



# BOTANY DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Year 3/4 Syndicate Newsletter – Term 3 2018

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to term 3. A special welcome to any new students and their families. We hope you have all had a good winter break.

We would like to welcome a teacher who is new to both the team and school. Her name is Sharmila Raj and she is taking over room 12 for the rest of the year. We welcome her and know she will make an excellent addition to our school.

*My name is Mrs Raj and I am the new teacher in Room 12. I am so excited to join Botany Downs Primary School from this term. I have been teaching for about 13 years, mostly in the year 3 level and it's my favourite year to teach.*

*My husband and I have 1 child who is at Somerville Intermediate School. I have a dog called Chase and a cockatiel called Tangelo. I enjoy gardening, reading and travelling and I have started cycling as well.*



*I am looking forward to teaching Room 12 and meeting you all.*

Here are the contact details for the middle school team:

### Y3

Sharmila Raj  
Room 12  
[sharmilar@botanydowns.school.nz](mailto:sharmilar@botanydowns.school.nz)

Jennie Edwards (Senior Teacher)  
Room 13  
[jenniee@botanydowns.school.nz](mailto:jenniee@botanydowns.school.nz)

Janet Fletcher  
Room 23  
[janetf@botanydowns.school.nz](mailto:janetf@botanydowns.school.nz)

### Y4

Tom Huskinson  
Room 21  
[tomh@botanydowns.school.nz](mailto:tomh@botanydowns.school.nz)

Briar Reid (Team Leader)  
Room 22  
[briard@botanydowns.school.nz](mailto:briard@botanydowns.school.nz)

Y3/4  
Keiko Giovanni  
Room 20  
[keikog@botanydowns.school.nz](mailto:keikog@botanydowns.school.nz)

### Topic

This term we are having an Arts focus around Maori and Pacific cultures. Each class will be looking at an aspect of this and creating art, learning songs and dances. Your child's teacher will focus on one area that will culminate in every child taking part in our second Arts Evening.

Please keep Thursday 20th September free and be ready to be wowed!

There will be more information around the evening coming home at a later date.

As part of this focus Mrs Fletcher has organised the school to visit Te Tahawai (Edgewater) Marae. The following dates have been booked for our syndicate in week 6:

Room 12: Monday 27th August

Room 13: Monday 27th August

Room 20: Monday 27th/ Tuesday 28th August

Room 21: Tuesday 28th August

Room 22: Tuesday 28th August

Room 23: Monday 27th August

The focus values for Term 3 are consideration (Week 1-5) and cooperation (Week 6-10)

### 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. All children should 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 hair bands/hair ties should be in school colours.

As beautiful as the "Jojo Bows" are, they unfortunately are not in school colours so please keep these for after school and weekends.

A reminder that we now have 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](http://www.botanydowns.school.nz)

## Sport

All children are required to have school sports shorts and house t-shirts for Sport and PE. Sneakers are recommended for Sport and are required when training for Cross Country.

Our team will take part in a weekly 40 minute skills based rotation and 3 x 20 minute Cross Country sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Year 4's will attend the Senior school Cross Country day in Week 4 while the Year 3's will attend the Junior Cross Country day later in the term.

Team sport will continue each fine Tuesday afternoon and will look at skills around winter sports.

Mr Huskinson will continue his 'Running Club' that will take place throughout the week. The intention is to give those children who are keen to build their fitness levels more opportunities to do so.

It will be available to children of all fitness levels and will only be run inside the school grounds.

More information will come home soon around this.

## 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 are well into the trial of 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 is incorporated into our numeracy programme at school and usage is 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.

### Wish Lists

Room 23 would love any old clothes that could be used for 'dress ups'. If you have anything that would fall under this category and no longer require it Mrs Fletcher would be very happy to have it.

Mr Huskinson would like any donations for our school garden; cuttings, plants, wood, trees, shrubs and such. He and the enviro club would be most receptive to anything of interest.

A reminder to all parents that we require your children to have some type of headphones to use with the class Chromebooks. Many of the programmes that your children use can make a lot of noise which is distracting to those around them.

Please make sure your child has a pair and that they are named; like everything in a classroom x 30 it makes it hard to distinguish between them, so this is important.

### Important dates

Please refer to our school website and weekly newsletters.

[www.botanydowns.school.nz](http://www.botanydowns.school.nz)

If you haven't already, download our School App and receive alerts and reminders along with newsletters and other notices.

**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 the Middle School Team*