

# Welcome to the Middle Syndicate



## SUNNYBRAE NORMAL SCHOOL TERM 1 PARENTS' MEETING

Middle Syndicate Newsletter

13 February 2018

**1. Welcome** - thank you for the interest you have shown by coming tonight; we aim to maintain a close relationship between home and school. We recognise the importance of this partnership, which we believe results in better outcomes for your child.

### **2. Teacher Objectives**

- To work closely as part of the Middle Syndicate team (teachers and children).
- To create a warm, friendly, caring environment - good rapport with each child - use of positive management techniques.
- To establish clear routines and expectations.
- To give each child success, lifting their self-esteem, self-motivation and self-confidence.
- To encourage active involvement in a variety of learning experiences.
- To monitor children's progress through observations and assessment procedures and inform parents of results through progress folders and parent conferences.
- To provide programmes that cater to individual needs: Our part-time teachers: Mrs Mason (ESOL), Mrs Thumath (GATE), Mrs Babbage (Music), Mrs Poole (Y4 Maths, support) and teacher aides work in our syndicate to provide these. Mrs Park and Mrs Qian are also available to Korean and Mandarin speaking families for English language assistance. Teacher aide, ESOL, GATE and Literacy and Maths groups will vary throughout the year and you will be notified of your child's involvement in any of these groups.

### **3. Objectives for Children**

In addition to following our school expectations and values (RICE), the children will also be focusing on managing themselves for maximum learning. The following objectives have been set for the children: -

- To treat classmates with respect.
- To work co-operatively with anyone in the class.
- To start work quickly and not interrupt other people's work.
- To help to keep the classroom tidy.
- To be well organised and responsible for their own possessions.
- To plan for learning by doing homework.
- To regularly reflect on their learning and identify next steps.

#### 4. Overview of Term 1

We will begin the year focusing on activities that promote a positive classroom climate through our unit, 'Marvellous Me - My Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships'.

#### Students will be learning to:

- describe our School values of Respect, Independence, Cooperation and Excellence.
- create a set of class expectations and/or treaty.
- describe the importance of having class and school expectations.
- understand that people have different roles and responsibilities as part of their participation in groups.

Later in the term students will be focusing on the Science curriculum where they will be observing and exploring how plant life is essential to the survival of living things.

#### 5. Timetable

School starts at 8.55 am but children are expected to be here at 8.45 am. Please refer to the letter sent home from your child's teacher outlining further information about their classroom programme. It is important to make a note of the Library and swimming days for your child so they have everything they need on the appropriate days.

#### 6. Trips and Activities

These form an integral part of our programme and it is expected that each child should participate. More information will follow about our planned visits during the year.

#### 7. Additional Activities

Encourage your child to take part in the optional wider school activities available to them from Year 3 upwards. They are outlined in separate newsletters and include sports teams (basketball, netball, hockey, touch rugby, cricket and flippa ball) and cultural/music groups (Kapa Haka, choir, orchestral group and recorder).

#### 8. Homework

Homework should be completed regularly and the book returned to school on Fridays. A sheet in the front of the homework book will outline in more detail what your child is expected to complete. Homework is open-ended to enable children to work at their level and will include: -

- **Reading** - reading with, and to your children regularly, is still very important at this level. Please remember to ask them to tell you about the story they have just read to help them develop comprehension skills. Your child will also have access to their Reading Eggs account at home.
- Learning of **Spelling** sounds and related activities – these words will be recorded in your child's homework book.
- **Maths** – Numeracy skills are always a school-wide focus and the support of your child in the learning of basic facts for quick recall will be particularly beneficial. Maths games are powerful tools to use to reinforce basic facts. Your child will also have access to their Mathletics account at home. Also look out for links to websites on our classroom blogs as they appear through the year.

It is helpful if you can organise a quiet place for your child to complete their homework. There is flexibility in the homework timetable to accommodate family priorities. Homework is not set on the weekends. The homework book is an important form of communication between teachers and parents - please ask to see it.

**9. Parent Support** – We find it really beneficial for each child’s learning if parents can support the class programme by: -

- Establishing a regular bedtime to make sure the children have had enough sleep.
- Ensuring children **arrive by 8.45 am** to be ready to start at 8.55 am.
- Sending a healthy, balanced lunch to school.
- Checking that all possessions are named, especially uniform and swimming items.
- Sending swimming gear and library books on relevant days.
- Asking for and reading the homework book information and newsletters.
- Our newsletter and reminders get emailed to you automatically from our school website [www.sunnybrae.school.nz](http://www.sunnybrae.school.nz) or if you do not have access to email, a copy will be sent home with your child.
- Encouraging/assisting children to select and complete homework tasks each week including the regular use of the Mathematics and Reading Eggs online programmes.

*IN ADDITION: We would appreciate you completing and sending back the parent feedback sheet this week, to enable us to gain a better understanding of your child’s needs from your perspective.*

We enjoy working with your children and appreciate the positive and enthusiastic support that you give us. You are always welcome to come in before and after school to look at your child’s work, either in their books or on display. A great way to check in on the learning happening is to visit your child’s classroom blog via our website <http://www.sunnybrae.school.nz> and clicking on ‘What’s On?’ then ‘Class Blogs’. This is a place where you can view your child/ren’s learning activities. We encourage you to take some time to comment within your child’s classroom blog by following the steps provided on each blog.

If you have any concerns or queries please contact us directly. Email is an effective form of communication and is checked daily by teachers. Each classroom has a phone for before/after school contact, or you could arrange a time for an interview through the office or by writing a note in the homework book. It is helpful if you can give us some indication of your general concern prior to a meeting, to enable teachers to prepare beforehand.

Thank you again for your support.

### **Middle Syndicate Teachers**

Eva Roding (R17), Tim Horne (R18), Helen Lamberton (R19), Barbara Shephard (R8) and Karen Rodger (Deputy Principal and Syndicate Leader).

### **Teachers’ email addresses:**

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