



SOUTH HORNBY SCHOOL



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JUNIOR SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - Term 1 – February 2012



“Whāia te iti kahurangi” – Reach for the stars.

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back, we hope you had a relaxing Christmas with your children and families, and had a chance to enjoy some of the warm summer weather.

We would like to welcome any new parents/families to South Hornby School. Thank you for choosing South Hornby, we are sure you and your children will enjoy your time with us.

Topics for Term 1

Our overarching inquiry theme this year is “Bigger, Better, Faster, Higher, Stronger”. The syndicate focus this term is that “Better Choices = Better Bodies”. We will be exploring things like being sunsmart, healthy eating, dental hygiene and the school values (Respect; Integrity and Honesty; Initiative; Excellence; and Love of Learning.)



In Mathematics we will be collecting data and graphing it before we begin our numeracy focus. We will also be continuing to use Mathletics, and we encourage you to work with your children on this at home.

We are planning a trip to McLean’s Island at the end of the term. A detailed notice will come home later in the term.

Stationery

Thank you for making sure your child started the school year with the necessary stationery items. It is vital that your child has the correct stationery to enable them to do their work. (This includes having their Reading Folder at school each day.) Please ensure your child has got all their last few bits and pieces that they need. Remember everything needs to be named.



Reflection Time

At the end of each day (2.40pm) each class has Reflection Time where we talk reflect on what we have done during the day. Parents are welcome to come in to class and listen to this. When we are sitting in a circle you will know that we are ready to begin. We would appreciate no interruptions and preschoolers remaining quiet. Your support is appreciated with this.

Uniforms

When the weather is warmer children tend to take their sweatshirts off during the day. **Please ensure your child's clothing is named** – at the end of the day we often have sweatshirts left in classrooms with no name on them at all, and quite regularly children go home with someone else’s sweatshirt on and their one still in the classroom. Use a permanent marker pen on the tag but we also suggest that you write on the fabric inside the waistband as well.

We find it easier for children to keep **their sunhat at school** in their desk. Often if they go home they do not come back. Your child needs their **school sunhat** every day – morning tea and lunch time – or they will be unable to play fully.



Before School

Children need to **wait or play outside** prior to the **8.30am bell** ringing. No one should be in classrooms before then. Teachers are in classrooms from 8.30am and are then able to supervise children.



Swimming

We hope to make the most of the summer weather and swim at every chance we get. Please ensure your child has their named swimming togs and towel **each day (Monday-Thursday)**.

Even if the weather is unfavourable in the morning it can turn out hot later in the day. It is really helpful if your child can change into their togs and back into their uniform independently. Please also make sure that each item of your child's clothing is named to help us return clothing to the rightful owners. We also would like girls with long hair to have it tied up for swimming.



Helping your Child

We work hard to provide appropriate learning activities for the children in our classes. You, as parents and caregivers, can also help your children make the most of these important learning years.

Every day your child needs:

- To complete their Reading and/or Spelling homework, and return their **reading folder** to school **every day**.
- To do things for **themselves**, like packing and unpacking their **own schoolbag**, and carrying their own school bag into school each day.
- To be at school **on time** - school starts at 9am.
- Time to **play and chat** with classmates and their Teacher prior to the bell ringing at 9am - they are able to do this independently when **parents/caregivers leave prior to the bell** ringing.
- A good night's sleep.
- A good breakfast before school and a nutritious lunch and drink of **water**.
- Limited "screen" time on the TV, play station, video or computer.
- Outside play time.
- A quiet story time.
- Praise to encourage them.
- To be (hopefully) using their school values at home.



Can you help?

If you are willing to help out in a Junior Syndicate classroom please let us know as well. Having an extra pair of hands is invaluable. You may be able to listen to a Reading group, help at Story Writing time, mend books, prepare resources, etc.



There may be times when you wish to talk to your child's teacher. We want to talk to you too. Please feel free to discuss things with us but try and remember that during class time we will need to be with your children. Teachers can be reached by phone before and after school, and will also be in the classroom from 8.30am and available to speak to you then. You can also organise a time to talk out of class time.

We would please ask parents to leave the classroom prior to the 9am bell ringing (so your child has time to settle if they are tearful) and not to enter classrooms prior to the bell going at home time which is 2.50pm unless observing Reflection Time. We appreciate your support with this matter.

Regards

Angela Jones (Junior Syndicate Leader), Margaret Richards, Kirsten Harris-Tatana, Katie Petheram, Michaela Murray, Rosemary Waugh