



Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Greenhithe School for 2021! We look forward to a year of learning together, where our children can learn and grow. A warm welcome to all of our new Greenhithe parents, caregivers and children, welcome to our community.

Please note that subsequent newsletters will not be printed, but are available on our school website: <https://www.greenhithe.school.nz/newsletter/syndicate/>

The Middle Team is as follows:

Joanna Snowden	Year 4	Room 15 (Year 4 Team Leader)
Astrid Weeks	Year 4	Room 16
Carole Strombeck	Year 4	Room 14
Melissa Erceg/Gabrielle Marris	Year 4	Room 13
Jackie Fitzgerald	Year 3	Room 25
Charlene Boyd	Year 3	Room 26 (Year 3 Team Leader)
Claudia Sheppard	Year 3	Room 27

Curriculum

Writing

We begin the year writing about ourselves, others and our community integrated with our inquiry concept of 'where we are in place and time'. The students will write for the purpose of presenting their ideas and expressing who they are in different groups of people. Sometimes one piece of writing will take many days to produce once they have been re-crafted, edited and published.

Reading

The Middle School reading programme begins in Week 3, with the expectation of 20 minutes daily reading at home. The teachers read daily with groups of children. In Year 3, some students will bring his/her book home to reread with you, other students should have a book or other written material (comics, research-based) to read at home. In Year 4 the students will choose reading material from the library, a journal story, a book that they have read in class or a book from home. It is still important to make time to listen to and encourage your child, by asking questions that prompt him/her to think about the text. Please allow your child to spend some time on 'Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress', the online reading program.

Inquiry

Our inquiry concept of where we are in place and time is underpinned by considering ourselves from others perspectives, where we have high expectations of who we are and how we express ourselves, discovering our beliefs and values, feelings and ideas. Throughout the term, we will also be taking a closer look at our Greenhithe community and how it has changed over time. Additionally, we have the Life Education Caravan here for 2 weeks, teaching the children about healthy eating and good relationships.

Maths

Regular practice of the following will help to consolidate learning done at school;

- simple basic facts to 20 including addition and subtraction
- double numbers (8+8=16, 18-9=9)
- skip counting forwards and backwards in 2's, 5's, and 10's
- learning 2, 5, 10 times tables (and their related division facts), and then 3 and 4 times tables, continuing with other times tables and their related division facts if your child has mastered these.

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 be focusing on problem-solving where students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively. Children can also practise their maths skills at home using the online 'Mathletics' programme. They may be set activities from their classroom teacher to complete or they can use the 'Live Mathletics' option to practise their basic facts.

Uniform

Please ensure that all pieces of clothing are clearly named. Make sure your child's name is in each uniform item, including sweatshirts and raincoats. **School hats are a required part of the school uniform in Term 1 and Term 4.** Please make sure your child has his/her school hat each day, and that it is clearly named. It is also a good idea to put sunblock on your child before school. We also ask each child to bring in a box of tissues to share with the class.

Fitness and PE

Every day students take part in 10-15 minutes of fitness followed by a water and fruit break. P.E. sessions this term will focus on swimming. See the class teacher to find out which days your child will be swimming. There will be a swim sport day for years 4-6 in week 4 with more information to come. The year 3's will have their own swim display and you will get further information on this. Please ensure that your child has a towel, togs, and goggles if they wish, in a named swim bag on the days that they have swimming lessons.

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 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. School Bank

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Important Dates:

Waitangi Day- Thursday 8th February

Years 4-6 Swim Sport day- Tuesday 23rd February

Meet the teacher - Wednesday 24th February - Session times: 4-5 and 5.30-6.30

Year 3 Swimming Fun day- Tuesday 9th March

Teacher only day - 1st April

Good Friday - Friday 2nd April

Easter Monday - 5th April

Easter Tuesday - 6th April

Shore to Shore Run- Sunday 10th April

Last day of Term - 16th April

Middle Syndicate Teachers