

Junior Syndicate Newsletter Term 1 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Greenhithe School for 2019! If you are new to the school, we extend a special welcome to you and your family. We would like to inform you that Syndicate newsletters are published at the beginning of each term.

The Junior Team is as follows:

Fran Morrison	Year 2	Room 12
Claudia Sheppard	Year 2	Room 11
Bonita Mowat	Year 2	Room 7 (Year 2 Team Leader)
Samantha McCubbin	Year 2	Room 8
Charlene Boyd	Year 1	Room 1 (Year 1 Team Leader)
Johanna Peters	Year 1	Room 2
Suzanne Cresswell	Year 1	Room 5
Stephanie Maber	Year 1	Room 6

Curriculum

Writing

The Juniors are learning the skills needed to become successful writers. These include; planning their writing, making an attempt to spell words independently, beginning to use full stops and capital letters appropriately, and composing interesting sentences to describe events or to describe characters. You can help by encouraging your child to talk about stories, events or outings, in a sequential and organised way. This term the children will be participating in many learning activities based around knowledge of sounds, development of vocabulary, and grammar. This will help with the spelling of words.

Reading

The Junior School Reading programme will begin officially in week 2 with reading books going home from week 3. The teachers read daily with groups of children and your child will then bring his/her book home to reread with you. Please make time to listen and encourage your child by asking questions about the plot or the characters. Help them to work out tricky words by using the pictures or the context of the story. Your child will bring a reading log home. It is helpful if you make comments about their reading whenever possible, e.g. enjoyed the story; commented on the characters; liked the illustrations, etc. Please ensure your child brings their book bag to school every day. This helps protect the books. Teachers will not allow books to go home if the previous book hasn't been returned or if your child doesn't have a book bag.

Inquiry

How to become great learners will continue to be a focus this year. The children will be discussing attributes of a learner and their role in this process. They will be learning how to become thinkers with inquiring minds. This learning focus will be especially emphasised during the first weeks at school. The children will also learn to be responsible for their belongings and themselves at the same time as getting to learn routines and classroom expectations. Later in the term the Inquiry focus is Healthy Body/Healthy Food. The children will be learning to describe their feelings and ask questions about their health, growth, development, and personal needs and wants. Each class will also visit the Life Education van as part of their learning.

Values and Key Competences

We teach values as part of the New Zealand Curriculum. This term the value we are focusing on is Respect. Please discuss this with your child and talk about ways we can show respect for ourselves and others.

The children will participate in the *Discovery Time* programme. This programme helps to teach values and key competences, as well as develop thinking and problem solving through fun, 'hands on' activities. Please see your child's teacher if you have any items at home you can donate, such as box construction materials, wool, etc.

Maths



Regular practice of simple basic facts, including +/- first to 10 and then to 20, and 2, 5, 10 x tables (and their related division facts), is a part of the expectation of their homework. Please help and encourage your child to spend 5-10 minutes daily on these. Having instant recall of basic facts helps students to solve number problems more efficiently. We will also be conducting statistical investigations; collecting data, creating graphs and making predictions based on probability. In addition to this the students will be learning about shape and how to measure length. We also encourage children to use Mathletics daily, this will be up and running in the next week. Please ask your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Swimming



Swimming begins next week. All children will need to bring named togs and towels in a separate bag. We also suggest a sweatshirt as it can be chilly out of the pool. Please ensure that all of your child's items of clothing are clearly named.

Swimming days are as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rooms 1 & 2	Rooms 5 & 6	Rooms 11 & 12	Rooms 1 & 2	Free swim all classes
Rooms 11 & 12	Rooms 7 & 8	Rooms 7 & 8	Rooms 5 & 6	

Fitness and PE



For fitness this term we will be learning fun cooperative games. For P.E. we will have swimming sessions two to three times a week.

Activity Fee

There is a \$35 activity fee per term per Year 1 or Year 2 child, you can pay this directly to the office or it can also be paid through internet banking. This activity fee covers the cost of trips and other extra curricular activities. Please ensure that payments are kept up to date.

School Bank Account Number: 12 3109 0011698 00

(Please put your child's name as a reference if paying direct into school bank account).

Donations

Each year the Ministry of Education use decile ratings to help determine how much government funding a school will receive. Greenhithe School is a decile 10 school, which means that we receive the lowest funding possible from the government for our students education. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if you would consider a donation of \$55.00 per term or \$220.00 per year. There are discounts for families of 3 children or more. Please see the office for more information, including a tax rebate through the IRD if you pay before the 31st March.

Your donations help to provide many programmes and staff throughout the school, learning assistants, sports coordinator, reading recovery teacher and programme, art resources, GATE and pool maintenance are but a few. They are all beneficial to our students but these resources will only continue at Greenhithe School if all our families pay their donation.

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We will be holding our "Meet the Teacher" evening on Wednesday 13 February. More information about this will follow.

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year.

Warm regards,

Junior Syndicate teachers