the term. The students will continue to develop their counting, grouping and equal sharing strategies, addition and subtraction. In the *Geometry* strand they will study geometrical shapes

and how these can be transformed by, for example, rotation and reflection.

Thank you for your support as we teach your children. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

**Amy Miller - Room 2, Sarah Wood - Room 3, Fiona Barnett - Room 4,
Charmaine McGowan - Room 5, Anne Minto - Syndicate Leader**