

Junior Team Newsletter Term 1 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the Junior Team YO-3 term one 2018.

We hope that you and your children have had a wonderful break and enjoyed the summer sun, and are ready to start a new school year. We trust that everyone is settling into their new classes. No doubt this beautiful weather will continue over the next few weeks, **so make sure your children come to school with their hat and a large bottle of water each day**, thank goodness we all have air conditioning!

Our Junior Team Teachers are:

Donna Fitzwater (Team Leader) Room 9	d.fitzwater@stjosephs.school.nz
Nikki Turner Room 10	n.turner@stjosephs.school.nz
Dianne Felix Room 11	d.felix@stjosephs.school.nz
Erin Clayton Room 12	e.clayton@stjosephs.school.nz
Caitlin Hollis Room 13	c.hollis@stjosephs.school.nz
Kirsty Van Eyk Room 14	k.vaneyk@stjosephs.school.nz

- ❖ A reminder that all children are required to wear a hat at break times. The school policy is; **no hat, no play.**
- ❖ Also be on the lookout for those little creatures (head lice). They particularly enjoy the warmer weather so please check your child's hair regularly and treat when necessary. Junior children are particularly prone to head-lice as they have close contact with each other. It is helpful to inform your class teacher if you discover your child has head lice.

During the next few weeks homework will begin to come home. This takes the form of a reader and spelling type activities. Please ensure that all homework material sent home is returned to school every day. We have a **Junior School Home Learning Guide Book**, which most of you received last year, please refer to this for guidance in regards to home activities. Please see your class teacher if you do not have one of these.

In the Junior School, literacy and numeracy are our core focuses.

- In written language we encourage children to become independent writers from the beginning. The children are asked to attempt to write their own stories, regardless of their letter or word knowledge. All approximations are accepted and correct letters and words are modelled by the teacher. If your child wants to write at home, first encourage them to write independently.
- Most nights your child will bring home a reading book for you to share together. Listen

to your child read. If they are at the beginning stages of reading, help them to point to the words. Encourage your child to gain sense from the story. Resist jumping in and correcting errors but ask questions like; "Did that sound right?" "What does that word start with?" Our aim is to create in children a love of books and to lead them towards being independent readers. To do this, we teach them strategies to cope with an unknown word. You can help by setting aside a regular time each night to read to your child. The bedtime story is the most valuable way to ensure a healthy attitude towards reading. Please refer to the Junior School home learning guide.

- Mathematical concepts are found in everyday life. It is important that your child understands that mathematics is all around them, it is not just something that you do at school. Encourage them to read numbers. Say the number that comes before and after. Play board and card games as a family. Get your child to help read recipes. Take everyday situations and use them in a simple number story. Check the Maths ladder page in the home learning guide for strategies to support learning in the class.
- Children progress with their learning at different rates. It is important to remember not to compare your child with another.

For the greater part of this term our Core Value focus is Kindness/Manaakitanga . We have started a unit based around understanding what learning is and building relationships as a learning community. As lent begins we will be focusing on Religious Education through a Caritas unit 'Let us Go Together' Finding peace and Hope in Timor-Leste . Also in Religious Education the children will be learning about the charism of our school through celebrating the feast days of our House Saints. The children will learn about the different ways we pray and the significance of Lent and Easter. In week 6 the focus will change to Science, where we will begin to explore our solar system.

Dates to remember this term:

- Ash Wednesday 14 February
- St Patrick's Feast day March 17
- St Joseph's Feast day March 19
- Tennis Coaching Week 4-7 (\$6per child)
- End of Term Friday 13 April

Remember if you have any questions or queries please ask the teacher. If you would like to discuss a matter at length please make an appointment to meet with the teacher concerned.

Many thanks for your support

Junior School Team

