



West End Te Kura Ō Mōrere Senior Syndicate Newsletter



Term 1 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to all of our new “West Enders”

Term 1 has begun well for all children in the senior syndicate. The senior children seem settled and classroom routines are being established with all children doing what is expected of them as responsible West End citizens. The hot weather has certainly made for an interesting start to the year for all.

The purpose of this newsletter is to give a rundown on what is happening in the Senior Syndicate at West End School. We aim to keep you well informed of all activities going on.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if there are any concerns—after all if we don't know, then we cannot help.

Parents are welcome in the classroom before and after school to look at children's work but if you wish to see the teacher on a more specific matter concerning your child, please make an appointment to see the teacher **after** school. **(Mornings are not suitable due to the busy start all teachers have at the beginning of the day.)**

Reading

Within the classroom programme, we aim to help children to become life long readers and develop enjoyment and independence in all contexts that they come across.

The teaching of reading in the classroom involves:

- Reading to children.
- Reading with children.
- Giving the children time to read independently.
- Giving the children activities that support and enhance the text that they are reading.

During the course of the year, some children (where a specific need has been identified) will be working with Mrs. Leighton, Miss Hucker, (Teacher Aides), Mrs. Potter (Rainbow Reading programme), Ms Rowlands (ESOL), Mr Horne (ICT Literacy extension and enhancement) and Angie Pearson (RTL). Mrs Lace is working as an extra teacher across the senior syndicate as well.

Home readers are also given to some children as part of their homework and to extend their reading mileage. The children could try:

- reading to someone older or younger.
- having the story read to them.
- reading independently.

Please note that take-home readers take many forms such as chapter books, single stories and articles. Some are teacher selected and some are self selected including library books.

We as teachers ask that the home reading sessions be positive and pleasurable with lots of encouragement and praise. Last year a number of home readers were lost. Purchasing printed resources is not cheap and we ask all parents / caregivers to make sure that readers that are taken home are returned to school.

Written Language

The writing programme at West End School covers many facets. Sharing, reading, writing and modeling are all part of the process that children are involved in before a piece is finally published. It is the aim of the teachers to have all children writing independently and producing work they can be proud of. Published work is presented in many forms and is displayed around the rooms or put in samples books for parents to look at. Please feel free to come into your child's classroom before or after school to see the work they have been doing.

Over the course of the year, all children will take part in Literacy Enhancement with Mr Horne in Room 16—the old speech/dental clinic. The focus on these lessons is to give the children exposure to Language activities with an ICT (Information/Communication/ Technology) emphasis.

Maths

We see maths as being equally important as Reading and Writing. Being able to understand maths concepts develops children's thinking and problem solving skills and enables them to take part in the wider world around them with more confidence.

The teaching of maths in the classroom involves:

Developing an understanding of how maths works

Building a firm base of knowledge in all areas of maths strategies

Applying our knowledge and understanding to new situations.

As with reading and writing, children may sometimes work with a Teacher Aide (Mrs Leighton) for extra support.

If you have any questions regarding the way maths is being taught, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We are aware that maths is taught very differently from when we were at school and it may seem strange before you understand the thinking behind our methods.

Homework

Homework from the teachers in the Senior Syndicate takes many forms and teachers will be informing parents of their intentions for their class as the term gets underway. The Senior Team has been discussing homework and there is extensive research on the advantages and disadvantages of set homework.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A way to learn time management, self discipline and responsibility.• To solidify & practice new methods & skills.• A way for whanau to see what is being taught.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cuts into family / social time.• Cuts into play / exercise.• Stress / overload and / or inequitable resources between families and students.• Rarely allows students to follow their passions.

It is our aim to achieve a balance in this area. Please see your child's teachers if you have any other queries.

Morning tea / Lunchtime Supervision.

We have teachers who are involved in Morning Tea /Lunchtime supervision. As well as this, teachers are rostered on for recreation duty and take games and activities designed to keep the children at West End School engaged in lunchtime activities. Such things as Rugby, Soccer, Netball, Hockey, Dance, Music Instrument instruction-Ukulele / Guitar, Library time, Brass Instrument lessons, Friendship Club, and Chess all cater for our children. We also have Year 6 Sports / Recreation leaders who run games as well. There are plenty of organized activities to occupy our West End children at lunchtime.

