



## Botany Downs Primary Junior School Newsletter 30th April, 2018

### Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 2. A very warm welcome to all new students and parents beginning your journey with Botany Downs School. We look forward to getting to know you and welcoming you into our family.

### Room 6, New Entrant Room

This week we have opened another new entrant room with Mrs Kylee Holmes as the teacher. Mrs Holmes has worked at our school for a number of years and is an experienced New Entrant teacher. A very warm welcome to our new families who start in Room 6.

We also welcome Mrs Paula Hodgson who replaces Mrs Holmes in Room 8. Mrs Hodgson is an experienced classroom teacher who will teach on Wednesday and Thursday, while Mrs Carr remains teaching on Monday, Tuesday and Friday in Room 8.

### Winter Uniform

All children are now expected to be in winter uniform. Please name all items of clothing (including socks) with your child's name. If you are using a second-hand uniform make sure that all previous owners' names are covered up, to ensure that they are returned to you if misplaced. It is also helpful if you can teach your children how to tie their shoelaces and do up buckles, as they will need to do this often during the winter terms. Black shoes, not boots, are the correct footwear for winter uniform. Please remember that nail polish, jewellery and temporary tattoos are not part of our school uniform. Hair accessories for girls need to be in our school colours also.

### Kluwell Home Readers

Please keep encouraging children to read their books every night. Children usually bring home a book they have read in the classroom during a guided reading session. These books are a valuable and expensive resource so it is essential for them to be returned to school, as they are part of a set. At other times, your child may choose to bring a favourite of familiar book home more than once. In the reading log, we ask that you record library books and poems that your child has read.

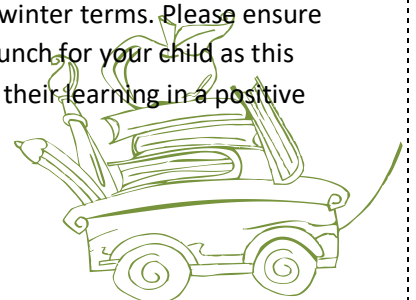
### Physical Education Rotation

This term we will begin our P.E. rotation on Monday afternoons. Children need to bring their P.E. t-shirt and shorts to school in a bag. We will be changing before each lesson begins. Children may bring running shoes, but no sandals please.

*Remember to name all items.*

### Drinks and Lunches at School

Even in the winter terms, we ask that you send only water to school for drinks. Children are always able to drink through the day and water fountains are available outside should the need arise. Please ensure that your child can open the containers you are sending to school, as well as open the snack packets by themselves. For easy access, cut one end of the packet before putting it in the lunch box. We will soon begin our supervised eating, where we eat inside for the first 15 minutes of the lunch hour during the winter terms. Please ensure you pack a nutritious lunch for your child as this directly contributes to their learning in a positive way.



## Early Arrivals

School begins promptly at 8:55 am each day. After 8:30, children are allowed into their classrooms. Before this time, teachers are busy with preparing resources for the day and need this time undisturbed. If your child needs to be at school early, they need to either be part of the Kiwi Kids before school programme or they will need to wait on the deck outside the hall until the bell goes at 8.30. Thank you.

## School Website

Just a reminder to keep visiting our school website [www.botanydowns.school.nz](http://www.botanydowns.school.nz) for information and school related activities to work on at home with your children. Our Certificate and Values recipients are photographed each week and also posted. Individual classrooms also post information about events and learning so it is good to visit it regularly.

## Values

Our focus values this term will be *honesty* and *responsibility*. Please discuss these values with your children and encourage them to model these values at home and at school. Teachers are looking for children who display and model these values to be congratulated at our whole school assembly on a Friday morning.

## Homework

All children in the junior school bring home activities to be completed throughout the week. In Year 0 children bring home a reader and a Jolly Phonics activity. There are also Rocket Words to learn in the back of their Homework books. Year 1 children bring home a reader and either the Rocket Reading Words or Rocket Spelling Words programme. Year 2 children bring home spelling words to learn every week and a basic facts Maths activity. The expectation is that these activities should not take longer than 15mins a night as it important for children to have time to play and socialise.



## Inquiry Learning Contexts for this term

This term our Inquiry topic is Space. Our trip this term is to the Stardome and Observatory as part of the inquiry topic. More information will follow.

## Winter Ills and Chills

Now that the colder weather is beginning, the usual winter sniffles and coughs are starting. Children who are not well need to be kept at home so that they can recover quickly. Often, they are miserable at school and bugs are passed all too easily from one child to another. Please reinforce the message about washing hands before eating and after using the toilet.

Please remember that if you have any concerns about your child or their progress at school, please organise a time to speak to their teacher to discuss the concerns you have.

We are looking forward to an action-packed term.

Kind regards,

Kimberley Rivett, Rita Lala, Vanessa Short, Sam Caceres, Jacqui O'Driscoll, Melissa Parkins, Diane Nicholls, Barbara Murray, Rochelle Carr, Paula Hodgson, Helen Pfister, Paula Leafberg, and Kylee Holmes

