



Manuka Syndicate Newsletter - Term 1, 2019

Wednesday 30th January, 2019

Wishing you all a warm welcome to the Manuka Syndicate at St. Benedict's School and a very happy and successful school year. We hope that you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break.

We welcome our new students Alex Oakenfall, Sadie Kinikinilau, Winston O'Brien, Cohen Powlesland, Tallulah Going and Daisy Gazely to our school and Manuka Syndicate. We hope you quickly feel a part of our school. Please don't hesitate to approach the syndicate teachers with questions or concerns. Equally so, you will find Coralie and Emma, the office staff, most knowledgeable and helpful.

Our syndicate, which comprises of New Entrant to Year 2 classes, begins the year with the New Entrants and Year 1's downstairs in two rooms, and the two Year 2 classes upstairs near the school office. Later in the year we will open a third New Entrant - Year 1 classroom. The Manuka teachers and their rooms are:

Room 1	New Entrants / Year 1	Anne Minto
Room 2	Year 1	Charmaine McGowan
Room 3	Year 2	Fiona Barnett
Room 4	Year 2	Lata Govind


We are very fortunate to have Sarah Wood providing teacher release for these classes throughout the year, and warmly welcome Siobhan Douglas as a teacher aide in our syndicate.

School Sunhats

Please provide your child with a named school uniform sunhat. These can be purchased through the school office. During Terms 1 and 4 the school has a "No hat, no play" policy, whereby those not wearing a hat remain in a shaded area. Sunhats can be safely left on classroom bag hooks, in chairbags or in schoolbags.

Sunscreen

We encourage our students to arrive at school wearing sunscreen. This helps protect them from the sun.



Dates to Diary

Meet the Teacher Evening: Thursday 31st January, 7:00pm in the school library

School Picnic: Friday 8th February
Postponement date: 15th February

Beginning of the Year Mass: Wednesday 13th February, 9:30am

Ash Wednesday Liturgy: Wednesday 6th March

Manuka Festival of the Arts Day: Tuesday 19th March

Manuka Athletics: Tuesday 26th March, Nairnville. 9:30-1:00pm. Postponement date: 28th March

Water

Please ensure your child has a large bottle of water to drink from throughout the school day. We encourage our classes to drink regularly during the warmer weather to remain hydrated.

Our classrooms are air-conditioned and so pleasant to be in during the summer months. We are confident that with sunhats, plenty of water and sunscreen, our students will be sun-smart this term.

Lunches

Lunches containing such nutritious foods as sandwiches, yoghurt and fruit are encouraged, because they provide the fuel and nutrients for play and learning. We encourage our students to take home food packaging (with the exception of a potential mess such as yoghurt!).

School Uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school proudly wearing one of our summer uniform options. Students may wear navy blue leggings or shorts beneath the dress, however these must be shorter than the dress.

Any hair ties, clips or headbands must be worn in the school colours of navy, black, maroon or white. For safety reasons, earrings should be plain studs. Other jewellery including necklaces and bracelets should not be worn, as these are potentially hazardous; particularly during playtimes and sport. Please talk to your child's teacher or the office staff if you have any questions or concerns regarding the uniform.

Absences

Please notify the school office either by e-mail or phone as soon as you know that your child will be absent from school.

Morning Prayers

Each day begins with Morning Prayers. The students love having their families present, however we ask that if pre-schoolers attend, they are closely supervised and as quiet as possible.

Sport

This term we will enjoy KiwiKick (AFL), and athletics. A Manuka Athletics morning is booked at Nairnville Park in Week 9 (Tuesday 26th March), with a postponement date of Thursday 28th March. You will receive further information about this nearer the event.

KiwiKick lessons begin in Week 4 and conclude in Week 10. They are run each Wednesday, weather dependent. There is no lesson in Week 6 (6th March). Your child should wear sports mufti and sports shoes to school on Wednesdays regardless of the weather.

School Picnic

The school picnic is planned for Friday 8th February and families are most welcome to attend this fun event at Eastbourne's beach, park and pool. We always have a sand-creation competition and your child can bring along a named spade, bucket and/or non-precious 'decorations' to contribute to their group creation.

Topics Covered this Term

Religious Education and The Arts

We begin the year by looking at ourselves and what makes us special, and how we can positively interact with others. We then join the rest of the school in a Caritas study of *Hope and Challenges: South Sudan*. Caritas is the Catholic agency for justice, peace and development and they have provided us with an outstanding unit that explores life in Sudan with its similarities and differences to our own. We will study Caritas' work in South Sudan and how we can help.

On Tuesday 19th March we will spend a day enjoying three Festival of the Arts performances in Wellington City. A request for parent help with this event will be emailed nearer the time.

English: Ideas Strand

The term's English focus is on how authors convey their ideas visually and in writing. Being authors themselves, our students will practise delivering their ideas visually and in writing, and identifying the main ideas found in shared books.

Mathematics

The main emphasis in Mathematics will be *Number Knowledge*. We will practise reading, sequencing, adding and subtracting numbers. Additionally, we will explore the *Statistics* strand: learning how to gather, analyse and present information as charts and graphs.

Te Reo

The syndicate will practise simple greetings and Year 2 will learn how to introduce themselves. Simple classroom vocabulary will be gradually introduced over the term. The syndicate will receive some instruction from specialist Te Reo teachers.

ICT

The children will become familiar with the basic operations of laptops and i-Pads, which they use in our literacy and mathematics programmes. They will practise simple coding in accordance with the new Digital Technology curriculum.

Daily Fitness

Weather permitting, the syndicate will enjoy fitness and skill-development exercise with their teacher each day. These sessions will in part focus on preparation for our Manuka Athletics at Nairnville in Week 9. Sunhats will be worn.

Homework

Homework begins in Week 3 and is sent home each Friday. Please ensure that homework is at school and ready for marking by Thursday, so that it can be marked and the following week's homework given. Homework activities differ from class to class and your child's teacher will inform you of these. Please contact your child's teacher if homework is not done.

We wish you and your children a very happy and productive term.

**Anne Minto (Room 1), Charmaine McGowan (Room 2), Fiona Barnett (Room 3)
Lata Govind (Room 4) and Sarah Wood (Non-Class Based Teacher)**