



SOUTH HORNBY SCHOOL



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MIDDLE 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.

Overview Term 1

Inquiry

Our overarching inquiry theme this year is “Bigger, Better, Faster, Higher, Stronger”. The syndicate focus this term will be to teach the stages of inquiry through an integrated topic which will look at the Wonders of the World.

Maths

In Mathematics we will be collecting data and graphing it as part of our Statistics unit. We will also be continuing to use Mathletics to support our basic facts knowledge. Numeracy groups will also be part of the classroom programme.

Writing

In writing we will be looking at the features of recounts and descriptions.

Reading

Reading groups will be part of the classroom programme with activities to support comprehension, grammar and spelling.

Health

In our health unit we will be exploring how people’s attitudes, values, and actions contribute to being healthy. We will also focus on relationships with others and how to express our ideas and feelings.

PE

Our programme this term will include swimming, fielding and striking skills. We will be doing this as part of a rotation on Friday afternoons.

Art

Our unit this term will focus on drawing and the students will be looking at Self Portraits.

Te Reo

Our unit this term is about greetings and completing a mihi (introduction about yourself)

Golden Time

Every second Friday students have the opportunity to be part of golden time. This is where students can earn points by making good choices throughout the week and select a fun activity to be part of.

Syndicate Trip

As part of our Health and Art unit this term the middle syndicate will be going on a trip to the gardens at the Halswell quarry. We will require parents to support us to help with our art and team building activities. Please talk to the classroom teacher if you are available. A notice will be sent out next week with more details.

Stationery

Thank you for making sure your child started the school year with the necessary stationery items. Could students please bring an old sock or cloth to use to clean their whiteboards after learning sessions.

Reflection Time

At the end of each day, dependent on planned activities, each class has a Reflection Time. This may involve talking about what we have done during the day and how we have used our school values. Parents are welcome to come in to class and listen to this.

Uniforms

Please ensure your child's clothing is named and they are wearing the correct uniform. Please remember that students may only attend school trips if they are in the correct school uniform.

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.

Middle Syndicate Ready to Learn

Every morning between 8.45 and 9.00am students in the middle syndicate begin their ready to learn work. Every day different activities are set for the students to complete. The expectation is that students are in the classroom ready to begin at 8.45am. One of the goals of ready to learn is to promote student independence and responsibility we would kindly ask parents to support us by allowing children to complete their own work.

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-Friday)**.

Please also make sure that each item of your child's clothing is named. We also would like girls with long hair to have it tied up for swimming.

Homework

The expectation for students in the middle syndicate is that they will be completing homework daily. This should not exceed 20 minutes and can be a great way for parents to support their children's learning.

Reading

This will involve reading either a library book or the book that they are working on with the teacher at school.

Maths

Each night students should be practicing their basic maths addition and subtraction facts. Students that are confident at this will begin learning their multiplication and division basic facts.

Spelling

Knowing and being able to spell the essential word lists supports students in reading and writing. Students will receive some spelling lists to learn at home.

Communication

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.

Regards

Pamela Dawson (Syndicate Leader), Martin Bootten, Claire Jevins, Charlotte Spencer.