



BOTANY DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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33-35 MIRRABOOKA AVENUE, HOWICK

Year 5/6 Syndicate Newsletter – Term 1 2019

11 February 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting term and year.

We trust you have all had a happy and safe summer break and are ready to be back at Botany Downs.

I would like to introduce you to the new Senior Syndicate. We have some teachers who have moved levels this year, Sharmila Raj and Kylee Holmes, plus a welcome to Kirsten Wright and Mark Insley who are new teachers to Botany Downs.

Y5

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Natasya Barber
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Kylee Holmes
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Y6

Mark Insley (Team Leader)
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Sharmila Raj
Room 15
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Kirsten Wright
Room 18
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Important Dates For Term One

Meet the teacher evening – Wednesday 13th February (6pm)

- Year five and six parents and teachers will head straight to their corresponding classroom where you will get the chance to hear how your child's teacher runs their class programme.
- Teachers will remain in their rooms in case any parents have any queries.

Year 5 Camp Meeting - Wednesday 13th February (7pm)

- The camp meeting will be in the library.
- Camp information will be shared with parents/ caregivers. Camp takes place on the 25 & 26 February.
- A great opportunity to find out more about the exciting activities that your children will be experiencing on camp. Plus lots of information about food, transport, and how the camp will be run.
- Parents assisting on this camp will need to stay behind for a quick briefing of your roles.

Family Picnic Night - Friday 22nd February (5:00-7:00pm)

- A fun night where Botany Downs families get together and bring a picnic to eat on the field.

Senior School Cricket Team

- This year the inter-school cricket tournament takes place over two days, Tuesday 26th February and Wednesday 13th March. You will notice the first day clashes with the Year 5 camp. Therefore, we are looking for an enthusiastic parent to supervise the team for the first day. If you are able to assist with this please contact Mark Insley in Room 16 as soon as possible.

Senior School Swimming Sports day - Thursday 28th February (9am-2.30pm)

- Please note students are selected for competitive races on this day as these are used as trials to select our Inter-School team.

Dog Safety visit and talks Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March

- Visitors will be talking to students about safety around dogs.

Year 6 Parent Camp Meeting Wednesday 13th March (7pm)

- Meet in the school Library.

Parent Interviews

Wednesday 20th March 3.20-5pm

Thursday 21st March 3.20-8pm

Term 1 ends on Friday 12th April

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, but if they do they will need to wait on the deck outside the hall until the bell goes as safety is paramount.

Uniform

It is important that children wear the correct uniform. This not only looks smart, but helps create pride in our school. All uniform should be named as it is easier to return if it gets lost.

Please remember that correct footwear must be worn to and from school. Sandals only in term 1.

Hats

These are a compulsory part of the summer school uniform. If your child forgets his/her hat, then they must sit in the shade by the hall for the duration of morning tea and lunchtime. Please ensure that packing their hat is part of your child's getting ready for school routine.

Lost Property

This can be found by the Room 1 entry to the office any time.

Sunscreen

To continue our promotion of sun safety, it is advisable that children apply sunscreen before they come to school. It is a good idea to have it available to reapply after our swimming lessons.

Inquiry units

We will be focusing on BEST (Beliefs, Excellence, Skills, Thoughtfulness), our school values, expectations, ourselves, class treaties and later Safety.

The focus values for Term 1 are Courtesy and Manners (Week 1-5), Respect (week 6-11),

Swimming and Sports

Each teacher will advise class swimming times for Term 1 – please ensure that your child brings a note if they are unable to swim. Each child needs to bring their togs/towel/goggles in a separate bag to prevent school bags becoming wet.

Friday is our Senior Team sports rotation and we would like all children to please bring their P.E shirt and shorts so they are ready.

Homework

This will include reading, spelling, basic facts and potential long term tasks, linked to our inquiry topics. This assists students in beginning to manage their time, develop ownership of their learning and meet deadlines.

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

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.

Assemblies

Full school assemblies take place on Friday at 9.10am – you will be notified via newsletter if your child is receiving a certificate or values acknowledgement and are encouraged to attend.

A short Senior Syndicate assembly takes place on Fridays at 1.45pm. This is to acknowledge students who are 'Living Above the Line' and pass on any notices before Senior sport.

Magazines

If you have any unwanted magazines lying around the house your class teacher would appreciate any you can spare. Again, we would be very grateful for your help.

Leadership, Performance & Service Roles

There is an opportunity for the senior students to take part in many service, performance and leadership roles in the senior school. This is a fantastic way for children to develop abilities and skills while at the same time helping out our school. Expressions of interest will be called for. Once the children have "tried out" for each group, their commitment to meetings, practices and performances is expected and we hope you will encourage this at home too.

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 to make appropriate arrangements.

Kind regards

Mark Insley, Sharmila Raj, Sarah Beach, Tash Barber, Kylee Holmes & Kirsten Wright