

Title 2022 Senior Syndicate Newsletter - Term 1

Tuesday, 8 February 2022



Waterloo School Senior Syndicate

Years 5 and 6

Newsletter Term 1 2022

Kia ora everyone

We hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you a very 'Happy New Year!'

The teachers have been busy preparing their classrooms for their students and we are all looking forward to firstly, reconnecting with our Year 6 students and secondly, meeting our new Year 5 students and welcoming them into the senior syndicate. This term we also welcome Chris Cowman who will be teaching in Room 4, Anna Boyce, who is returning from maternity leave, Brooke Morgan-Cameron, who will work with Anna for two days per week in Room 2, Aimee Cunningham, who is also returning from maternity leave and Paula Martin who will be working with Aimee for one day per week in Room 7.

Room 1 Ruby Leonard

Room 2 Anna Boyce Brooke Morgan-Cameron (Thursday and Friday)
(Monday Tuesday Wednesday)

Room 3 **Glynnis Bell**
(Team Leader)

Room 4 Chris Cowman

Room 5 **Janice Karl**
(Team Leader)

Room 6 Charlotte Kelly

Room 7 Aimee Cunningham Paula Martin
(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday) (Thursday)

Inquiry

Our 'umbrella' concept for the whole of 2022 is resilience. Each term, we will investigate a number of contexts through which the students, we hope, will develop their understanding of resilience. Our students experience many physical, mental, social and emotional challenges every day of their lives. Being resilient helps them to tackle these, deal with setbacks and disappointments and have the best chance of succeeding. Resilience helps them to cope with new situations, people and experiences positively. In term 1 we will link resilience to the following contexts:

- **The Treaty of Waitangi** - (its importance and relevance to us as New Zealanders).

- **Our Classroom Ecology** – getting to know and reconnecting with each other, reminding ourselves of our responsibilities towards each other, our environment and our learning.
- **Investigating a variety of aspects of physical well-being.** Using a 'hot off the press' resource called, "Active Travel Action: Together making a difference for you, your community and the planet – now and in the future!"
- **Our health programme,** Navigating the Journey, will run throughout the year. In term 1 we will be learning about relationships, for example, forming and maintaining friendships.

Literacy

Literacy learning will concentrate on establishing reading and writing programmes and routines.

In writing, our focus will be on purposeful writing tasks linked directly to our inquiries. Each classroom will work on different tasks often according to the needs presented by their inquiry process. These writing tasks may take a variety of forms, for example, personal experience, poetry, letters, reports and so on. Through these tasks, we will be learning about things such as how key ideas are selected, how different texts have different structures, the importance of selecting specific words, correct punctuation, proof-reading and editing.

A great way for you to help at home is to encourage a regular habit of reading and also by reading with your child and discussing the features that make up the texts you are sharing. For example, the author's use of descriptive language or how the structure of a piece of text can change depending on the purpose of the writing.

You could also spend time guiding your child to be observant about their everyday experiences: a walk along the beach, a sports game, a game with siblings, or a cooking experience. All these experiences are rich fodder for writing.

Numeracy

There will be an emphasis on students exploring addition, subtraction concepts. We hope to continue to consolidate their number knowledge and their strategic thinking when problem solving. In term 1, we will have a particular focus on statistics, as this area of math lends itself to the beginning of the year when we get to know each other. We can explore the things we have in common or the things that differentiate us and use these activities as a springboard into learning about our world through a statistical lens. The students will be encouraged to develop their own personal learning goals which they can revisit and modify throughout the year.

Physical Education

The weather is perfect this term to be outside for PE – as long as we have lots of water, sunscreen and sun hats with us! The PE programme will begin with athletics including long jump, high jump, sprints, vortex, discus and shot put, moving into small ball skills and related games. At this stage, Senior Athletics Day is pencilled in for 2nd March (pp 4th March) this term. After athletics, our focus will move to our aerobic fitness. We are hoping to hold our school Cross Country day in the last week of this term (April 11th pp April 13th) this term. More information about how these events will take place will be shared with you closer to the time.

Home learning

We cannot over-emphasise the value of developing a love of reading in your child/ren. This may also take the form of you reading to them and modelling the joy of reading. Individual classes will have their own additional homework expectations. These are based on class needs and can look different from class to class. Teachers will encourage students to complete any classwork that they are behind in, and to read, read, read every day.

Please speak to your child's classroom teacher if you need further clarification or require any more information.

Active Learning

All classes will continue to develop the 'Active Learner Traits' ("Connecting me", "Thinking me", "Managing me", "Collaborating me", and "Communicating me"). Active learning happens when a student actively participates in, or interacts with the learning process, rather than being a passive consumer of information. This approach to learning is part of our everyday discussions and the culture of our classrooms. The students will continue to learn about and apply the 'active learner' traits.

Up-Coming Events

Due to the current RED Traffic Light Setting restrictions we will not be able to have our annual "Meet the Teacher Picnic" on the 16th of February. Instead, classes will be sharing a recording. This is so our teachers can introduce themselves to you, explain their classroom timetables and share snippets of the classroom physical environment with you. While this is not our preference, we are following the Red Traffic Light Setting guidelines.

Parent Queries/Concerns

We believe in working together to provide the best for your child. If you have any queries/concerns - big or small please approach your child's teacher first- then the Team Leaders (Glynnis Bell and Janice Karl) or the Deputy Principal (Esmee Elias-Tito). The partnership between home and school is crucial so please do not hesitate to talk to us and discuss any issues you may have.

Bell Times

The bell goes at 8:55am for the school day to begin. Students need to be at school at least 10 minutes before the bell so they can unpack their bags and get ready for their day.

***Please remember that students are not able to enter classrooms until 8:30am*.**

Covid and Omicron

Teachers will remind students about the health and safety procedures that help keep us well at any time, but which are especially important during the red traffic light setting.

This means:

- 1. Students and teachers in the senior syndicate are required to wear a mask at all times in the classroom.*
- 2. Gatherings of up to 100 with strict social distancing are permissible, if they are curriculum related.*
- 3. Students will be dropped off and picked up at the school gates.*
- 4. Students will be reminded that they need to sanitise their hands before they come into the classroom, before they eat, after they use the toilet, after they blow their nose and after they use play equipment. There is hand sanitiser available in each classroom.*
- 5. Please keep your child home if they have a cough, cold or runny nose. If they have a tummy upset, your child needs to stay home for 48 hours after the last episode. This time helps them to get better and stops those bugs from affecting their classmates and teachers.*

There is a scan sheet for the Covid location app in each block of classrooms and each teacher has a sign-in sheet for parents and any other adult visitors.

We look forward to a fantastic year at Waterloo with your child/ren.

Regards

The Senior Team

Glynnis Bell, Janice Karl, Charlotte Kelly, Ruby Leonard, Anna Boyce, Aimee Cunningham, Brooke Morgan-Cameron, Paula Martin and Chris Cowman.