Sunsmart - Melanoma Prevention

Information regarding the schools stance has been sent home. Further to this, children are not permitted to wear "baseball / starter caps" due to these giving no protection to the neck and ears. Also with the NZ sun being particularly dangerous at this time of the year, girls who are wearing "strappy singlet tops" need to have sun block applied to their shoulders to give them the best protection from the sun. **NO HAT MEANS NO PLAY**—children without hats are directed to sit under the Rm 1 /2 eaves for playtime and lunchtime. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Camp 2019- Years 5/6 - Rooms 1, 5, 13 & 14 Week 5—4/5/6 March

This year, Rms 1/5/13/14 will be camping out at Vertical Horizon in Inglewood from 4-6 March ie Week 5 term 1. Lots of information has gone out to parents from Tuesday of this week regarding costs, permission, health information etc. Parents who are wanting to stay overnight and help must let the classroom teacher know by Monday 11 Feb in order for Police Vetting to take place as per Ministry of Education guidelines. Teachers have passed on Parent Helper forms to those parents who have indicated they are coming. We expect all children to take part and automatic payments can be set up with Chris Hurrell in the main office to cover the \$175.00 cost. Please note that our "away camps" and "in-school" camps occur on alternate years.

Year 3/4 Senior Syndicate - Rooms 2/3/4 Outdoor Education Activities.

This is planned for Week 5 of Term 1 and applies to the year 3/4 students in the Senior Syndicate. More information will come out closer to the time for concerned classes.

Guitar / Ukulele Lessons.

These will take place later in the term. Guitar lessons are for year 5/6's and Ukulele lessons are for years 4/5/6. Lessons are free and are taken by Mr Horne. These occur for approx 1/2 hour once a week during a lunchtime. Those who are interested will be canvassed and a letter will go home informing them of the requirements for these later in the term.

Brass Instrument Lessons.

Children who started this in 2018 will continue this year under the instruction of Bryce Gordon from NP Brass. More information will come out when I hear more from Bryce.

Swimming.

Children have started swimming this week from 9-11am for all senior classes so children will need to have togs and towels at school each day to be ready to head over to the Devon Intermediate Pool—weather permitting. There are swim platforms for the Yr 3/4 students to make one end more shallow. Mrs Lace is an expert swim coach who runs the programme and supports staff in their endeavors to make our children "swim safe". This is part of our Health and PE programme. This years swim instruction programme is centred around Swimming Survival skills and learning how and what to do when in the water to remain safe—such skills as floating, using hands and feet to remain above the water, using everyday objects for flotation as well as swim skills etc will be taught by Mrs Lace and the staff.

General

- School Rewards. It is our aim to accentuate the positive in all that our students do at school. Our rewards "language" will now centre around Te Taura Whiri (The Strong Rope) —Ako (We are all learners & teachers), Kaitiakitanga (We are guardians of our environment), and Whanaungatanga (We are a whanau/family). You will see these graphics around the school and classrooms. Students have their own Te Taura Whiri booklet and when they are demonstrating the above school values, their teacher will sign their booklet. When they reach certain levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) wrist bands will be awarded to them at school assembly. This lets other students and staff see that they are responsible and are upholding values that we see are important at West End Te Kura o Mōrere. 2018 bands that were awarded last year can still be worn but children will be starting afresh for 2019 and working their way through the Bronze, Silver and Gold steps.
- Lollies are not permitted at school . Children are also not permitted to purchase lollies before school to consume during the day. Sweets found will be confiscated.
- Toys at school tend to get broken, lost or stolen. Please tell your children to leave these at home for the day. This includes Countdown cards, Dominoes etc. Trading at school causes unnecessary friction taking teachers away from their job to sort out problems.
- Jewellery (dangly earrings, chains etc) are not appropriate at school. Ear studs are fine.
- Makeup is also inappropriate for school other than clear lipgloss, sun protection etc
- Lynx Deodorant—Some students are coming to class in the morning after "marinating themselves" in deodorant before leaving for school. It is quite overpowering making students and staff feel unwell due to its "overpowering aroma". It would be appreciated if your child is using deodorant, then an unscented one be used please. I hope you can understand our position with this matter. Cans of Lynx are also not to be at school please.
- Water is the only liquid for children to drink at West End School.
- Lunches - Lunchtime rubbish often sees wrapped whole sandwiches (up to a dozen packets) discarded in the bin . Please check with your "cherubs" as to what they want in their sandwiches / lunches. Empty tummies and hungry children have an impact on learning in the afternoon. We are encouraging children to bring home any unwanted food so you can get an indication of what they are consuming and adjusting your child's lunch if necessary.
- Scooters / Bikes—if these are brought to school, then they need to be locked either on the bike/scooter rack being behind Rm 11 or the scooter rack by the office entrance. We will do our best to keep these safe but the ultimate responsibility for the locking of these remains with the owner of the bike / scooter.
- Cellphones are to be **handed into the class teacher** at the beginning of the day and they will then be returned before the children leave at the end of the day.
- Munch / Crunch is held at approx. 10 am and healthy options are expected to be eaten at that time such as a piece of fruit / vegetable (carrot sticks, celery) etc to maintain optimum performance in all of our learners.
- Fizzy drinks / Energy Drinks for example Coke, Fanta, V, Redbull, G Force, Monster, Illicit, Mother(the list is almost endless), Tubes (frozen cordial) etc are not permitted in school lunches due to their high sugar content, caffeine levels plus other additives and their impact on classroom behaviour after lunchtime. If staff see children with these drinks at school, we will be asking them to put them in their bags to be consumed when they get home. The only acceptable drink at school is WATER.

