



West End Te Kura Ō Mōrere Senior Syndicate Newsletter



Term 1 2022

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.

Under the current Red setting, we ask all parents not to come on-site to visit classrooms before and after school. While we agree this is not ideal, we are obliged to follow Ministry of Education guidelines. Contact through SEESAW is the ideal communication tool. WHEN SETTINGS CHANGE WE WILL LET ALL WHANAU KNOW.

When parents are allowed on site with changed settings, afternoons are the best time to have a korero with the class teacher. (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 (RTLb).

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 in good condition—the same goes for school library books as well.

For those without home readers, please try to encourage reading at home. Puke-ariki (The City Library) has a great selection of books for children to borrow.

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.

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 parents 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. **Homework will be at the discretion of the individual class teachers across the Senior Syndicate.** Each teacher will have communication with their parents informing them of their intentions in this area.

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 / activities designed to keep the children at West End School engaged in lunchtime activities. Such things as Rugby, Soccer, Netball, Hockey, Dance, Yoga, 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.

Our choice of sunhat is a "bucket hat" that provides all-round protection of the face, ear & neck. 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—NO EXCEPTIONS**—children without hats are directed to sit under the Rm 1/2 eaves for playtime and lunchtime. Thanks for your help in this matter. We do not hold a supply of sunhats at school. Classes have a supply of sunblock should it be needed for students.

Camp 2022- Years 5/6 - Rooms 1/2/13/14/15.

Due to current Red settings, it has been decided to hold off on our "in school" camp until Term 4 when we will have a better indication of how the current settings will affect us all.

Camp 2022 Year 3/4 Senior Syndicate - Rooms 2/3/4.

Due to current Red settings, it has been decided to hold off on our "in school" camp until Term 4 when we will have a better indication of how the current settings will affect us all.

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.

When I know more from the tutor, there will be an invitation for those who want to learn.

Senior Syndicate Swimming.

Devon Pool is back in action after being unavailable in 2021. Swimming is part of the school Health and PE curriculum and we encourage all students to take part in this.

For some children, seeing the Devon Pool is a little daunting at the beginning of the year. It can be a little chilly at that time of the morning but for those who lack confidence, we have swim platforms that raise the level of the floor of the pool at the southern end of the pool so it is shallow enough for children to feel safe.

Teachers are very sensitive to the fact that some children are not confident in the water and it is our intention to make sure that those taking part are comfortable and supported as best we can. The recent sad news around the number of drownings across NZ over the 2021/2022 summer break means that being confident in and around water is an extremely important skill for all.

If your child is not swimming, a quick notification to the teacher would be helpful.

Masks. We are aware of the challenges around masks in the classroom in a primary school setting but we are under guidance from the Ministry of Education. Children can take breaks in the fresh air if needed as per classroom expectations. We are working hard to ensure that all of our children are safe and as comfortable as possible. If your child has a cloth mask, then please wash it regularly at home. We have been supplied with disposable masks and these are in every classroom for children that need them.

SeeSaw.

This is our primary means of connecting the class teachers ie the sharing work and connecting with parents about all learning and classroom activities etc. Teachers will have given each child the necessary See Saw documentation so that parents can be logged in via a device to receive See Saw notifications etc. If you are having trouble, please contact your child's class teacher.

General.

- **School Rewards**—It is our aim to accentuate the positive in all that our students do at school. Our rewards "language" centres 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 Ō Mōrere. Previous bands that were awarded can still be worn but children will be starting afresh for 2022 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. **We also notice Jelly Snakes etc in lunches under the name of the Natural Confectionery brand. These are Lollies in disguise** and we do not encourage these for Munch Crunch, morning tea or lunchtime. Consuming these for some children has a detrimental effect on behavior due to the instant energy these provide. They also cause tooth decay by sticking to tooth surfaces for long periods of time . Thanks for your support with this.
- **Toys at school**—These tend to get broken, lost or stolen. Please tell your children to leave these at home for the day. This includes Pokemon , Yu-gi-Yo cards etc. Trading at school causes unnecessary friction taking teachers away from their job to sort out petty problems.
- **Jewellery** - Dangly earrings, chains etc are not appropriate at school. Ear studs are fine. False eyelashes etc are not appropriate for wearing at school.
- **Makeup** - This is 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.
- **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. **Also a reduction to the use of "single use plastic" in school lunches will continue to be a focus by our school student leaders. Please lets make a big effort in 2022 to minimize this and reduce our "waste footprint" to zero. It also cuts down on our rubbish disposal costs as well meaning more budget for curriculum resources.**
- **Scooters / Bikes** - If these are brought to school, then they need to be locked either on the bike/scooter rack behind Rm 11 or the scooter rack by the Room 3 carpark 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.**
- **Skateboards / Scooters** -These are permitted at school for use on the court / car park with the skateboard ramps. Children having these at school are responsible for them. Helmets must also be worn when using the ramps.
- **Cellphones** - These 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. No exceptions.
- **Munch / Crunch**- This 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 / Jelly Cups**—Coke, Fanta, V, Red Bull, G Force, Monster, Illicit, Mother(the list is almost endless), Tubes (frozen cordial) as well as Jelly Cups (which are a choking hazard) etc are not permitted in school lunches due to their high sugar content, caffeine levels etc plus other additives and their impact on classroom behaviour after lunch. If staff see children with these drinks / jellies at school, we will be asking them to put them in their bags to be consumed when they get home. Thanks for your support with this.
Water is the only liquid for children to drink at West End School.

- **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 outside Room 7/8 steps area 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.
- **Morning Arrivals**—We would like children to arrive at school after 8.15 am please (if possible). 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.
- **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 Thursday 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 in classes for instruction and outside for Kapahaka on fine afternoons.

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.

Kind regards to all.

Peter Horne Associate Principal.

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

A reminder that the school web site is:

www.westendnp.school.nz

Also follow us on our school Facebook page:

West End Te Kura O Morere

Please note: We have 4 communication tools that we use here at West End and they all serve slightly different purposes as follows:



Skool Loop: all official notices from school will be put on this platform—including the school newsletter. Skool Loop is also used for emergency notices if the need arises. We require all families to be signed up to Skool Loop. It is available free from the App store (Google / Apple).

IF AN IMMEDIATE SCHOOL LOCKDOWN OCCURS FOR SAFETY REASONS, THIS IS OUR FIRST LNE OF COMMUNICATION WITH OUR PARENTS.

School Website: This holds wider information about the school and staff. Newsletters are also posted on the site as well.

Facebook: Upcoming events at the school are posted here as well as activities pupils are involved in.

SeeSaw: Used to show class and school work from individual classes as well as a communication tools between parents and individual class teachers.

