

Kōwhai Syndicate Newsletter - Term 2, 2021

Monday 3rd May 2021,

Nau mai, haere mai e te whanau, welcome to Term 2, 2021. We hope that everyone has had a good break.

We warmly welcome to Room 9, Kathryn Mostert and her family. We look forward to getting to know you and your family, welcome to the St Benedict's School community.

Kōwhai 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 3/4	Mrs Clare Short (Literacy Leader)
Room 7	Year 4	Mr Bath
Room 8	Year 4/5	Mrs Jacqui Miranda (Director of Religious Studies)
Room 9	Year 5 and 6	Mr Michael Havell
Room 10	Year 6	Mrs Cheryl Taylor (Deputy Principal/SENCO/Syndicate Leader)

Part-Time Teachers: Miss Fiona Bolger (Room 9 release, Room 10 Deputy Principal release)

Mrs Mary Ryan (Room 5 and 6 release)

Ms Shauna McCoole (Room 8 DRS release, Room 6 release)

Our school's values are key to everything that we do at St Benedict's. We hope that through their knowledge and ability to display these values our students will grow into well-rounded Christian citizens.

In Kōwhai 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 the students develop further a sense of autonomy while nurturing the holistic develop of the child.

Also, in Kōwhai syndicate we take opportunities 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. To continue to develop our Teina Tuakana model of buddy systems within the syndicate (as well as across the school) we will be having whole syndicate assemblies every second week and on alternate weeks our Teina Rooms 5-7 and Tuakana Rooms 8-10 assemblies.

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 a **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 are set up each week and spelling words are given to practice for their weekly spelling test. Along with this a weekly notice will be sent out to provide you with information regarding upcoming events. From time to time there will be other homework sent home.

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. We ask you to remind your children not to share food at school. Students 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(ren) has 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 as we do not have the capability to tend to this.

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 8:50am 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 (black, 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.

Ngā mihi nui (Regards)

Nicole Simson Room 5, Clare Short Room 6, Jared Bath Room 7, Jacqui Miranda Room 8, Michael Havell Room 9, Cheryl Taylor Room 10 and part time teachers Fiona Bolger, Mary Ryan and Shauna McCooile

Kōwhai Curriculum for Term Two

Religious Education:

The Holy Spirit and Pentecost

The students will focus on developing an understanding that the Holy Spirit is God and part of the Trinity. The journey will begin with understanding how through our Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit is withing us all. That after Jesus ascended into Heaven at Pentecost the Holy Spirit was sent to be with us. We will also cover the Ascension and Trinity Sunday as part of this unit.

Topic:

Science: How do magnets exert forces?

This unit focuses on the physical world of Science as well as the Nature of Science. Exploring magnets is always fun and the students will receive a lot of opportunities to build their knowledge through the exploration of magnets and magnetic forces.

Enrichment: Meet the Locals

This year we are running an Enrichment programme (in place of the old electives programme). Our aim is to engage our students in a variety of opportunities that will see them both get in touch with our local community and the history behind our area. It will also allow them to explore significant resources in the wider Wellington area. Places important to our history as New Zealanders. This unit has a Social Studies focus and links to the new curriculum focus on NZ History which will be mandated in 2022.

We are planning outings and visits to significant spots within our local Khandallah area and wider Wellington. One being a trip to Government House on Tuesday 1st June for Rooms 5-8 and Tuesday 8th June for Rooms 9 and 10. We also have representatives from Government House coming to school to do a pre-visit talk with the students on Wednesday 26th May. We are also planning a trip to Otari Wilton bush to explore plant species that are unique to New Zealand.

As well as trips outside of school we would like to invite people from our community some into school to share their talents with us. If you have a special talent or skill that you could share with us or know of someone in the community who could spend a day working with us and the students, please let us know.

This unit will link to our **Te Reo** lessons, learning the correct Māori names for our local resources.

Mathematics

Number continues to be our major focus and this term we begin with **number strategies** such as place value partitioning, making tens, tidy numbers, jumping along the number line, rounding and compensating, doubling and halving etc. and how to select the most appropriate strategy to solve a number problem.

Measurement will be another focus with most classes beginning with learning about analogue and digital time. Analogue time is hard for a lot of students and your help with reinforcing this at home would be greatly appreciated.

Literacy

In Kōwhai 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 how an author shapes their work for a particular **audience and purpose** when writing. To do this we will focus on a variety of genre but in particular: biographies, research, note taking, summarising, timelines, narratives and recounts.

Te Reo Māori and Kapa Haka

Linked to the “Meet the neighbours” unit learning the correct Māori names for our local resources. We are very lucky to have Whaea Adrienne taking our Te Reo lessons and Matua Hemi leading kapa haka.

Physical Education/Health

Classes have daily fitness sessions: these consist mainly of a whole class game. We also have swimming lessons this term at Karori Pool on Tuesdays for Room 9,10 and 8 and Thursday for Rooms 5,6 and 7.

Dates to Diary this Term:

School Masses and Liturgies:

Pentecost liturgy Tuesday 25th May at 10:00am in the Library.

St Benedict’s Day Mass Thursday 8th July at 9:30am.

Buddy Class Masses:

Rooms 2&8, 3&9 and 4&10 Tuesday 11th May.

Rooms 5&11, 6&12 and 7&13 Tuesday 1st June (depending on our Government House trip not all classes will go to this Mass).

Our Classes Leading School Assemblies:

Monday 10th May Room 6.

Monday 17th May Room 5.

Sport:

Cross Country Monday 10th May (Nairnville Park)

Swimming at Karori Pool (8 sessions)

Thursday for Rooms 5, 6 and 7 starting Thursday 13th May between 12:45pm and 2:15pm.

Tuesday for Rooms 8, 9 and 10 starting Tuesday 18th May between 12:45pm and 2:15pm

Year 38 Swimming Sports – Monday 28th June (Karori Pool)

Parent Interviews:

Thursday 1st July 2:00-6:00pm.

Tuesday 6th July 2:00-6:00pm.