

Junior Team Newsletter

Term 1 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the Junior Team YO-3 term one 2019.

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)	Year 1	d.fitzwater@stjosephs.school.nz
Nikki Turner	New Entrants	.turner@stjosephs.school.nz
Dianne Felix	Year 1	d.felix@stjosephs.school.nz
Erin Clayton	Year 2-3	e.clayton@stjosephs.school.nz
Caitlin Hollis	Year 2-3	c.hollis@stjosephs.school.nz
Aleise White	Year 2-3	a.white@stjosephs.school.nz
Penny Finn	Year 2-3	p,finn@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 for most children and alphabet and word list learning for those that require it. Please ensure that all homework material that is sent home is returned to school every day. We have a **Junior School Home Learning Guide Book**, which most of you received on school entry, 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.

Our value focus this term is Faithfulness/Whakapono. We have started a unit based around understanding what learning is and building relationships as a learning community. In week 4 we will begin a Social Science topic; The St Joseph's Journey, the way our school has evolved over time, making comparisons around the environment, the curriculum, the discipline and technology. If you are a past pupil and have any information and resources at home that are able to be brought to school to share please do. In Religious Education the children begin with a focus on Prayer and then move into the Jesus Strand, Y1 is focusing on Jesus my friend, showing his love in different ways. Y2/3 will focus on how Jesus showed us how to live and become closer to God. Ash Wednesday on March 6th signifies the beginning of Lent, and then Easter.

On Tuesday of Week 2 we will be running 20 min Parent informations across the school having two time slots to choose from. The first session for Yrs 0-3 will be from 3.00 - 3.20pm and the second at 4.30-4.50pm. These session is designed to give you general information about how we operate our Junior School across the levels.

In Week 4 on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons you will have the opportunity to book a 10min meeting with your child's guardian teacher to introduce yourselves and perhaps give them any important information they need to know about your child. Please refer to this weeks newsletter for further information regarding booking codes.

Dates to remember this term:

- Opening School Mass Wednesday 27 Feb
- Ash Wednesday 6 March
- Tennis Coaching Week 4-7 (\$7per child, this will be charged to your account)
- New Children's Liturgy Wednesday Week 9
- End of Term Friday 12 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

