



## BUCKLANDS BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Junior School Newsletter  
Term One 2012

Welcome to all our students and families in the Junior School, especially those who are joining BBPS family for the first time this year.

As a team we strive to ensure that children feel secure in their class, enjoy coming to school, and develop confidence and independence. Our goal is to facilitate learning through inquiry guiding and assisting the children with ongoing development of thinking skills, problem solving, working co-operatively, and communicating effectively.

Our B.B.P.S. Vision is "*We are a community of enthusiastic, highly competent learners.*"

We really value the partnership with parents in helping to make our vision a reality.

To begin the year the Junior School classes have been busy

- getting to know the children's interests, skills, talents, achievement levels and specific learning needs.
- establishing relationships.
- establishing expectations and standards i.e. *to be the best that we can be.*
- setting routines.

### Timetable

Each day includes the following:

- **Fitness and PE** - this term we have swimming lessons. Children need to bring their named togs and towel in a bag. As swimming is part of the curriculum it is expected all children participate. A note is expected if there is any reason your child needs to miss a session.  
We will begin jump jam fitness on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8.50 from week 2, when parents are very welcome to join us (and earn a Gotcha Award!)  
Our Year 2s will have the opportunity to be trained as Jump Jam leaders.  
Children are encouraged to wear whanau T-shirts on sports days.
- **Oral Language** – including news.
- **Reading** – Children are grouped according to their progress and achievement level. During ongoing monitoring these groups will change over the year. It is important that children feel that their individual success is celebrated and not compared to the rate of progress of the other children.
- **Writing** – Children are encouraged to develop their letter sound knowledge and spelling skills so they have the confidence to attempt words with increasing independence. Using individual conferences teachers assist children with their own writing goals. Classes also write together as a group to model the writing process i.e. planning their ideas, writing them down, editing, and publishing in a variety of way.
- **Maths** – In Years 1 and 2 the major part of maths learning is based on developing number knowledge and strategies to use when working with number. Children are grouped accordingly. We also cover graphing, probability, time, money, measurement, and algebra.
- Other learning areas include **art, music, drama, and health.**
- **Topic** – Much of the learning is integrated with topic studies to include **science, social sciences** and **technology**, and as an Enviro school we are incorporating Education For Sustainability ideas as well.

We have begun the term with our 'Skills for Growing' programme which helps children develop positive relationships with others, how to solve problems and ways to make good choices.

Our school has **zero tolerance for bullying** and all issues are followed up with the ultimate aim being that children know the steps to take if they are unhappy with incidents that occur.

These are:

1. Ignore trivial or minor irritations.
2. Move away.
3. Be assertive in saying what you don't like and to tell the person to STOP IT. We are learning the words to use to express ourselves clearly, rather than lashing out physically.
4. If none of the above solves the problem, have the confidence to then seek help from a trusted adult, i.e. teachers on duty or the classroom teacher.

Please reinforce the above steps and encourage your child to get issues resolved at school **the day they occur**.

To further assist with fostering good relationships between children we ask that the issuing of birthday invitations and sharing of party food be dealt with out of school, thank you.

### **Home Learning**

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays this consists of

- reader/s. Children may bring home the same book for more than one night depending on their reading level and the focus for lessons. The reading log is used as an incentive to increase 'reading mileage' and an opportunity for you to write a comment.

**Please ensure readers are kept and returned in bookbags as they are needed by other groups and classes. They are also very expensive to replace.**

- practice of alphabet and recognising basic words as applicable.
- other activities may be included from time to time e.g. news preparation, spelling practice, maths or topic studies.

Please encourage the correct pencil grip and letter formation for any writing that your child is doing.

On Fridays, instead of the reader and reading log, children will bring home their poem book and library book, which need to be returned to school the following Monday.

Please check you child's bag for newsletters and notices – there are also spares kept on the table in the office foyer. Also your child may be attracted to classroom items that find their way into pockets so please return any bits and pieces such as little teddies from the maths corner – we would be grateful and no questions asked!

### **Before and After School**

A good time to arrive at school is between 8.30 and 8.45.

Children settle better if they have time in the morning to unpack, get their book bags organised, and have time to briefly play and meet up with friends before school.

Children arriving just before 8.30 need to stay seated outside the classroom until the bell goes.

SKIDS offer a before and after school programme for parents which includes a casual drop off from 8.00 to 8.30. If your child is going to be **late or absent**, please phone the school on 534 6543 to notify the office. Please note that the school programme begins at 8.50.

It would be helpful if parents arriving before the 3.00 bell, wait away from the classroom e.g. by the sun shelter or 'friendship seats', so that teachers can end the day with the class's full attention for notices etc. Children may ride scooters to and from school, but not within the school grounds when it is busy with parents, pre-schoolers and other children.

