



# SOUTH HORNBY SCHOOL

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## Middle Syndicate Newsletter – Term 1 2010

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Welcome back to South Hornby School for 2010 and for our new parents we hope you enjoy being part of the South Hornby School community. We look forward to working together in supporting your child's learning journey.

The Middle Syndicate teachers this year are Maree Crosby (Room 9), Charlotte Nimmo (Room 10), Martin Bootten (Room 11), Pamela Dawson (Room 12).

### Learning

Throughout the year the key understanding that we will be focusing on for our inquiry is "We have a responsibility to look after ourselves our community and the environment". The second key understanding will be "That our choices have consequences".

The context for our inquiry this term is NZ wildlife. The key understanding is "We have a responsibility of care towards different kinds of animals".

Our trip for this inquiry will be to Willowbank Wildlife Park. A further notice will be given out detailing information and requesting parent help. Please budget \$20.00 for trips and visitors in Term 1 & Term 2.

Our Literacy and Numeracy programme will continue with children being placed in ability groupings for their learning.

Children will also be having an additional Physical Education session with Miss Claire Jevins who is a specialist teacher.

The children will also begin afternoon rotations from week 3-8 where they will be working with syndicate teachers. The sessions will include Te Reo/ Music, Visual Arts, Thinking Tools/Inquiry skills and Environmental Education.

Our sports programme will be aligned to the Senior Syndicate this year and we will be part of their swimming sports and triathlon in Term 1.

### Values

The school Values are an important part of our classroom and school culture at South Hornby School. They are part of our programme and we would encourage parents to talk to their children about how they display these within school and at home. Our values are Respect, Integrity and Honesty, Initiative, Excellence and Love of Learning.

There is an expectation that students behave appropriately and take responsibility for their learning and behaviour. The school has a behaviour management system in place and when necessary parents will be contacted to discuss how they can support their child in making good decisions.

## **Parent Help**

We have many exciting activities planned for this year and hope that parents are able to support us by joining the syndicate as parent help. Our first trip will be to Willowbank and we will send out a notice shortly detailing the trip and requesting parent help.

## **Homework**

The Middle Syndicate will not be setting formal weekly homework sheets for children to complete. There is an expectation that students should be reading daily for at least 15 minutes and practising their basic addition and subtraction facts to 20 and tables. Spelling words are part of the classroom programme. Teachers may approach parents individually if they have some additional activities that will support their child's progress.

## **Clothing**

Children must wear sunhats (red bucket) for all playground activities. These need to be our school uniform hats. If a child does not have a hat they will spend this time under the trees in the shade. Please ensure all hats are named clearly.

## **Jewellery**

As a safety issue, we would like to ask that children do not wear dangly earrings to school. Studs are fine as they are unlikely to be caught on anything during sports and / or games. Rings, necklaces, bracelets and bangles are not to be worn.

## **Swimming**

Swimming is a very important part of our programme. The Middle Syndicate will be swimming on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternate Fridays. We need your support to ensure all children get the opportunity to learn to swim. If there is a serious medical reason that prevents your child from swimming, please send a note to the class teacher. There may also be times when children will be offered a swim at lunchtime as a reward so togs should be at school every day.

## **Communication**

There will be times when you wish to talk to your child's teacher. Teachers have set meetings on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and are in classrooms from 8.30-9.00am to set up the day and chat to children and parents. If you need to make a time to discuss concerns please talk to your classroom teacher.

We look forward to working together.

Kind regards

Pamela, Martin, Charlotte, Maree

