

February 2020

Dear Parents

Senior Syndicate Newsletter

Welcome to the Senior Syndicate. We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday. Term 1 is looking full and we would like to tell you about our plans.

This year we are trialling a more personalised approach to topic work, giving students more say in their learning. Topics will come from these broad contexts. Wellbeing - Looking after myself, Culture and Community - Who are we? Perspective and Opinion - Having my say. Thinking - Problem Solving. These will be done throughout the year and will vary across the rooms.

***CAMP** at YMCA Kaitoke Outdoor Education Centre is in Week 8, Mon 23 March till Wed 25 March. (A separate programme and newsletter will come out about this.)*

***ENGLISH** will involve comprehension strategies for reading and character writing.*



***MATHS** is Number concepts, especially place value.*

We will be grouping the children for Maths and English based on their learning needs, using their PAT results and the results from other diagnostic testing. These groups will not begin until week 4, as the PATs happen week 3. There are overlaps of needs between rooms and numbers are carefully organised to support learning.

***R·E** is going to be taught through a Social Justice perspective which will incorporate aspects from all strands. The whole long-term plan has this focus.*

***TECHNOLOGY** Karori West Normal School*

Students have 3 blocks of 7 weeks. T1 is in Term 1 Weeks 2-8 On a Friday 9-12.30. T2 is in T1 Weeks 9+10 then T2 weeks 1-5 on a Thursday. T3 is in T3 week 6-10 and T4 weeks 1+2 on a Friday.

Some parents were contacted last year as Karori West Normal School have a limit of 16 children per room. There are 5 rooms meaning we can only take 80 students. Last year, 6 Y7 students volunteered to stay back for the first

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block. The other students staying back will be organized, either through choice or balloting, this term and you will be contacted if your child is one of them. These students will stay at school to do a separate programme around STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) with a Sacred Heart Cathedral School teacher.

DANCE: *This will be taught by specialists and will be done in a block during weeks 5 and 6*

SATURDAY NETBALL: *Those children wanting to play for the school will receive a separate newsletter soon. (This is run by a committee of parents.)*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: *This term with fine weather we plan to get the children outside regularly. P.E. gear is needed for this. Children need to check with their teacher for their day(s). Please help them in this matter.*

Please also make sure children do not come to school with jewellery or nail polish on (with the exception of watches, keepers, crosses and culturally significant jewellery). Also please reinforce the wearing of school shoes to and from school; sun hats are required in Term 1 & Term 4.

HOMEWORK: *This is set for about 40 minutes, 4 sessions a week. Due to out of school commitments, the weekend is included to give more flexibility to time management. If there are reasons why children are unable to complete homework, please let the teacher know. All children have an IXL login for Maths and English. They are encouraged to keep a brief diary of time and activities done on these, which you could initial once a week. For students who do not have access to a computer at home, there will be an alternative programme provided. All children should read for at least 15 minutes a night and work on memorising Maths basic facts in all operations (+ - x ÷) plus factors, primes and squares.*

We hope children will have a good year, beginning it with covered books, enthusiasm and high standards of work and behaviour. We will be working to maintain this and are confident you will support us in it.

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Dates for other outings will be in the school newsletter and on the school calendar, accessed through the App.

Please feel free to contact us anytime if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

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