



BOTANY DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 3/4 Syndicate Newsletter – Term 2 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to term 2. I hope you have had a great autumnal break and are ready for the next busy term.

Here is a reminder about the contact details for the middle school team:

Y3

Amy Cunningham
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Jennie Edwards (Senior Teacher)
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Janet Fletcher
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Y4

Tom Huskinson
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Briar Reid (Team Leader)
Room 22

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Y3/4

Keiko Giovanni
Room 20

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Inquiry unit

Our new unit is around Planet Earth and Beyond. At the end of this we want the children to understand how and why Earth is the right habitat for all living creatures.

To go alongside this, Mrs Fletcher has planned an exciting trip to the Stardome this term in weeks 2 and 7.

Tuesday 8 May: Rms 12/13

Wednesday 9 May: Rms 20/23

Tuesday 12th June: Rms 21/22

A notice with more information will come home closer to the time.

The focus values for Term 2 are Responsibility (Weeks 1-5) and Honesty (weeks 6-10).

Sport and Fitness

Team sport is every Tuesday afternoon. Health and PE is a focus and each class will also take part in a weekly 30 minute class P.E. lesson and 2 x 15 minute fitness sessions, which are largely skills based.

All children are required to have school sports shorts and house t-shirts for Sport and P.E and this will commence in week 3.

Sneakers are recommended for Sport and will be required when we start training for Cross Country, later this term.

Homework

This will include reading, spelling, basic facts (weekly for Y3's) and tasks linked to our inquiry topics.

We encourage you to support homework completion but please let us know if it is causing problems.

All of the year three and four syndicate will begin trialling a maths programme called Maths Whizz. Maths-Whizz provides educators with detailed reporting against the New Zealand Curriculum Levels, so we see this as a vital time saving tool for our school. Maths-Whizz will be incorporated into our numeracy programme at school and usage encouraged at home. Maths-Whizz automatically assesses each student and identifies their gaps and sets specific lessons to fill those gaps. Teachers will monitor the usage and progress and be able to identify areas where students need extra support and use the data to accurately pinpoint areas of need to work one-on-one with the students. It will not be used as the sole numeracy programme but will be used alongside other practices.

Middle School Blog

Please take the time to visit our team blog and leave positive comments – this gives our children feedback and a genuine audience for the weekly posts. It is a great way for overseas family to stay in touch.

www.magnificentmiddleteam.blogspot.co.nz

Reports

Your child will be receiving their mid year report this term. Reports will come home in week 9 followed by parent interviews in week 10.

Wednesday 4th July 3.20 - 8pm

Thursday 5th July 3.20 - 5pm

At Botany Downs we use an online booking system and the link to this will be sent home closer to the time.

The School Day

Our school day starts at 8.55am. It is important that your child only arrives at school after 8.30am, unless they are attending Kiwi Kids. Please note that we recommend Kiwi Kids if you need to drop your child(ren) off before 8.30am. We encourage children not to arrive before 8.30am as teachers are not available for supervision before this time. If they do arrive early they will need to wait on the deck outside the hall until the bell goes as safety is paramount. Please also tell your child to walk their bike or scooter through the school grounds as it can be very dangerous, repeat offenders will unfortunately lose their licence.

Uniform

It is important that children wear the correct uniform. This not only looks smart, but helps create pride in our school. It is now time for all children to be wearing winter uniform. The dark grey shorts (all year) are part of uniform for boys, as are school socks. Girls should wear black socks or tights. Please note that leggings worn under dresses should not be visible below the hemline and hairbands/hair ties should be in school colours.

This year we are pleased to announce the addition of "Skorts" for the girls. This shorts/skirt combo offers the active girl the ability to be just that without having to worry about additional layers under their dress.

The skort is available for wear all year and is being sold at John Russell menswear in Howick.

Children need to wear plain, black flat shoes. No sandals or sneakers please.

Lost Property

This can be found in the hallway outside Room One. Please check this often if you have misplaced an item. If the lost item is named it has a greater chance of making its way back to the rightful owner.

Lunches

Please ensure that your child has a healthy lunch and check regularly that they haven't decided they don't like what you have been lovingly making them each day!

Only water in drink bottles too please.

Children are not permitted to share their lunch and with some severe allergies in this cohort this must be adhered to strongly. Please ensure your children understand this.

Lunch orders are Wednesday through to Friday and can be ordered both online or at the lunch room before school. Please see our website for the link.

www.botanydowns.school.nz

Calling for...

Room 12 and 23 would love to have some more old shirts that could be used while painting. If you have any "dad" type shirts that are no longer required please consider donating them. There would be some very grateful teachers waiting.

Important dates

Please refer to the website and weekly newsletters.

Please note that our newsletter is emailed so it is really important that the office has a record of your current email address.

We are always happy to see you to discuss concerns, although it is easier to make a time after school. Alternatively, email the class teacher or myself and we will make appropriate arrangements.

Have a wonderful term.

Briar Reid and Team