- **Lost Property**—Please label all children's clothing (including undies & socks) as lost property accumulates rapidly over the term. Children and parents need to check the lost property trundler outside Room 7 for any lost items as we will be clearing this every couple of weeks due to the overwhelming pile that soon becomes unmanageable. **Naming clothing, shoes etc means the owner can be found quickly.** Also encourage your children to pick up any clothing that they have shed during the play / lunchtime as they return to class for lessons. Again naming clothing is a great help in getting it back to its rightful owner. Unclaimed items at the end of each term go to the Hospice Shop.
- **Lateness**—The first bell rings at 8.55 am for a settled start at 9.00am All staff would appreciate the children being ready for lessons at this time. Children being late means they often miss out on the morning memo and with that any notices that may affect them. If your child arrives after 9.00am, **then they need to go to the office** so the electronic register can be filled in. If your child is later than 9.15, a phone call will be made asking for an explanation. Continued unjustified lateness / unjustified absence will mean a referral to the Truancy Service for further action. We are bound by Education guidelines to report these matters. Regular absence has a negative impact on student achievement—we at West End want the best for all students.
- **Children** are not to be at school before 8.15am. This gives staff uninterrupted time to prepare for the day.
- **Cybersafety**—It is our aim to update these records so please keep an eye out for the documents around these later in the term. We aim to make sure that children and families recognize the need to operate safely when using the internet. Class teachers also give explicit directions and instructions around the safe use of any classroom technology. Children who are caught changing passwords or abusing the technology will not be able to use these until the class teacher decides whether they can be trusted. Parents will be contacted if necessary.
- **Reward Day**—This happens at the end of each term and is intended to "accentuate the positive" that the majority of students display in class and playground behavior for that term. If your child has been in the discipline book (Red Book) more than twice during the term OR has been in the Reflection Room (Serious playground incidents), then they do not take part in the reward activity.
- **Classroom Release Time (CRT)** — Gary Bruckner is the Senior Syndicate Classroom Release Teacher. His role is to release teachers across the Senior Syndicate for 2 days per term to attend to classroom administration, testing etc. Gary's main focus for the time that he is in classes is Health and PE and he does a superb job in covering these in a fun yet informative way.
- **Te Reo / Kapahaka**—Under the leadership of Carri-Anne Stone, we have the services of Matua Peter Taylor who is a well respected educator in the field of Te Reo, Tikanga & Kapahaka. He is at school every Monday and alternates between the Senior and Junior syndicates upskilling our students in areas of Te Reo, Tikanga & Kapahaka. He is a great asset to our teaching staff. This will happen every Tuesday for 2019.

Thanks for reading this and giving your attention to these matters.

Please see your child's teacher in the first instance if you have any concerns.

"We don't know what we don't know" and wish to maintain open lines of communication with all parents and caregivers regarding your child/children.



We see this as a 2 way process.

A reminder that the school web site is:

www.westendnp.school.nz

This is up-dated regularly by our web-master Warren Smart.

Also follow us on our school Facebook page:

West End Te Kura O Morere

Kind regards to all.

Peter Horne Associate Principal

Senior Syndicate Teachers — Warren Smart, Jeff Cocker, Wendy Kitto, Charlotte Symes, Anne-Maree Lightbody, Carri-Anne Stone, Becky Bruckner/Gary Bruckner & Jo Ross.