



# Manuka Syndicate Newsletter - Term 1, 2020

Wednesday 29th January, 2020

## Dear Parents and Caregivers

We would like to wish you all a warm welcome to the Manuka Syndicate at St. Benedict's School and an enjoyable and successful school year. We hope that you had a happy and relaxing Christmas break.

We welcome our new students to our school and the syndicate. We hope you quickly feel a part of our school family. 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 the New Entrant to Year 2 classes in the school, begins the year with one New Entrant - Year 1 class downstairs in Room 2, and two Year 2 classes upstairs near the school office. Later in the year we will open a second New Entrant classroom. In Term 1 the Manuka teachers and their rooms are:

Room 2:	New Entrants - Year 1	Charmaine McGowan
Room 3:	Year 2	Fiona Barnett
Room 4:	Year 2	Sarah Wood

Anne Minto will provide teacher release for the syndicate until the second New Entrant class opens, and Siobhan Douglas will be our teacher aide.

## Parents as Partners

Your child's education depends not only on what they learn and experience at school, but also on how you support these learning experiences at home. Children who are supported particularly as they learn how to read, but also in other homework tasks, will experience greater success than those who don't. Your child's education is a joint effort between home and school. We are proactive in approaching you with any matters concerning your child and invite you to be as open in sharing any matters with us. In addition to the set school parent-teacher meetings that are held across the school year, we can be contacted via e-mail or in person before or after school. We invite you to join your child's teacher in an initial goal-setting interview in Week 4 of the term.



## Dates to Diary

**Meet the Teacher Evening:** Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 6-7pm

**School Picnic:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Bishop Park, Eastbourne

**Beginning of the Year / Ash Wednesday Mass:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

**Goal Setting Interviews:** Tuesday and Wednesday, 19-20<sup>th</sup> February

## **Behaviour Expectations**

We ask that you join us in setting high expectations for your child's behaviour at our school. St. Benedict's School teaches the gospel values and we expect your child to uphold our school E.P.I.C culture: Empathy, Perseverance, Integrity and Creativity within our classrooms and during school breaks. Please discuss these expectations with your child and ensure that they know what they mean in practice. If there is an occasion when your child needs reminding of these values in terms of their behaviour, we anticipate that you will support us in doing so.

## **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.

## **Homework**

Our Homework Guidelines state that each teacher is responsible for setting homework which should reflect current work in the classroom. Homework time in the Manuka Syndicate should be no more than 15 minutes per day. Reading practise is a common component across the syndicate classrooms and additional homework tasks are an opportunity to share and consolidate new skills with parents.

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

## **Early Morning Arrivals**

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.

## **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.

Sunhats can be safely left on classroom bag hooks, in chairbags or in schoolbags.

## **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.

### **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.

### **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.

## **Topics Covered this Term**

### **Religious Education and The Arts**

Over the course of the term we will be looking at ourselves and what makes us special, and how we can positively interact with others in the classroom and playground. We will discuss our emotions and determine some positive strategies for resolving conflict.

### **Religious Education and Social Science**

Our Religious Education / Social Science unit *Caritas: Holy Land, Timor-Leste, Kiribati*, produced by the Catholic Church, will focus on three countries and their specific needs. We will learn how certain communities are managing in their local environments within these countries, and some practical ways in which they can improve their standards of living. The unit will cumulate in a school-wide 'Mission Fair': a school fundraiser to help these people.

### **English: Ideas Strand**

The term's English focus is on how authors convey their ideas visually and in writing. As authors, our students will practise delivering their ideas visually and in writing, and identifying the main ideas found within the stories they hear.

### **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.

### **ICT**

The children will become familiar with the basic operations of laptops and iPads, 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. Sunhats will be worn.

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

**Charmaine McGowan (Room 2), Fiona Barnett (Room 3), Sarah Wood (Room 4) and Anne Minto (Syndicate Leader and Room 1 Teacher, commencing Term 2).**