

# Middle Syndicate Information

Term One, 2020



Kia ora from Elinor, John and Clare,

Welcome to children and families new to school. The first few weeks of Term One will be very much a time of assessing where your child is at - their next steps and learning goals, and establishing class and Syndicate routines.

## Homework Routines:

### Homework Diaries-

Students will record homework requirements daily in a homework diary. The diary is used as a communication link between home and school, and will help you keep in touch with homework, class routines and special events. All notices and newsletters are glued into these diaries.

**Children must bring their diaries to school each day.**

## Homework:

### Spelling/Language- Monday- Wednesday

This homework routine will begin in **Week 4** of this term once students are assessed and grouped. Language homework will be given out each week on a **Monday**; this work is to be returned to school on **Wednesday** to be marked.

Spelling words will be tested in class each **Friday**. Students will spend time in class working with the spelling programme before the homework routine begins to ensure they are clear about the expectations for setting out their work. Please encourage

your child to record their work neatly and to use a dictionary for spelling and building vocabulary.

### **Maths homework- Wednesday- Friday**

Maths homework will start in **Week 5** once students have been assessed and grouped. Maths homework is given out each **Wednesday** and is to be completed and returned to school on **Friday** to be marked.

Homework will consist of ongoing revision and basic facts practice. **While practice of basic facts is continued at school, ongoing practice at home is essential in order for children to progress in their accuracy and speed of recall.** This may take the form of quick quizzes at home or in the car. Basic fact sheets can also be printed out from the website <https://www.kidzone.ws/math/basicfacts.htm>

Children are expected to follow routines for setting out work and to put their best effort into presenting their work well.

All students will be able to use the site [www.mathletics.com](http://www.mathletics.com) for further practice at home. Tasks may be assigned by the teacher as part of a homework task or as additional practice.

**\*\* Please note that your child may have a different teacher for mathematics as we group between the three classes to ensure that students' varying needs are catered for. Initial grouping is flexible; particularly at the start of the year, (you will be informed of any changes between classes throughout the year).**

**\*\*\* There may be some homework tasks set by individual teachers before Week 4. Checking your child's diary each day will help you track these tasks and what is required of your child.**

### **Reading- Ongoing**

Our aim is to foster a love of books and to build on comprehension skills, vocabulary and fluency.

Year 4 students in Room 5 will have a reading journal, which is to be returned to school each day. Room 5 students have Reading Eggspress accounts, which they will often use as part of their reading homework.

Year 5-6 students, (Rooms 6/7) are to read for a minimum of 15 minutes a night, and record their reading at the back of their homework diary, **(this is to be signed off by either a parent or caregiver each day and will begin in Week One.)**

Reading to or with your child is still important at this level as it gives you the opportunity to talk through words that your child is unsure of which builds their vocabulary. Questioning and discussing clues, left by the author will help develop your child's inference skills.

Discussing what your child is reading with them is appreciated, as this will not only have a positive impact on your child's reading but also their writing.

### **PE uniforms**

Students are required to wear their PE uniform and sports shoes for lessons. Please check your child's Homework Diary for PE times.

**Children who are unable to participate in PE due to illness will need a note from parents/caregivers.**

Years 4-6 are given opportunities to try out for Central Zone and Inter Zone competitions in Swimming and Athletics. They are also given the opportunity to participate in Cross Country. Netball is offered to Year 4-6 girls. Touch is offered to Year 5-6 boys and girls. Parent support with coaching/ managing is appreciated with both of these sports. Swimming lessons are provided by Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre and an experience of differing sports through the ASB Sports Centre in Kilbirnie. The Syndicate will also work with Wellington Girls at the college's gymnasiums on gymnastic activities.

### **TERM ONE PLAN**

#### **English:**

**Exploring Language:** Alphabetical Order- Year 4

Dictionary Skills- Years 5-6

Spelling Rules

Homework routines -Establish spelling groups / in -class practices of homework to reinforce standards and setting out of bookwork.

**Visual Language:** Years 4-Correcting formation of letters/ routines for setting out work in books.

Years 5-6 -setting out work in books.

Handwriting/ correcting links- needs- based.

**Writing:**

Information Reports

**Reading:**

Assessment and grouping.

Selecting information from texts/websites.

Inference skills-"Reading between the lines".

**Maths:** Assessment and grouping

Number Knowledge: Place value,

Basic facts

Addition and Subtraction

**Inquiry:**

Social Sciences topics

Atlas Skills/Mapping- "Where are we?"

Culture and identity-"Who are we?"

**Health and Wellbeing:**

Class Treaties

**Visual Arts:**

Creating our classroom space.

**PE:**

**Dance:** There will be experts in to teach the differing syndicates, dance. This will be done in a block. Please see school newsletter for further information and dates and your child's homework diary for days and times.

**Class Games:** Focus on working as a team, co-operation as well as strategic play.

### **ICT:**

Year 4 setting up individual folders, profiles on Chromebooks, Google Docs and Slides.

Years 5-6 Revise and teach computer functions

Accessing websites for inquiry purposes

### **Religious Education:**

Unit linked to "Our Culture, Our Heritage- Who are we?"

Lent and Caritas

Ash Wednesday and Holy week

### **Art Shirts:**

If you have men's shirts that are unwanted or large T-shirts please send, these in to your child's class teacher. Newspapers and magazines, (particularly magazines with images that interest boys would be appreciated.)

### **Concerns and Questions**

Sacred Heart has an "open door policy". If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. A time to talk can be arranged through the Homework diary, email or by contacting Cathy, the school secretary to arrange a time to meet.

Clare Hewson

Room 5 teacher (Year 4)

Eli Scarlett

Room 6 teacher (Year 5-6)

Syndicate Leader

John Grevatt

Room 7 teacher (Year 5-6)

