



**11 February 2022**

## **Kakariki Term 1 Team Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to a new school year in the Kakariki team for 2022! We are excited to see our Year 6 children step up as the leaders of the school in their last year at St Joseph's, and we are looking forward to getting to know, and working with our Year 5 children.

A special welcome to Grace Wessels, Joseph Crisafi, Matthias Maylemans, Thomas Morrison and their families who are new to St Joseph's School this year and to Adam Khan, who started in Term 4 last year.

Here is some basic information so you have an understanding of how it works in the Kakariki team.

The Kakariki Team is made up of 5 Home Groups. The teachers will be collaborating together to create a fun and engaging learning programme accessible to all children, both in our classrooms and at home (for those children that are self-isolating).

### **Kakariki Teachers:**

#### **Pod 1**

HG1 - Ms Ingrid Young ([ingridy@sj.school.nz](mailto:ingridy@sj.school.nz))

HG2 - Ms Niamh O'Reilly ([niamho@sj.school.nz](mailto:niamho@sj.school.nz))

#### **Pod 2**

HG3 - Ms Gemma Strother ([gemmas@sj.school.nz](mailto:gemmas@sj.school.nz))

HG4 - Miss Laura Bateman (Monday, Tuesday and Friday) ([laurab@sj.school.nz](mailto:laurab@sj.school.nz))

HG4 - Mrs Francisca Knottenbelt (Wednesday and Thursday) ([franck@sj.school.nz](mailto:franck@sj.school.nz))

HG5 - Mr Peter O'Connor ([peteroc@sj.school.nz](mailto:peteroc@sj.school.nz))

We will be assisted by Mrs Tracy Foster and Ms Wilma Hilhorst as our Learning Support Assistants.

### **Daily routine:**

All students will be working in their individual Home Groups to complete their learning tasks. Once we drop down alert levels, there will be plenty of opportunities throughout the year for students to work with different teachers and students depending on the lessons and themes.

### **Morning:**

When the children arrive at school, they will complete a quiet activity in their own home group space until the start of the school day.

### **Prayers:**

We will start each day with prayers in our own Home Groups. When we move through the alert levels, we will be able to get together with the rest of our pod for some of these prayer sessions.

**BYOD:**

We encourage students to **bring their own digital device and earphones to school**. They know it is in their care throughout the day. While we do everything to keep these safe, it is their responsibility to bring it **into class fully charged and store it** until it is needed.

As per the BYOD contract that each child will sign, they are aware of the rules surrounding the use of devices and know that a device will be removed from them if used inappropriately. At no time is it allowed out of the class, unless under the teacher's supervision.

**Possessions:**

We encourage children to take ownership of their possessions, and to treat all property and digital devices with respect and care. All items, devices, earphones, clothing, stationery, shoes, hats and bags that are clearly named will be more likely to be returned to the owners in a short space of time.

**Home Learning** (Will begin in Week 3)**Home Learning Challenges:**

These challenges are designed to encourage creative problem solving and we expect students to complete a minimum of 2 per term. The emphasis is on quality, rich, creative work and most projects will take 1-2 hours to do really well. It is a wonderful opportunity for family discussions and to share your child's innovative ideas. We understand that some students have lots of extracurricular commitments and need time to rest as well, so please bear in mind that these challenges are not a competition.

**Spelling:**

Students will complete an online test and be placed at a spelling level based on their individual needs. We use an online programme called StepsWeb, where the children will learn spelling patterns, rules and words appropriate to their level. There will be weekly spelling words to learn at home and these will be tested on Fridays.

**Reading:**

Students can read a combination of their own books or library books for a minimum of 15 minutes each day, including weekends.

**Mathematics:**

Look for opportunities in your child's daily life to make them see that maths is all around us. Talk to them about different mathematical concepts (at the supermarket, petrol station, cooking dinner, driving to school etc). Mathematics is used to work on number facts and times tables at home and children will be assigned tasks to complete at their individual levels (15-20 mins per day).

**Religious Education:**

Sometimes your child will have an RE activity or strand activity to follow up or share with you at home. Please have a discussion about the work they have completed and then sign it - feel free to write a comment too.

**Trips:**

There will be a variety of trips throughout the year (alert level dependent) which will require parental support. We thank you in advance for volunteering your time and for helping with Education Outside the Classroom, especially with Waterwise and Camp, which cannot happen without extra adult support.

**Camp:**

Year 6 Camp this year is in Term 2, Week 3: Monday 16 - Wednesday 18 May. We will be going to Carey Park in Henderson Valley (depending on the alert levels and restrictions). While the Year 6 students are at school camp, the Year 5's will participate in their own Outdoor Education activities also (details TBC). More detailed information about Camp and how you can volunteer to help will be coming out in a notice later this term.

