

Kowhai Syndicate Newsletter

Term 1, 2019

30th January 2019

Welcome to Term 1, 2019 and the start of a new and exciting school year. We hope that everyone has had a good break and enjoyed the wonderful Wellington weather. We hope you are all eager to begin the school year and get to know the new students who are joining us this term, just as we are.

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.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Nicole Simson to St Benedict's School and Kowhai syndicate. Miss Simson will be teaching in Room 6 one of our Year 3/4 classes. We also have some students new to the school joining us this year; Room 6 Emma Nguyen, Chloe Park, Jee-Woo Ahn, Gracie Foley, Addyson Hall, Louie Blackwood-Newson and Hima Prince; Room 7 Sasha Hutton; Room 8 Cleopatra Gazely; Room 9 Irene Prince. We warmly welcome you and your families to the 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 and 4	Miss Nicole Simson
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 (Literacy Leader)
Room 10	Year 5 and 6	Mrs Cheryl Taylor (Deputy Principal/ Kowhai Syndicate Leader)

Part time teachers	Mrs Anne-Marie Cassidy (ESOL teacher and Rm 10)
	Mrs Molly Kelly (DRS Release Rm 8, Sports Release Rm 7)
	Mrs Mary Ryan (Release Room 6)

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, March 27th, 28th and 29th. 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.

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 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

Many students have allergies to different foods as well. So we ask you to remind your children not to share food at school. Children get very hungry during the school day and need good healthy food to nourish them and feed their brain. They also need to drink plenty of water. Please ensure that your child/ children have plenty of healthy food items in their lunchbox and a drink bottle.

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.

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:

What's in My Kete?

This unit focuses on what makes us unique, developing friendships and positive 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- Understanding rights and responsibilities and healthy relationships, Social Science- Rights and Responsibilities and the Treaty of Waitangi and Te Reo our mihi- communicate personal information.**

Caritas Lent Unit - Peace love and life, Hope and Challenges in South Sudan

This is an inquiry unit based on the Caritas Lent Unit, it covers the curriculum areas of **Religious Education-Church, God and liturgical year Lent, Catholic Social Teaching Principles of Human Dignity, Solidarity, Subsidiarity and Human Good, Social Science- People have social and cultural rights and responsibilities and Science- All living things have certain requirements and needs.**

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- Ko au (I, me, myself)

Linked to the "What's in my kete?" unit. They will learn to introduce themselves and others and communicate personal information such as hair and eye colour, likes and dislikes etc.

Physical Education /Health

This term we are having lessons in school in Cricket and Aussie Rules. Please make sure that your child wears their PE uniform and sports shoes to school on their sports days. Teachers will advise students which days they need their sports uniform. This will be included on the Homework sheet to remind them.

Dates to Diary

School Masses and Liturgies

Beginning of Year Mass Wednesday 13th February 9:30 am at Church.

Ash Wednesday Mass Wednesday 6th March 9:30 am

Stations of the Cross Friday 12th April

School Picnic – Friday 8th February at Bishop Park Eastbourne

Meet the Teacher Evening – Thursday 31st January

Year 6 Camp – Wednesday 27th March to Friday 29th March

Capital E film festival Wednesday 13th March Year 3/4 and Thursday 14th Year 5/6

Mission Fair – Wednesday 10th April

Our Classes Leading School Assemblies

Room 10 Monday 25th February

Room 9 Monday 4th March

Room 8 Monday 11th March

Room 7 Monday 18th March

Room 6 Monday 25th March

Sports events this term:

Primary Schools Wellington Northern Zone Cricket Tuesday 26th February

Primary Schools Wellington Northern Zone Football Tuesday 12th March

Primary Schools Wellington Futsal Year 5,6,7 and 8 Tuesday 2nd April,

Year 3 and 4 Thursday 4th April

Goal Setting Interviews:

Wednesday 20th February and Thursday 21st February