

Botany Downs Primary Junior School Newsletter

23rd July, 2018



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 3. 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 5, New Entrant Room

This week we open another new entrant room with Mrs. Viona Schulz and Mrs. Hope Brewer as their teachers. A very warm welcome to our new families who start in Room 5.

We also welcome Mrs. Anna Bradley who joins Ms. Leafberg in Room 11. Mrs. Bradley is an experienced classroom teacher and long-time former staff member, who will teach every Wednesday.

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 or 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 continue our P.E. rotation on Monday afternoons. The focus of our sports rotation this term is cross country training and small ball skills. 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

We ask that you send only water to school for drinks. Please check 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. Please ensure you pack a nutritious lunch for your child as this directly contributes to their learning in a positive way.

This term we have supervised eating, where we eat inside for the first 15 minutes of the lunch hour during the winter terms.



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

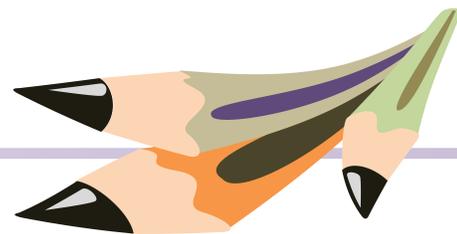
Just a reminder to keep visiting our school website www.botanydowns.school.nz for information and school related activities to work on at home with your children. Our Certificate and Values recipients are photographed each week and also posted. Individual classrooms also post information about events and learning so it is good to visit it regularly. The school app is a great way to stay in touch also.

Values

Our focus values this term will be *consideration* and *co-operation*. 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

Junior school children bring home activities to be completed throughout the week. In Year 0 children bring home a reader and a Jolly Phonics activity. There are 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. They will also bring home Jolly Phonics blending lists for each group of sounds that need to be practised. 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 is important for children to have time to play and socialise.



Inquiry Learning Contexts for this term

This term our Inquiry topic is Maori Culture. We will be learning Te Reo along with many skills and arts that the Maori incorporate as part of their culture. This will culminate in a special performing arts evening later in the term.

Winter Ills and Chills

Now that the cold weather is here, 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, Jacquie O'Driscoll, Melissa Parkins, Diane Nicholls, Barbara Murray, Rochelle Carr, Paula Hodgson, Helen Pfister, Paula Leafberg, Kylee Holmes, Anna Bradley, Viona Schulz and Hope Brewer.

