

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL PAPAKURA



Together We Learn, We Pray, We Serve

Me Whakakotahi, Kia Maarama, Kia Pono, Ki Te Karakia

Monday 25 January 2021

Beginning of Year Information for Junior students

Dear parents and whanau of our Junior students

We are very excitedly making plans for the 2021 school year. All our wonderful staff have been busy over the past two weeks, preparing for a smooth start to 2021.

I hope that your children are looking forward to their return to school, to be back with their friends and learning exciting new concepts, skills and ideas alongside their teachers.

Please prepare your children for a few changes in the Bethlehem space this year. Mrs Krishnie Govender has had to take leave to travel to Australia for family reasons. Please keep the Govender family in your prayers and also pray for her safe return to us next term. While Mrs Govender is away, Mrs Simone Butler will be taking care of our new entrants. Mrs Butler is a very experienced Early Childhood practitioner and worked closely with Mrs Govender for most of last year. This makes Mrs Butler the best person to take over the new entrant class and she has been hard at work over the past two weeks, preparing an exciting learning programme for your children. Please show Mrs Butler your care and support this term. We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs Jeannette Cobbald, who will work alongside Mrs Jay Moodly to support the Year 1 and 2 students until the end of Term 1. Mrs Tanya Rowe will return from leave in Term 3.

Our experimental approach to Play-based learning in the Bethlehem Team last year, has led to many exciting discoveries, new learning for staff, higher levels of engagement and great progress for students. So to further develop our authentic, active local curriculum, we plan to fully introduce Play-Based Learning in our Bethlehem space this year. Our teachers have been engaging in professional development and our Board has budgeted to support this growth. The Bethlehem space will look a little different this year, with the new entrants now based in the far end of the space, rather than in what used to be Room 4. Room 4 is being redesigned to serve as a cooking/ food prep space which will be shared by the Bethlehem and Nazareth teams.

We will also welcome two new learning support teachers to our Bethlehem space, Mrs Beverley Wetere and Miss Rhiannon Bates. Miss Michelle Garden will be supporting the Nazareth Team this year.

This is an exciting time for our school and I wish to thank the Board of Trustees for their strong governance, leadership and support to introduce Play-based learning in our junior school.

Ngā mihi nui
Audrey Kippen
Principal