



# St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

Wednesday 7th February 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the new school year and the 4, 5 and 6 Syndicate for 2018. A special welcome to all new parents entering our school and to the year 4 parents. As usual, we have a busy, interesting year lined up! Our syndicate is made up of:

Team Leader - Heather Keep in Room 8 Year 4/5. E-mail [h.clayton@stjosephs.school.nz](mailto:h.clayton@stjosephs.school.nz)  
(Please note I have gone back to using my maiden name but my e-mail is still in my Clayton name! However, this will change sometime this year!)

Stephanie Terry in Room 7 Year 4/5 E-mail [s.terry@stjosephs.school.nz](mailto:s.terry@stjosephs.school.nz)

Anna Crawford in Room 6 Year 5/6 E-mail [a.crawford@stjosephs.school.nz](mailto:a.crawford@stjosephs.school.nz)

Tracey Mchaffie in Room 5 Year 5/6 E-mail [t.mchaffie@stjosephs.school.nz](mailto:t.mchaffie@stjosephs.school.nz)

If by chance your child cannot attend class or will be late for any reason, please inform the **office** before 8.45 am by either using the school app or emailing [admin@stjosephs.school.nz](mailto:admin@stjosephs.school.nz). The school app is really easy to use so download it as soon as possible.

## **See-Saw**

Once again we will be working with See-Saw this year. For those of you who may not be familiar with this programme, it is a way for your child and the school to share learning, events and activities. Soon, a personal invitation and a sheet with your personal code that enables you to join, will come home. This is a great opportunity for you, grandparents and wider family to have a look at what your child is learning at school.

## **Medication**

Teachers are not allowed to administer any type of medication. If your child needs some form of medication this needs to be left at the office. A form is required to be filled out explaining time and dosage etc.

## **School bell times:**

Beginning of the day: 8.45.

Morning tea: 11.00-11.25

Lunch: 12.45-1.25

Home: 2.45

## **Clothing:**

Could you please name all pieces of clothing. At the end of each week there is always a pile of lost property! If clothing is named it will be returned directly to the child in question.

### **Sunsmart**

With this sunny, hot weather all children will need to have some form of sunblock in their school bags. Please ensure they have sunblock on exposed skin **before** arriving at school in the morning. We do have extra sunblock in each class.

### **Drink bottles:**

This term is shaping up to be a particularly hot one and the children will need to keep hydrated! Please make sure your child has a drink bottle that they may keep on their desks during this hot, hot weather. There are drinking fountains around the school but teachers would prefer that children did not need to leave the classroom to get a drink. Please name the bottle.

### **Expectations**

#### **Homework**

Homework books are expected to go home on Monday and be returned on Friday. Sheets will be available for the children to pick up on Monday. Not all subjects will have a sheet every week.

**Reading:** 15 Minutes each night. This may be a school reader or for those who are more independent, a novel .

**Maths:** sheet relating to the topic being taught in class

**Topic:** Fact gathering depending on what we are studying at the time.



Homework will begin in Week 3. Reading books will be coming home soon after. We will be establishing their reading levels from last year's information. They may come home with reading books they have read last year. However, this is to build up their reading fluency and confidence and children will be re-tested later this term.

Children should be doing 30 minutes **at the most** each night. If your child is finding an activity too difficult write a note in the homework book or call in to talk to the teacher. If your child is busy with extracurricular activities after school, or tired, don't force the issue. We want children to have a positive feeling about school! Feel free to write a note in the homework book. Extra maths can be found on the school website explaining the different levels and maths knowledge taught at each level.

### **Reading Books:**

Each class is looking for a parent to help put all reading books away into one of the reading rooms. This can be done weekly or fortnightly, around your own schedule. If you are able to help out in this way could you please let your child's teacher know.

### **Self-Management**

At this level we encourage and expect the children to become more independent and manage their own belongings e.g. hanging up their own bags, tidying their desks, looking after their stationary. This will be something we will develop and work with them on throughout the year. Children are expected to be in the class at 8:45am. They may need to arrive earlier taking this time to get organised and finish incomplete work. This means valuable learning time is not wasted with these small jobs.

### **Uniform**

Fitness gear **must** be in their bag. This is the Kukri navy blue top and Kukri navy shorts. We continue fitness every day throughout the year unless the weather is particularly bad. **School hats** must be worn **every day** in Terms 1 and 4.

Please note: girls hair ties must be navy, maroon, black or white. Fancy bows and large clips are not part of the school uniform. Earrings are simple, plain (not coloured) studs. Nail polish is not allowed to be worn at school.

### **R.E. Focus**

**Value Focus:** Kindness - Manaakitanga

**Prayer:** Why we pray, how we pray and where we pray. Revise Traditional prayers and responses during Mass. Meditation  
Lent and Easter.

**Caritas** - East Timor. The focus will be looking at how people in different countries live, poverty and how Caritas works in these communities.

### **Curriculum Focus Term 1**

**Written Language:** Recounts and diaries, simple poems around the topic

**Oral Language:** Personal experiences, pair share, reporting to class, prayers news from around the world. Reporting facts succinctly.

**Spelling:** Literacy Success programme

**Reading:** Guided reading, shared reading, teacher read

**Mathematics:** Statistics, Number - addition and subtraction, Place Value

**R.E.:** Prayer- own and traditional prayers. Responses in Mass, Lent, Easter, Caritas,

**Te Reo Maori:** Greetings and counting, writing a mihimihi - looking at their family tree.

**Health:** Friends and belonging, rules around the school environment, cool schools and peer mediation,

**Physical Education:** Tennis, summer team sports, daily fitness

**Science:** planet Earth and beyond- limestone caves and creature that live within them.

Waitomo caves



### **Up-coming events Term One.**

<b><u>Week 1:</u></b>	Meet the Teacher Wed 31 Jan.
<b><u>Week 2:</u></b>	Monday/ Tuesday - Waitangi Holiday

<b><u>Week 3:</u></b>	Swimming sports - Thursday 15 Ash Wednesday Mass
<b><u>Week 4:</u></b>	Tennis -Friday 23
<b><u>Week 5:</u></b>	Y4-6 Syndicate Mass - Wednesday Tennis - Friday 2 March
<b><u>Week 6:</u></b>	Tennis - Friday 9 March
<b><u>Week 7:</u></b>	Tennis - Friday 16 March
<b><u>Week 8:</u></b>	
<b><u>Week 9:</u></b> -	Good Friday
<b><u>Week 10:</u></b> -	Easter Monday- Tuesday TOD Wednesday. - No school
<b><u>Week 11:</u></b> - April	Student led Conferences Tuesday 10 End of Term -Friday 13 April

### **Tennis**

The year 4-6 syndicate will be travelling to Beerescourt Tennis Club for tennis lessons. These begin in the fourth week on Friday 23 February. The cost for these is \$13 which will be added to your school account. Thanks to a grant from Sport Waikato the cost per lesson has been kept down.

### **Waitomo Caves:**

The syndicate will be visiting Waitomo Caves later in the term as part of a science topic we will be studying. Further details, including the date and the cost, will come home at a later date. The cost will be added to your school account. We will be asking for parent help on this day so keep an eye out for the date!

### **Camp Term 4**

This year camp will be only a day camp at Ngaruawahia Christian Youth Camp. This will occur towards the end of Term 4.

Thank you,  
Heather Keep, Rochelle Wood, Tracey McHaffie  
Anna Crawford, Stephanie Terry

