



Manuka Syndicate Newsletter - Term 1, 2021

Thursday 4th February, 2021

Haere mai, welcome to a new year at St Benedict's School and particularly, a very warm welcome to Manuka Syndicate! This syndicate spans the New Entrant to Year 2 class levels and begins the year with 3 classrooms.

We are delighted to have the following students and their families join our syndicate this year:
Ollie Lowe, Malia Lowe, Ben Malloy, George Treder, Robbie Varghese, Willow Krievs and Beau King in Room 2, Alex Newby in Room 4 and Thomas Radich in Room 3. We know that our parent community will reach out to you as friends and please don't hesitate to approach us with questions or concerns. You will also find Coralie and Emma, the school office staff, most knowledgeable and helpful, particularly regarding our uniform.

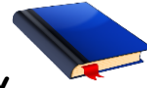
Our syndicate spans two levels of the school. On the ground floor you will find the first of our Year 1 classes with teacher Anne Minto in Room 2. On the Main-entrance level, you will find our second Year 1 class in Room 3 with teacher Sarah Wood, and next door to her in Room 4, teacher Fiona Barnett with her Year 2 class. A New Entrant class will open next to Room 2 later in the year.

We are very fortunate to have Charmaine McGowan providing teacher release for our classes this year, and to have Siobhan Douglas and Mary Ann Mulqueen as our teacher aides. All are very experienced members of our staff and are well used to working in our syndicate.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school proudly wearing one of our summer uniform options. Note that the footwear for both boys and girls is either black shoes or black sandals. Shoes are worn with a summer-weight blue ankle sock with maroon trim. Trousers can be worn with either summer or winter socks. Students may wear school-coloured leggings or shorts beneath a dress, however these must be shorter than the dress. A school sweatshirt is an alternative to the woollen jersey.

Any hair ties, clips or headbands must be worn in the school colours of blue, black, maroon or white.



Dates to Diary

Beginning of the Year and Ash Wednesday

Mass: Wednesday 17th February, 9:30am

Lent Reconciliation: Tuesday 9th March, 11:15am

Stations of the Cross Mass: Thursday 1st April, 11:15am

Rooms 2,3,4 and their buddy classes church mass: Tuesday 2nd March, 9:15

Parent Information Evening: Tuesday 16th February, 6:00-7:30pm

Goal-Setting Interviews: Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th February, 2:00-6:00pm

School Picnic: Friday 12th February, Bishop Park, Eastbourne. Postponement date: 19th February

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 our uniform.

School Sunhats

Please provide your child with a clearly 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.

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

Students are supervised for the first 10 minutes of lunch to ensure that they take the time to eat and drink before running off to play. 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!). We would greatly appreciate you reminding your children not to share food at school as we have a number of students with food allergies.

Absences

Please notify the school office either by e-mail or phone as soon as you know that your child will be late or absent from school. Students arriving late to school must check in at the office on arrival. Students leaving school during the school day, must likewise check out at the office upon departure.

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 a *Run, Jump Throw* programme run by Kelly Sports coaches, and athletics. A Manuka Athletics morning will be held toward the end of the term and you will receive further information about this nearer the time.

The *Run, Jump, Throw* lessons begin in Week 2 and continue for each Tuesday up to and including the 23rd of March. There will be a final session on Tuesday 13th April. Each session will focus on developing the athletic skills of running, jumping and throwing. Your child should wear sports mufti and sports shoes to school on the Tuesdays that we have *Run, Jump, Throw*, regardless of the weather.

School Picnic

The school picnic is planned for Friday 12th February and families are most welcome to attend this fun event at Eastbourne's beach, park and pool. We always have a 'sand-castle' competition and your child can bring along a named spade, bucket and non-precious 'decorations' to contribute to their group's creation.

Topics Covered this Term

Religious Education and The Arts

We begin the year by looking at ourselves and what makes us special, and strategies to help us positively interact with others in our homes and school. We also join the rest of the school in a Caritas Lent study: *A New Way Forward*. Caritas is the Catholic agency for world justice, peace and development. The organisation has provided us with outstanding resources that will allow us to understand the living conditions of various communities across the globe, and practical ways in which we can contribute to their wellbeing. To complement our term's studies, we have a puppet show booked called *Rainbows and Fishes*. It will be presented by Little Dog Barking on Thursday 25th February. The focus of the show is friendship.

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. We are very fortunate to receive specialist lessons from Whaea Adrienne our te Reo teacher, and also optional weekly kapa haka lessons from Matua Hemi.

Music

We have a specialist music teacher in our classes each Friday this term. Rebecca Haswell will teach us the fundamentals of music and our students will love using our school instruments!

ICT

Over the term our students will become familiar with the basic operations of our classroom i-Pads and will be introduced to some of their apps. They will practise simple coding in accordance with New Zealand's Digital Technology curriculum.

Daily Fitness

Weather permitting, the syndicate will enjoy daily fitness and skill-development exercise with their

teacher. These sessions will sometimes focus on preparing for our Manuka Athletics at Nairnville later in the term. Sunhats will need to 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, however reading homework is always the primary focus in our syndicate. If a student is unable to complete set homework for any reason, a note from the parents is always appreciated.

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

Ngā mihi, kind regards,

Anne Minto (Room 2), Sarah Wood (Room 3), Fiona Barnett (Room 4) and Charmaine McGowan (Part Time Release Teacher) - Your Manuka Syndicate Teachers.