



## Mānuka Syndicate Newsletter - Term 2, 2021

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2021

### Dates for your Diary



*Mānuka Syndicate Buddy Class Mass, St Benedict's Church, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 9:15 am*

*St Benedict's Day Mass and sports afternoon: St Benedict's Church, Week 10, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 9:30 am. Sports afternoon at school: 1:30-2:50pm*

*Swimming: Thursdays Week 1 to Week 9 inclusive, excluding Week 4 (Each class has their own session time. Please wear named sports mufti and sports shoes to school on Thursdays).*

*Syndicate Enrichment STEAM: Each Friday from Week 2 to Week 9, excluding Week 5*

Welcome to the second term at St Benedict's School. We are excited about the many opportunities it will offer your child to learn and socialise with others throughout the school.

To those families beginning their first term with us; we wish a very warm welcome to Kurek Kowal and Matthew Elkin who have started in Room 2 today, and to Everest Morales who starts in Room 2 next Monday too. We trust that this will be the start of many wonderful experiences for you with our school family. We are certain that you will quickly feel at home amongst so many friendly, helpful people,

### **Winter School Uniform**

Term 2 marks the time to wear our winter uniform, which we expect all students to wear with pride. Please ensure any leggings or under-shorts are not visible. Hair ties and clips should be in the school colours of white, black, navy blue or maroon and for safety reasons, stud earrings and watches are the only jewellery permitted. There is a navy woollen school jersey or sweatshirt available for all students. Please visit the school office if you wish to purchase any uniform items or have any queries about the school uniform. You can refer to the school's website for a detailed list of winter uniform options. Please ensure all school clothing is named.

### **Timely Arrival at School**

Students are welcome in their classrooms at 8:30am. Before this time, they may wait quietly in the school library or outside the school buildings. We request that all students are ready to begin classes by 8:50am. The school roll is taken at 8:50am and students arriving after the roll is taken will be recorded as late. Late arrivals disrupt both students and teachers.

### **Morning Prayers**

We welcome families joining us for morning prayers and the students love having you there. Thank you for arriving before 8:50am and supporting this reflective beginning to our school day. A friendly reminder that following prayers, a quick parent getaway is appreciated so we can start the day's learning!

### **Weekly Home Learning**

Home learning provides a home-school link and in Mānuka, the focus is on reading activities. Home learning books are sent home each Friday and should be handed in for marking by the following Thursday at the latest. Reading books will be found in bookbags and should be read daily by your child. Their purpose is to practise and enjoy reading at a non-challenging level of difficulty. Daily reading is the priority home learning task.

### **Term 2's Curriculum and Events**

#### **School Reports and Parent Interviews**

Our students will receive a written Action Plan Report at the end of the term, with the opportunity for an accompanying teacher-parent interview on either Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July or Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. The exception will be students not yet 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  years of age by the end of the term: the parents of these children will be invited to a parent-teacher conference after approximately six weeks of their child attending school. As the end of term approaches, those parents receiving reports will be notified as such by e-mail.

#### **Enrichment STEAM**

An Enrichment STEAM programme will run each Friday from Week 2 to Week 9 inclusive, excluding Week 5, from 1:30pm - 2:30pm. STEAM involves hands-on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics and is a great opportunity for our students to learn together as a syndicate in an exploratory, supportive environment.

#### **Swimming**

This term we will complete eight sessions of swimming at Khandallah School Pool and we will travel to and from the pool by bus. The swimming sessions will be held each Thursday from Week 1-9, excluding Week 5, and will be 30 minutes long. Each swimming group will comprise of roughly five swimmers and will work with a trained Easyswim instructor.

Your child should come to school on our swimming days wearing sports mufti that can be independently changed from into togs. All swimmers need goggles and a swimming cap. If your child does not bring a swimming cap, one will be provided by the pool staff. Wet costumes and towels need to be easily transported back to school in a sturdy waterproof bag that is not their school bag. Please name everything.

If you would like to join your child's class at the pool, please notify the teacher concerned.

#### **Te Reo Classes**

Fortnightly, each class in the syndicate has a Te Reo session with Whaea Adrienne. We then practise the language and skills in our classrooms. There is also an opportunity for students to join the Kapa Haka group each Wednesday.

### **Integrated Topic**

We begin the term with the inquiry topic *Community Helpers*. This will focus on fire safety in the home and school and will include a visit from the Johnsonville fire department, however will also explore such community helpers as paramedics, librarians and the police. We will investigate how we can be like Jesus and help the communities that we belong to.

In the second half of the term, we will be looking at *What's in our Rubbish?* and the management of rubbish. This inquiry will include a trip to the Botanical Gardens, where we will investigate composting and growing healthy plants. We will consider how we can care for God's creation.

### **English**

The English curriculum focus is *The Purpose of Writing* and we will explore the purpose of our own and other authors' writings. Related activities will vary from class to class, but will link with our integrated topics wherever possible.

### **Mathematics**

*Number Knowledge* and *Number Strategies* will remain the focus for the term. The students will continue to develop their counting, grouping and equal sharing strategies, addition and subtraction. In the *Geometry* strand they will study geometrical shapes and how these can be transformed by for example, rotation and reflection.

Thank you very much for your wonderful, ongoing support as we teach your child(ren). Please do not hesitate to contact your child(ren's) teacher with any questions or concerns.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Anne Minto (Room 2), Sarah Wood (Room 3) and Fiona Barnett (Room 4)**  
**Mānuka Syndicate Teachers**