

# Botany Downs Primary Junior School Newsletter February 2019



## Dear Parents and Caregivers,

With a new year underway, we extend a very warm welcome to all of the new and existing students and parents at Botany Downs School. We look forward to getting to know you as part of our learning community.

## We have two teams in the Junior School:

*Jennie Edwards is the Team Leader of Year 2*

Jennie Edwards                      Year 2, Room 1

Sam Caceres, Rachel Rogers      Year 2, Room 1

Jacquie O'Driscoll                  Year 2, Room 2

Rita Lala, Barbara Murray        Year 2, Room 3

*Kimberley Rivett is the Team Leader of Year 0/1*

Rochelle Carr, Paula Hodgson    Year 1, Room 8

Helen Pfister                         Year 1, Room 9

Vanessa Short                        Year 1, Room 10

Paula Leafberg, Maddy Powell    Year 1, Room 11

## Summer Uniform

All children are expected to be in summer uniform. Please name all clothing with your child's name. Remember that if you are using a second hand uniform, you will need to ensure that all previous owners' names are covered, otherwise clothing may be returned to its "old" owners. To support independence, please teach your children how to tie their shoelaces and do up buckles. Remember that nail polish, jewellery and temporary tattoos are not part of our school uniform and that hair accessories for girls need to be school colours.

## Inquiry Learning contexts for this term

This term our Inquiry topic is Keeping Ourselves Safe. The junior children will be looking at how to stay safe in different environments, for example: sun safety, road safety, fire safety, safety around dogs.

## Early Arrivals

School begins promptly at 8:55am each day. After 8:30am, 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 before school programme or they will need to wait on the deck outside the hall until the bell goes at 8.30am.

## Swimming

Swimming is an important part of the Physical Education curriculum. Please check which days your child has swimming lessons and ensure that they bring their named togs, goggles, cap and towel in a waterproof bag.

*Your child's swimming days are:*

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

## Drinks and Lunches at School

We ask that you send **only water** to school for drinks. Children are always able to drink through the day and water fountains are available.

Please check that your child can open the containers and snack packets that are sent to school. For easy access, cut one end before putting it in their lunch box.

It is important that you pack a nutritious lunch for your child, as this directly contributes to their learning in a positive way.



## School Website

Just a reminder to keep visiting our school website [www.botanydowns.school.nz](http://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 posted on the junior Seesaw page. Individual classrooms also post information about events and learning so it is good to visit it regularly.

## School App

The school app is also a great way to stay in the loop with what is happening at school with notifications and reminders. Check it out on your phone's app store and choose 'Botany Downs School' once it is installed.

## Kluwell Home Readers

Please encourage your child 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 and it is very important that these books are returned to school as they are part of a set. At other times, a child will choose to bring a favourite or familiar book home more than once.

We ask that you also record library books and poems that your child has read in the reading logs.

## Homework

All children in the junior school bring home activities to be completed during the week. In Year 0, children bring home a reader and a Jolly Phonics activity and Rocket Words to learn in the back of their Homework books. In Year 1, children bring home a reader and either the Rocket Reading Words or Rocket Spelling Words programme. In Year 2, children bring home a reader, spelling words, and a basic facts maths activity. The expectation is that these activities should take around 15 minutes a night.



## Values

Our focus values this term will be courtesy & manners, and respect. 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.

## Illness

Children who are unwell need to be kept warm at home. 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 speak to their teacher to discuss the concerns you have. It is a good idea to organise a separate time that is mutually acceptable.

We are looking forward to an action packed term!

Kind regards,

Jennie Edwards, Rita Lala, Barbara Murray, Sam Caceres, Rachel Rogers, Jacquie O'Driscoll, Vanessa Short, Kerry Pearcey, Rochelle Carr, Paula Hodgson, Paula Leafberg, Maddy Powell and Kimberley Rivett (Assistant Principal).

