



BOTANY DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 3/4 Syndicate Newsletter – Term 1 2019

4 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 Middle Syndicate teachers (we have some new teachers and one who has moved levels this year)

Y3

Heidi Reid
Room 12
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Helen Pfister
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Summer Young
Room 14
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Y4

Tom Huskinson
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Briar Reid (Team Leader)
Room 22
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Iris Liu
Room 23
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Year 3/4
Keiko Giovanni
Room 20
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Hello.

My name is Mrs. Helen Pfister and I am looking forward to teaching Year 3 in Room 13 this year.

I started my teaching career in South Africa and immigrated to New Zealand 17 years ago. This will be my 5th year teaching at Botany Downs.

I have two children. My daughter is beginning her first year at Intermediate and my son attends College. I live in Howick and when I

am not at school I enjoy spending time with my family, reading and taking walks on the beach.

"Kiaora! I'm Summer (Miss Young) and I am 24 years young! I have a little girl named Mila who is full of life and energy.

I was born and raised in Howick and have never left apart from the odd bit of travel or holiday. I am a very family orientated person and love spending time with them at our bach in Matarangi. I love being at the beach, swimming, snorkeling and fishing.

I am excited to take on my role as a year 3 teacher in Room 14. Can't wait to meet you all, see you soon!"



"Hello! My name is Iris Liu and I will be teaching Year 4 in Room 23 this year. I am originally from China and have been living in New Zealand for six years. I enjoy travelling, fitness, learning new languages and meeting new people. It is such a pleasure to join the Botany Downs School family and I can't wait to start an exciting journey with everyone here, especially the lovely little ones in Room 23!"

Hi, my name is Heidi Reid and I am thrilled to be joining Botany Downs Primary in Room 12. I am married and have three delightful daughters.

Prior to teaching, my career has included occupations within Travel and Tourism, Marketing, Management and Law. I was born in Hawaii and have travelled extensively throughout the world having lived in mainland USA and Western Australia.

On weekends you can find me either glamping in a 70s style family caravan at the beach, catching fish or as a side line supporter of my girls with netball and soccer. I am also learning how to be a Dance Mum, essential during Jazz competitions. I enjoy up-cycling furniture and home renovation (much to my husband's despair). My favourite colour is blue and my favourite food is mac and cheese (double the cheese).



Important Dates For Term One

Meet the teacher evening – Wednesday 13th February (6pm-7pm)

Year three and four 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. Mrs B Reid will remain in her room (22) for an extended period if any parents wish to come and meet her or have any queries.

Family Picnic Night - Friday 22nd February (5.00 - 7.00)

This is an informal time where families can gather with the staff at Botany Downs on the field. It gives people who may be new to the area time to meet other families and make new friends.

More information will come home around this soon ... pencil it in your diary.

Parent Interviews

These are on Wednesday 20 March and Thursday 21 March. This will give you the chance to meet with your child's teacher and hear about how they have settled in and the goals they have for the first half of the year.

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 SKIDs 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 items of your child's uniform should be named as it is easier to return if it gets lost; right down to underwear as this is often "misplaced" during the swimming season.

Please remember that correct footwear must be worn to and from school. Sandals only in term 1 as feet can get very warm!

Hats

These are a compulsory part of the summer school uniform. With the temperatures reaching some incredible heights this summer it is absolutely necessary to be wearing one. If your child forgets his/her school 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 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.

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 or a vigorous morning tea.

Inquiry units

We will be focusing on **BEST** – values, expectations, ourselves and our school.

WITS looks at how children manage unwanted behaviour in the playground.

We will also learn about safety around dogs which will incorporate a visit from Kids Safe with Dogs.



The focus values for Term 1 are Courtesy and Manners (weeks 1-5), Respect (weeks 6-10)

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.

Each class has two swimming slots each week and this will begin on Tuesday 5 February and continue through Term 1. With the solar heating we are confident we will be able to swim until the end of the term and possibly into Term 2. We also hope to begin swimming again in Term 4.

Room 12 : Monday and Wednesday

Room 13 : Tuesday and Thursday

Room 14: Monday and Thursday

Room 20 : Wednesday and Thursday

Room 21 : Wednesday and Thursday

Room 22 : Tuesday and Thursday

Room 23 : Wednesday and Friday

Homework

This will include reading, spelling, maths and tasks linked to our topic. We encourage you to support homework completion and please let us know if it is causing problems. It is also important that your child has time to play and socialise with other children after a long day at school.

Lunches

Please ensure that your child has a good 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

Assemblies

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

** Please ensure we have your current email address so we can keep you updated on news and events at school.*

Our first school assembly will take place on Friday 15th February.

Magazines

If you have any unwanted newspapers or magazines lying around the house your class teacher would appreciate any you can spare. We would be very grateful for your help.

Newspaper

If you have newspaper lying in piles at home, please bring it to your class teacher as it is invaluable during art lessons.

Kapa Haka and Choir

There is an opportunity for our Year 4's (only, at this stage) to take part in the school choir and expressions of interest will be called for.

Both the year 3 and 4 children may try out for kapa haka.

Once the children have "tried out" for each group, their commitment to practices and performances is expected and we hope you will encourage this at home too.

Please discuss this with your child(ren) before they sign up.

Important dates

Please refer to our school website and weekly newsletters.

www.botanydowns.school.nz

If you haven't already, download our School App and receive alerts and reminders along with newsletters and other notices. It is an excellent way of keeping up to date with school events.

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.

Kind regards and again, welcome to Term One

Briar Reid and the Middle Team