

Senior School Newsletter

Term 1 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back! If you are new to our school, we extend a special welcome to you and your family. Newsletters are available on the school website at : <https://www.greenhithe.school.nz/newsletter/syndicate/>

The Senior School teaching team this year is as follows:

Room 19 Anneliese Restall-Shaw	Year 5
Room 20 Jenny Bate	Year 5 (Year 5 Team Leader)
Room 21 Gail Brooke	Year 5
Room 22 Dan Oades	Year 6
Room 23 Zara Fletcher	Year 6 (Year 6 Team Leader)
Room 24 Natasha Alexander	Year 6

Curriculum

Inquiry

This term our inquiry links with our planned camp and EOTC activities. Students will be encouraged to take more responsibility for their learning, giving them skills to become lifelong learners. For example, they will learn to identify next steps in their own learning and share their understanding.

Reading

Students will be building on their reading comprehension skills; for example inferencing, finding information and critical thinking. The focus this term will be integrating reading with our inquiry. The students will be grouped based on their instructional reading levels. They will be expected to analyse what they read and make links between their prior knowledge and the new information learnt.

Writing

Children are expected to be using their writing skills to produce a variety of texts. We have clear expectations and goals that the students will work towards.

The students will also have timetabled independent writing sessions. This is an opportunity for students to make their own choices about writing.

Spelling

Students will be learning a range of strategies they can use when learning spelling words. They will also be participating in learning activities based around the knowledge of sounds and developing their vocabulary and grammar.

Mathematics

In the senior school, the focus is on using basic facts knowledge to solve problems across a range of mathematical areas, for instance, statistics and geometry.

Our strand learning for this term will be based around 'position and orientation' and statistics.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Year 5 and 6 students are being invited to bring in their own a computer for classroom learning. We want to try leveraging students' attachment to their own devices to deepen learning and to make learning more personalised and student-centred. And as a result of this, students who do not have their own devices will have greater access to school owned chromebooks. This opportunity is an invitation, not an expectation, and we are not insisting that students purchase or bring a device. We are giving you the choice. Students will continue to complete regular book work alongside digital platforms.

Laptops, netbooks and Chromebooks will be allowed to be brought to school. Tablets, phones and iPads will not, because they are not able to run the Chrome browser extensions that we use to monitor student behaviour online. Devices will be kept in a locked cupboard during break times.

For more information, and deals on Chromebooks, please visit: www.greenhithe.school.nz/byod.html

Water Safety (Swimming)

This will begin this week. All children will need to bring their named togs and towels in a separate bag on their swimming days. A note is required every time your child is unable to participate in swimming.

These are our syndicate's swimming days:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Room 22 Room 23 Room 24	Room 21 Room 20 Room 19	Room 22 Room 23 Room 24	Room 19 Room 21 Room 20	Year 5 Year 6

General Housekeeping

Activity Fee

There is a \$35 activity fee per term, per 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 extracurricular 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. School Bank Account Number: 12 3109 0011698 00 (Please put your child's name as a reference if paying direct into school bank account).

Before School

Students are allowed into their classroom when the bell rings at 8:30am. Any students arriving before this time will need to wait on the top court until the bell rings, as teachers are busy and are not always in their classrooms to supervise your child before school. Students are able to walk their scooters down to their classrooms before the 8.30 bell, and then return to the top court and wait for the 8:30 bell to ring, at which time they may come to the room.

After School

As our school day doesn't end until 3:00pm, we ask that adults and siblings collecting students from classrooms wait a short distance away from the classrooms, rather than directly outside. On hot afternoons we usually have our doors and windows open, and find that the students are easily distracted by children or adults talking outside the classrooms. Please remember to leave dogs tied up at the school gates.

Water bottles and Sunhats

Please ensure that your child brings a drink bottle of water to school daily. In Term 1 every child must have a clearly named school sun hat at school. If students do not have a hat they will be asked to sit in the shade outside.

Scooters

There is to be no scootering in the school. Students are to walk their scooters to the classroom when they arrive, and they need to place them behind the seat outside their room.

Tissues

We would appreciate it if every child donated a box of tissues for classroom use.

Parent Meet the Teacher Evening

We will be holding a parent evening for you to meet your child's teacher on Wednesday 13th February.

Dates To Note:

- Wednesday 13th February - Parent Meet the Teacher Evening
- Tuesday 26th February (Saver Day 28th February) - Senior Swimming Sports
- Monday 4th March - Friday 8th March Year 6 Camp
- Week 6 Year 5 EOTC
- Tuesday 19th March -(Saver Day 21 March TBC) Interschool Swimming
- Thursday 12th April - End of Term 1

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

Senior Syndicate