**Waterwise:**

Waterwise is a programme that we run for Year 5 and 6 students to develop students' self confidence, water safety, swimming and fitness, kayaking and sailing skills. Classes will attend Waterwise at Lake Pupuke on 2-3 Tuesday's throughout the year with their class teacher and trained instructors. We require a large number of parent helpers for this programme to run effectively so we ask that you volunteer if possible so that the programme can go ahead for your child's class. At this stage, due to it being an outside activity and each home group going individually, we are putting measures in place so that this programme can hopefully proceed under the red alert level. More information will be sent home soon.

**Concerns:**

If there is a question about your child's progress or a problem that you have experienced, we ask that you always approach your child's class teacher first. Most of the time they will sort out any problems and get back to you about their plan of action. If you are not satisfied with the solution provided, please contact Miss Bateman next. She will either work with the teacher to reach the desired solution or discuss the problem with other senior teachers.

**Leadership:**

A big part of the Kakariki team is developing the leadership capability and skills in all Year 5 and 6 students. There will be many opportunities throughout the year for students to step up and be role models for others. Please encourage your child to develop their independence and make good choices as they become the leaders at St Joseph's and prepare to head off to their next level of education. We are excited to support your child's growth and development in the Kakariki team this year!

Kind regards

Kakariki Teachers: Ingrid Young, Niamh O'Reilly, Gemma Strother, Laura Bateman, Francisca Knottenbelt, and Peter O'Connor

## Curriculum

<p><b>RE</b></p> <p>Prayer: We always begin the term with a focus on Prayer so that students at this level are able to plan and lead prayers and grow in their own spirituality through doing so.</p> <p>Our strand this term is the Jesus Strand We will also celebrate Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter in our Home Groups.</p>	<p><b>Inquiry</b></p> <p>With our Inquiry learning we will investigate topics with a focus on students constructing their own learning and meanings. Inquiry enables students to learn through curiosity, discovery, and collaboration rather than being presented with facts through direct instruction.</p> <p>Concepts we will cover include: Treaty of Waitangi; Digital Citizenship and Online Safety; our School Values and Growth Mindset; Cooperation skills in the different areas: sport, music/dance/drama, business and design.</p>
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<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>In Year 5 and 6, children read and write for a range of purposes. They will gain independence by selecting genres that are appropriate for the task. At this level, they are expected to write across the curriculum. So whether they are writing in RE or in Science etc. they are expected to punctuate their work, write legibly and edit their writing.</p> <p>This term will see us focusing on Text Structure and Language Features of texts relating to the theme. To begin with, the children will be writing letters to their teachers and writing summer holiday poetry. We will continue to look at developing the students skills in vocabulary choice, sentence structure, text structure and organisation of their writing.</p> <p>Spelling will be taught as part of the weekly Literacy programme using Steps Web and a variety of teaching approaches.</p>	<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>These are the areas of focus in Maths this term. Please help your child to complete the Mathletics activities for these topics as this will support their school learning.</p> <p>Week 1 - 4: Number Knowledge: basic facts, place value, ordering and sequencing numbers</p> <p>Week 5 - 8: Addition/Subtraction strategies</p> <p>Week 9 - 10: Measurement: Length, time, area, volume, mass, capacity</p>
<p><b>The Arts</b></p> <p>Children will begin by carrying out Visual Art activities linked to 'getting to know each other' Earlier in the term, we will be focusing on ourselves and what skills and qualities we each bring to our Home Groups and our Kakariki team.</p>	<p><b>PE</b></p> <p>Waterwise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Week 2: Land based training at school in Home Groups (no parent help required)</li> <li>- Tuesday's: Different classes attend Waterwise at Lake Pupuke (trained parent help with vaccine passes)</li> </ul> <p>Cooperative games in Home Groups</p>

### Important Dates for Kakariki team

<p><b>Week 1</b> Tuesday 8th Feb Term 1 begins</p> <p>Friday 11th Feb Year 6 Leadership block</p>	<p><b>Week 2</b></p>	<p><b>Week 3</b> Tuesday 22nd Feb Waterwise <b>TBC</b></p> <p>Wednesday 23rd Feb - Football promo <b>TBC</b></p>	<p><b>Week 4</b> Tuesday 1 March Waterwise <b>TBC</b></p>	<p><b>Week 5</b> Tuesday 8 March Waterwise <b>TBC</b></p>
<p><b>Week 6</b> Tuesday 15 March Waterwise <b>TBC</b></p>	<p><b>Week 7</b> Tuesday 22 March Waterwise <b>TBC</b></p>	<p><b>Week 8</b> Tuesday 29 March Waterwise <b>TBC</b></p>	<p><b>Week 9</b> Tuesday 5 April Waterwise <b>TBC</b></p>	<p><b>Week 10</b> Tuesday 12 April Waterwise <b>TBC</b></p> <p>Thursday 14th April - Last day of Term 1</p>