



SOUTH HORNBY SCHOOL



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MIDDLE SYNDICATE LEARNING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - Term 1 – February 2016

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back, we hope you had a relaxing Christmas with your children and families, and had a chance to enjoy some of the warm summer weather.

We welcome Mrs Annameika Jack and Mrs Katie Dickson to our team this year, both are returning from maternity leave. We would also like to welcome any new parents/families to South Hornby School. Thank you for choosing South Hornby, we are sure you and your children will enjoy your time with us.

Overview Term 1

Inquiry: Learn. Create. Share

The syndicate focus this term will be to look at our South Hornby “People Powers” and “Learning Powers”. We will also be learning all about the members in our learning community.

Google Apps for Education (GAPE)

All students in the Middle Syndicate this year have their very own Google account. This means that they are able to access their work anywhere, anytime, and if you have computer with internet access at home they will be able to show you. Students will be working on different devices (PC's, chrome books, Mac laptops and iPads) to access their learning. They all have their own log in and password to learn - this will be our focus early on, and we learn how to navigate our way around using these devices for our learning.

Maths

In Mathematics we will be collecting data and graphing it as part of our Statistics unit. Numeracy groups will also be part of the classroom programme. Teachers will be testing students to ensure we place them in the correct groups for their learning needs.

PE

Our focus for the beginning of this term (and as long as the weather allows) will be swimming. We are also going to begin our Cross Country and Duathlon training.

Sending work home

This year your children have manila folders as part of their stationery. These are going to be used to collect literacy and numeracy worksheets during the week and this work will be sent home each Friday. This saves having to waste exercise books for pasting work into, and also means that you can see the learning that your children are doing.

Collaborative Spaces

We will be working as a whole learning community this year rather than single cell classrooms. Students will be working with all of the teachers in our team, and with a variety of different children. We will refer to ourselves as “Home Room” teachers to the students in our actual class (or “Home Space”). Your child may have a different teacher for their Reading group, their Numeracy group, their Swimming group, etc. Your child's “Home Room” teacher will usually be the teacher you are best to touch base with but you may be directed to one of the other teachers for a specific question relating to their learning that another teacher is more knowledgeable about.

Behaviour Management

This year we are introducing “Learning Powers” and “People Powers” that enable students to be South Hornby Heroes. Children are encouraged to make good choices about their behaviour and their learning, and they need to understand that there are consequences for inappropriate behaviour. Teachers can only be effective when children are prepared to learn, and we want to spend time our teaching rather than managing inappropriate behaviour. All students are working towards gaining a Middle Syndicate Sam Smiler badge. Each child will have a Sam Smiler Club Card sheet to complete during the year, by entering evidence of how they show their values, and getting these initialed by their classroom teacher. Completed Sam Smiler sheets are shared and discussed at a syndicate level by all four teachers, who then make a decision about whether a badge will be awarded.





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Uniforms

Please ensure your child's clothing is named and they are wearing the correct uniform. Please remember that students may only attend school trips if they are in the correct school uniform. School sunhats will be stored in the home spaces. Please remember that all earrings must be the small stud type, not sleepers or hoops (which many children seem to be wearing). Sleepers or hoop earrings cause a health and safety issue at school. We appreciate your support with this.

Before School

Children can put their school bags in the container as soon as they arrive at school and play in the playground prior to the 8.30am bell ringing. No one should be in middle learning block before then. Teachers are in the home spaces from 8.30am and are then able to supervise children.

Swimming

We hope to make the most of the summer weather and swim at every chance we get. Please ensure your child has their named swimming togs and towel each day (Monday-Friday). Please also make sure that each item of your child's clothing is named. We also would like girls with long hair to have it tied up for swimming. We are very fortunate to have a school pool, and we believe swimming is a very important life skill. Children will be organised into 4 ability groups for swimming instruction. Our aim is that every child swims every day – we don't want our children to be a drowning statistic.

Toys at School

Teachers discourage children from bringing toys to school. Special toys need to remain at home where they will be safe from harm. Unnamed toys frequently cause problems when they are lost or go missing, and then re-appear in someone else's possession. The best option for us all is to not bring them to school in the first place. Your support with this is appreciated. Please note this also includes sports gear. Each learning space has equipment the students can access to play with at break times.

Home Time

After school routines are important, and it is important that your child knows what they are to do at the end of the school day – who is picking them up, where they are to meet the person picking them up, etc. The safest place to wait after school is at "the rock" outside the school office.

Homework

The children in the Middle Syndicate will have daily homework. This should not exceed 20 minutes and we appreciate the support you give your child's learning when completing homework. Children will have Reading homework (either their classroom reading book or school library book), Spelling homework (their list of words to learn). The Hornby Library is a valuable (and free) community resource that we encourage you to use for additional reading material.

Communication

There may be times when you wish to talk to your child's "Home" teacher (or their Reading teacher, Maths teacher, etc). We want to talk to you too. Please feel free to discuss things with us but try and remember that during class time we will need to be with your children. Teachers can be reached by phone before and after school, and will also be in the classroom from 8.30am and available to speak to you then. You can also organise a time to talk out of class time. If you would like to contact teachers by email – addresses are as follows:

Mrs Jones – jonesa@southhornby.school.nz

Mrs Dinnington – dinningtont@southhornby.school.nz

Mrs Jack – jacka@southhornby.school.nz

Mrs Dickson – dicksonk@southhornby.school.nz

We also have a Middle Syndicate Learning Community blog for you to keep up to date:

<http://middlesyndicatelearningcommunity.blogspot.co.nz/>

We are really excited about working with your children and you this year, and looking forward to using our collaborative learning spaces. We hope you enjoy the journey with us!

Regards

Angela Jones (Syndicate Leader), Annameika Jack, Katie Dickson & Tania Dinnington

