

Kowhai Syndicate Newsletter Term 1, 2020

Wednesday 29th January 2020

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to Term 1, 2020 and the start of a new and exciting school year. We hope that everyone has had a good break. We also hope that 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.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Grice (nee Higgins) back to St Benedict's School and Kowhai syndicate. Mrs Grice will be teaching in Room 7, our Year 4 class. We also have some students new to the school joining us this year in Room 7: Daniel Morales, Izzy Henry, Mia Robbins and Eden Robbins. Room 8: Timmy Henry. Room 9: Melanie Robinson, Annabelle Walker, Dominic Khoo and Joelle Bebawy. We warmly welcome you and your families to 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 5	Year 3	Miss Nicole Simson
Room 6	Year 3	Mr Jared Bath
Room 7	Year 4	Mrs Gillian Grice (CoL in-school lead teacher)
Room 8	Year 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/SENCO/Syndicate Leader)
Part-Time Teachers:		Mrs Molly Kelly (Room 8 DRS release, ESOL Release Room 7, School Production Co-ordinator)
		Miss Fiona Bolger (Room 10 Deputy Principal release)
		Mrs Mary Ryan (Room 5 release)

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, February 26th, 27^h and 28th. 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.

We are very excited to have 6 classes in Kowhai syndicate this year. This has allowed for a better split of the class levels across classes. Being able to have 3 classes at the Year 3/4 level and 3 classes at the Year 5/6 level means that we can do lots of cross grouping between classes, better meeting the needs of our students both academically and socially. We will also be taking every opportunity to have the students working co-operatively across year levels to support the development of friendships and the ability to work with a variety of people.

We are very keen to reinstate our Math-magician sessions this year. This is where we ability group across the syndicate to provide extension opportunities to some and support to others. This has always been a popular event with the students and teachers in past years.

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 5,6 and 7 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. Study Ladder homework tasks set up each week along with this a weekly notice will be sent home to provide you with information regarding upcoming events along with spelling words to practice for the weekly test.

From time to time there will be other homework sent home. Please encourage your child to bring their homework book in each Thursday.

If a student is unable to complete set homework for any reason, a note from the parents is always appreciated.

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.

Arriving at School

For reasons of Health and Safety (e.g. not being supervised), **students are not permitted on the school's grounds before 8:00am daily**. After this time students can read quietly in the school's library (unsupervised). The 8:30am bell signals the option to enter the corridors and classrooms in order to unpack and prepare for daily lessons.

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.

Reminder: We're a Sunsmart School

As a Sun-Smart School St Benedict's:

- Requires all students to wear a school sunhat which shades the face, neck and ears whenever the students are outside and involved in school activities during Terms 1&4.
- Encourages students to protect themselves with sunscreen during school trips and recommends students bringing their own sunscreen to reapply during the day.
- Encourages students to wear clothing that protects their skin when they are on school trips and are exposed to the sun for extended lengths of time e.g. sports days or picnics. (White would be the preferred colour of long sleeve tops under the sports top.)
- Encourages parents and teachers to follow the above and be positive role models when participating in school activities.
- For school picnic and camps only – encourages students to wear swimsuits that cover as much as possible when swimming outdoors e.g. long sleeve rash tops.

School Picnic Information - Bishop Park, Eastbourne. Friday 14th February 2020

Please refer to today's whole-school newsletter for all the information about this year's annual school picnic.

We are really looking forward to working with you all this year. If there is anything that you would like to discuss please let us know. We don't always have time in the morning to have in-depth conversations but are always willing to make a suitable time to meet with you. It is by working together that we grow in strength as a school community.

Ngā mihi nui (Regards)

Nicole Simson Room 5, Jared Bath Room 6, Gillian Grice Room 7, Jacqui Miranda Room 8, Clare Short Room 9, Cheryl Taylor Room 10 and part time teachers Molly Kelly, Fiona Bolger and Mary Ryan.

Kowhai Curriculum for Term One

Topic:

What's in My Kete (my basket of knowledge)?

*This unit focuses on what makes us unique and developing friendships and positive relationships. We will be highlighting the ways that we are different and have different needs. The children may 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*, Te Reo (our mihi) *communicate personal information, as well as the NZ Police Kia Kaha unit.**

Caritas Lent Unit -

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

We are still in the process of negotiating in school lessons for Physical Education: the Football sessions that had been planned have fallen through. As soon as the sport being focused on this term is confirmed we will let you know. At this stage Kowhai Syndicate are having lessons on Tuesdays for Room 5-7 and Thursdays for Rooms 8-10. Students should wear their PE Uniform on those days.

Dates to Diary

School Masses and Liturgies

Beginning of Year / Ash Wednesday Mass Wednesday 26th February 9:30 am
Stations of the Cross Friday 12th April

School Picnic –Friday 14th of February at Bishop Park Eastbourne

Meet the Teacher Evening – Thursday 31st of January

Year 6 Camp - Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th of February 2020

Mission Fair – Wednesday 8th of April

Our Classes Leading School Assemblies

Room 10 Monday 24th of February, Room 8 Monday 2nd of March, Room 9 Monday 9th of March.
Room 7 Monday 16th of March, Room 6 Monday 23rd of March and Room 5 Monday 30th of March

Goal Setting Interviews:

Wednesday 19th of February and Thursday 20th February

Buddy class Masses:

Rooms 2&8 and 3&9 Tuesday 11th of February

Rooms 4&10 and 5&11 Tuesday 10th of March

Rooms 6&12 and 7&13 Tuesday 24th of March