



Monday 4 February 2019

## "OUR BEST ALWAYS"

*Dear parents and caregivers*

### WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back all of you to Botany Downs School, with a **very special welcome** to the new families joining our community today. We hope your school days with us will be very happy and rewarding ones.

Our school newsletters are emailed at the start of **every** school week. They are easily our most important way of communicating with you, so please check your emails and look out for them. Hard copies are available on request (please notify the office). Newsletters are also posted on our school website ([www.botanydowns.school.nz](http://www.botanydowns.school.nz)). Don't forget that you can join us on Facebook, and on our school app.

Today we will email the newsletter and also send home a hard copy, with the eldest or only child.

#### School Uniform

A reminder that our school uniforms (other than footwear) are sold by John Russell Schoolwear, 9 Moore St, Howick.

It is essential that all children wear our official summer school uniform please, including **black, flat sandals**. Sneakers are **not** permitted. Please name all clothing.

**Children are required to wear their sandals to and from school.**

**All children need to wear their school sunhat every day.**

We realise that not all children will have an official school hat at this stage. For those children yet to purchase one, any appropriate sunhat will do for this week only. (Everyone in school hats by next Monday 11 February please). Our official hats are sold by John Russell Schoolwear.

#### Swimming Pool

Our swimming programme starts **tomorrow**, and as swimming is part of our curriculum **all children** need to bring their togs on class swimming days. Teachers will let the children know today which days their class swimming sessions are on. It is a school expectation that, unless there is a genuine reason for not taking part, all children will participate in swimming. **A note is required if your child is not swimming.**

Once again this year your Board of Trustees is employing outside professional swimming coaches to assist teachers with swimming lessons. To help keep costs down for parents, the Board is very generously fully funding these lessons. Thank you BOT!

#### Bought Lunches

Bought lunches resume next week on Wednesday 13 February. The menu choices are posted in the hall by the kitchen. Lunch orders can also be done online through the school website.

#### Contact Details

Please ensure that the school office has your current contact phone numbers, residential address details, and email addresses.

### School Donations

The BOT has once again held the school donations at **\$235 per child** for the year. Eftpos and credit card facilities are available at the school office. Different payment options by instalment are available-just contact Trish in the office.

### Resource Contribution

In *addition to* the school donation above, we request a *resource contribution* of \$25 per pupil to cover the cost of printing and photocopying paper. It would be appreciated if this could be paid as soon as possible.

### Activity Fee

While school donations and resource contributions are voluntary, the *activity fee* is a compulsory fee, and covers the cost of most school trips and performers (not camps). The Board of Trustees has set this at \$40 per child, again the same as last year.

It would be appreciated if the activity fee is paid in full by the end of February please. Thank you.

## Waitangi Day

**We are closed this Wednesday 6 February**

### School Hours

Classes begin at 8.55am, and finish at 3.00pm. Unless special arrangements have been made, children should not arrive before 8.30am please, as teachers are busy in their classrooms and there is no-one to supervise them in the playground. All children who do arrive before 8.30am need to wait by the hall, and mustn't go to their rooms until the 8.30am bell. Thank you.

Latecomers arriving after the 8.55am bell must report to the office.

We ask that children be collected promptly after school (no later than 3.15pm). Many thanks.

A reminder that children are not allowed to play on the school playgrounds after school.

## *PTA Meeting Tonight*

The PTA is meeting **tonight**, 7.30pm in the staffroom.

**ALL WELCOME AS ALWAYS!**

**Parents, we would love to see you.**

### School Assemblies

Our assemblies are a time for the whole school to get together to celebrate our achievements. Parents are *very welcome* to attend. In fact, ***we love to see you.***

Assemblies are on **Friday mornings**, starting at 9.10am. Our first official assembly this year is on **Friday 15 February**, at 9.10am.

### Property Update

- During the holiday break external painting work was carried out on handrails, posts, seating and other areas.

- We are shortly expecting delivery of four classrooms, to accommodate roll growth at the school. These will be installed at the end of room 13 (two blocks of two). More news on this exciting development as it comes to hand.

### **Meet the Teachers Evening**

Next week, on **Wednesday 13 February at 6pm**, we are holding a ***Meet the Teachers Evening***. All parents are invited to attend.

This is an opportunity for you to find out more about the school, and to chat to your children's teachers informally about class routines, expectations and so on.

Please note that it is not the purpose of this evening to discuss or report upon individual children. Formal parent conferences will be held later in the term.

We are also planning to have a **Family Picnic** on **Friday 22 February**. Details next week, but please keep this night free.

Have a great week everyone

***Kind regards***

***Mr T***  
***principal@botanydowns.school.nz***

## Your PTA Weekly Update:

PTA meeting in the  
staffroom tonight (4<sup>th</sup> Feb) at  
7.30pm. All Welcome!

## Fruju Fridays start back on Friday 15th February



Get your gold coins ready for the second week of term as Fruju Friday starts again. Each Friday after school you can buy a refreshing ice block, paddle pop or mini pop to cool down in the summer heat. Mini pops are \$1 each and all other iceblocks are \$2 each.

If any parents are able to assist with Fruju Fridays, please can you contact us on [friendsofptabds@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofptabds@gmail.com). We only have two parents running this over the term and any help would be appreciated. It runs from 2.45-3.15pm so if you can please spare 30 minutes of your time that would be great.

## New PTA members needed- join us!



We are running low on helpers and are desperate for more PTA members to join us. To be a PTA member, you need to attend at least 4 meetings per year (that is just one a term!) and if you can help to arrange one event per year that would be fantastic. We know how busy everyone is, however many hands make light work! All

the funds we raise go directly back to improving the school and resources for our children. If you can lend a hand every now and then, please contact [friendsofptabds@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofptabds@gmail.com) or message us on facebook: Botany Downs Primary PTA.



**We have our very own colour fun run this term- more details to follow shortly!**

For information on ticket costs/sponsorship/general queries email:  
[bdscolourfunrun@gmail.com](mailto:bdscolourfunrun@gmail.com)