### **Uniform**

Please ensure all your child's belongings are named. This minimises the chance of items becoming lost. Children need to be able to dress themselves. This is very important during the swimming season! Also sandals are preferable to shoes and socks at this time of the year. The lost property box is kept at the back of the hall so please check this regularly for items that have gone astray. If your child comes home with someone else's name on an article of clothing please return it to school as soon as possible.

### **Morning Tea and Lunches**

Drink bottles need to contain water only please.

We are fostering the notion of a rubbish free school with a "Pack in, Pack Out Policy". This means the children need to take home anything not eaten from their lunch box. It would be helpful if items like yoghurt are put into containers so they do not leak and also that items in wrappings are able to be opened independently. Some scraps such as apple cores and banana skins may go in the worm bins for our school gardens.

We have quite a large number of children with various allergies including reactions to certain goods, eg peanut products, so no food is shared between the children.

The lunchroom will be open on Wednesdays and Fridays from **Wednesday 8 February**. Lunch orders need to be written on an envelope with the money enclosed and placed in the class lunch box before school.

Teachers will supervise the first 10 minutes of children's lunchtime when they need to remain seated and are encouraged to eat their bread (or equivalent) first!

### **School Assemblies**

These are on Friday afternoons starting at 2.15. Parents are welcome.

At some time during the year, your child's class will present an item and you will be informed when this is on. Also if your child is going to receive a certificate or award the office will ring you. It may seem a long time before your child gets a certificate as there is only one allocated per class, but we do try to be as fair as possible over the year. We give extra certificates at our team singing sessions and the children also enjoy gathering stickers and other awards for work well done.

### **ICT**

All classes have classroom computers as well as access to school laptops. We are also continuing to introduce more interactive technologies into classes and all children will gain experience working with these. You will receive a computer agreement for you to discuss with your child and sign. This is to help develop an awareness of using the computer appropriately.

Please visit our school blogspot to share in some of our learning.

**<http://bbpsrecentactivities.blogspot.com>**

The blog is linked to the school website. **<http://www.bbps.school.nz>**

### **Reporting Progress and Achievement**

Every child's learning, progress and achievement is observed and assessed continuously throughout the year. This is done in groups as well as individually through formal assessment, ongoing feedback and feed forward and reflecting on learning and the next steps. Children are rostered on a reporting schedule according to their age. You will receive more information on reporting later in the term.

### **ELL (English Language Learners)**

Carol Hughes works with children needing extra assistance with learning English. They are withdrawn from the classroom for lessons. Please keep up the child's first language at home and the English will develop by being totally immersed at school.

### **Reading Recovery Programme**

Gina Smith will be working with children who need extra assistance with early literacy. This year four children will be on the programme at any one time and will receive daily lessons for up to 20 weeks.

### **Working in Partnership**

We endeavour to foster open communication with parents, with the interests of the children being our paramount concern. If at any time you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's schooling and well-being please approach the class teacher in the first instance, the team leaders Gina Smith and Louise Johnson, and then the deputy principal Carole Crompton, or the principal Dorothy Bodley if necessary. Quick informal queries or comments may be addressed before or after school but for anything requiring more deliberation please make a suitable appointment. Teachers may be busy with classroom preparation or have before / after school meetings to attend, usually held Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Communication to teachers can also be through email or a letter or note delivered to the teacher.

### **"Getting to know your child"**

A reminder that you have the opportunity to make an appointment for either Monday 13, Tuesday 14 or Wednesday 15 February between 3.15pm and 5.00pm to **meet your child's class teacher**. To book an appointment simply log-on to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) from next week Tuesday 7 February and follow the simple instructions. You will receive an email confirming your appointment time. Should you not have access to the internet or are having any difficulties making an appointment, please contact the school office.

Our school code is: **PGL6Y**

We welcome your involvement through the PTA and parent help. Some of the ways parents are able to support the school are

- joining the PTA. There is a meeting Tuesday 7 February in the staffroom.
- being a class liaison or parent rep.
- doing crossing duty at Clovelly Road
- returning readers to the reading room
- being a parent help on trips
- visiting and helping with special events
- helping in classrooms

### **Upcoming dates**

Meet the Teacher	Monday 13, Tuesday 14 or Wednesday 15 February
Visit to Howick Historic Village	Week 4 and 5. Details to be finalised. <i>[no more than \$20]</i>
Splish Splash Day	Thursday 16 February at 11.00am – 12.30
I'm Nearly Five Party	Monday 26 March
New Entrant Parent Meeting	Wednesday 28 March
Last day of Term 1	Thursday 5 April

We look forward to a happy successful year at Bucklands Beach Primary School where 'Our Enthusiasm makes the Difference'!

Thank you

Kind Regards  
Junior School Team