

Kowhai Syndicate Newsletter

Term 2, 2019

Monday 29th April 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back for the start of Term 2, 2019. We hope that everyone has had a good break and enjoyed the wonderful Easter weather and family time together.

Winter uniform is worn this term: please remember to wear it with pride. Plain stud or sleeper earrings only, hair ties in school colours and always bring a jacket to school as the weather is less predictable in winter.

We strive to display our school values in all that we do: empathy, perseverance, integrity and creativity should be foremost in our actions and interactions with others.

In the Kowhai Syndicate we focus on supporting students to become independent and self-motivated learners. Learners who are able to work well with others and look after school resources. Students are responsible for getting all of their 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

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. Please encourage your child to complete their homework and hand it in on time each week.

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.

ICAS examinations

These take place in term 3 this year. They are all over a two week period. There will be further notice of these and the opportunity to sign up coming out soon.

With kind regards,

Nicole Simson (Room 6), Jared Bath (Room 7), Jacqui Miranda (Room 8), Clare Short (Room 9), Mary Ryan, Anne-Marie Cassidy and Molly Kelly (Release Teachers), and Cheryl Taylor (Room 10, Deputy Principal and Kowhai Syndicate Leader).

Kowhai Curriculum for Term Two

Topic: Nourishing Our Bodies

This is primarily a **health** and **science** unit looking at healthy eating and scientific reactions with food substances. It covers the Nature of Science, Material World, Personal Growth and Development and Technological Practices and Knowledge. It also links to kai, Matariki and harvesting in Te Reo as well as the Church strand in Religious Education with the Eucharist and Community.

Religious Education

We begin with the liturgical year; The Ascension and then Pentecost. After that we move into our unit on **Grace- Mary the Perfect Disciple**. This is a focus on receiving God's grace and how Mary is the perfect example of this. It particularly links to the Communion of Saints, Sacrament and Church strands in Religious Education.

Mathematics

Number continues to be our major focus and this term we begin work through the strategies that we can use to add and subtract numbers. We also continue to focus heavily on consolidating our **number knowledge, fractions, place value, ordering and reading numbers**. Practice with this at home will greatly support your child. Our study ladder tasks are set up to provide reinforcement in these areas.

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 **audience and purpose as well as the structure of writing**. We will focus on a variety of genre but in particular Visual poster, reports, brochures, narratives, picture books, explanation writing, poetry, labels and procedures.

Te Reo- Kai

Linked to the Nourishing our bodies unit. Looking at food, harvesting, the seasons and Matariki.

Physical Education / Health

This term we have **Cross Country** and **Swimming**. Please make sure that your child wears the correct PE uniform and sports shoes to school on their sports days. Teachers will advise students which days they need their sports uniform. Swimming lessons take place on Thursdays at Keith Spry Pool. Togs (a one piece), towel and goggles inside a change bag are required. A reminder will be included on the Homework sheet about this.

Dates to Diary

School Masses

St Benedict's Day Mass – Friday 5th July

Our Classes Leading School Assemblies

Room 10 Tuesday 4th June

Room 9 Monday 10th June

Room 8 Monday 17th June

Room 7 Monday 24th June

Room 6 Monday 1st July

Parent Interviews:

Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th June

Sports events this term:

Northern Zone Cross Country Thursday 6th June

Interzone Cross Country Tuesday 18th June

Swimming lessons – Thursdays (Weeks 2-9)

For further dates that pop up during the term please look at the school calendar in the newsletter, the school's website or the class homework sheet for reminders.